

basketball players V.MUIZNIEKS(see card 2807) and Maigonis VALDMANIS(see card 1801),who were on the Soviet basketball team together with Janis KRUMINS.It is strange that Muiznieks and Valdmanis are not scheduled for Melbourne;the reason might be that they both met a/m Laipenieks and had discussions with him;besides,Muiznieks visited the home of Laipenieks,and according to Laipenieks (in his newspaper article) became thoughtful when saw all the comfort Laipenieks was living in;Valdmanis also met Latvian javelin thrower STENDZENIEKS(see card 643),both being from the rural community Katlakalns in Latvia.Valdmanis had described his trip to South America in "Sovetskaya Latvija";in Nr.172 there is a photo of all three of them in Montevideo,and Krumins can be seen on a photo of Rio De Janeiro in # 173;it is interesting to note that Valdmanis emphasizes in his article that the main task of the Soviet basketball expedition to Latin America was to win in order to glorify Soviet sport;he adds however,that there were apparently other tasks too;in # 173 he writes that in Antofagasta/Chile there was no sports interest in the competition since the Chilean team there was a very weak one,but the Soviets played nevertheless their best to impress the working population of Antofagasta,and obtained many friends there!(Apparently political friends).Valdmanis does not mention his encounter with Laipenieks and Stendzenieks,but states in general terms that former DP's asked silly questions not being informed about the state of affairs in the former homeland.

Re encounter of Valdmanis and other Latvian basketball players produced also some information on other Soviet sportsmen,f.i.one of the basketball players stated that GRIGALKA is not in Latvia,living in Moscow,but wants to return home to Latvia and probably will succeed(no more details were revealed,just the fact that Grigalka prefers Latvia to Moscow).Valdmanis made several notes during his talks with Laipenieks(about Mirdza MARTINSONS-TURKIS,former wife of Alfons BERZINS, see card 1991;about Laipenieks' being coach of Chilean Olympic team etc.).

According to Laipenieks (see his article in "Australijas Latvietis" # 348) Janis KRUMIJS was the less talkative of all three Latvians on the Soviet basketball team; Krumijs is a Latvian from Cesis, knows poor Russian.

The address of the Latvian newspaper "Australijas Latvietis" in Australia is c/o Mr. E. Delips, Box 23, P.O. Kew, Vic.; office hours in Melbourne each Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the "Latvian House", 3 Dickens St., St. Kilda, telephone XA 3945.

The representative of this newspaper in Sydney is A. Zarips, to be met each Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. at "Latvian House" there, 32 Parnell St., Strathfield, telephone UJ 8500. The a/m publisher of the newspaper E. Delips certainly would know the home address of Arnolds SMITS, and also would be able to furnish various information on conditions among Latvians in Australia, particularly in Melbourne. For DELIJS see card 253.

As to Edgars LAIPENIEKS (card 3745), he is supposed to have a brother in Liepaja (see cards 72 and 2975, which might be identical); there are two more persons recorded as LAIPENIEKS (LAIPNIEKS); under ## 4865 and 5849; the identity and relationship to Edgars LAIPENIEKS not clarified. Edgars LAIPENIEKS was invited to return home to Latvian SSR by the a/m Valdmanis, but refused, wrote himself about this offer in his article about meeting the SU sportsmen in Chile (# Austr; Latv. # 348/56).

As to Latvian basketball players who might participate in the Olympic games from countries other than SU, there were rumors in the Latvian exile press that even England and Sweden might have Latvians on their basketball team; certain this is about Australian team; long time ago there were already rumors that the Australian basketball team will be composed mostly of immigrant Latvians, and the names P. BUMBERS (card 1755), J. DANCIS (1751), T. TILIKS (1752), Z. STEINBERGS (1756), I. FREIDENFELDS (1754) and M. RAISKUMS (2816) were mentioned. Rumors were spread in the Latvian emigre press that the coach of All-Australian team is going to be a well known Lithuanian immigrant Leonas BALTRUNAS (see card 1761); however in the recent

issues of Latvian newspapers there is no clear statement as to who is the coach of Australian basketball team for the Olympic games; another name is mentioned: Latvian E. ERKENS, the coach of Southern Australian team (from Adelaide). "Latvija" in Germany in # 37/1956 states in an article that only the Latvians Peteris BUMBERS, Juris DANCIS and Ingus FREIDENFELDS are members of the All-Australian team; this article states that Turaida TILIKS is in reserve. The newspaper adds that Zigurds OZOLINS (see card 1753) has been omitted; as for ERKENS, see card 1760.

However, "Australijas Latvietis" in the issue of June 16, 1956 states that the members of the All-Australian team are: P. BUMBERS, T. TILIKS, Z. STEINBERGS, M. RAISKUMS, J. DANCIS and I. FREIDENFELDS (and following other ethnics: Lithuanian IGNATAVISIUS, Greek DEMOS, Australian HESKETT). The information in "Latvija" is from October 1956, however - time might have elapsed since the correspondence reached the newspaper in Germany; comparing both newspapers, it is obvious that on the Australian team here will be without doubt Peteris BUMBERS (1755), Juris DANCIS (1761), Ingus FREIDENFELDS (1754), and in reserve Turaida TILIKS (1752); the rest (Raiskums, Steinbergs, Ozolins) are under question. "Australijas Latvietis" in issue July 28, 1956 writes that Z. Steinbergs (1756) has trouble with a bad foot, and therefore probably is definitely out. The All-Australian team is criticized by "G.E.B." in Australian English-spoken Newspaper The Advertiser, stating that it is unjust to leave outside Raiskums, Steinbergs and Tiliks; "Australijas Latvietis" in issue of June 30, 1956 mentions, that of all Latvian candidates for the All-Australian team only P. BUMBERS has obtained Australian citizenship, but not the rest of the six candidates (probably same names as mentioned above, no particular names mentioned in this article). All in all from all press releases it is clear that Peteris BUMBERS will be on the team, and also Ingus FREIDENFELDS and Juris DANCIS if they obtain the citizenship. None of these three is personally known here, the only information available is on the cards and in the latest issues of "Australijas Latvietis" (however nothing personal on them, just the description of their achievements in

the competitions and scores; it is mentioned that Ingus FREIDENFELDS is a young boy discovered recently, but BUMBERS and DANCIS know, already for a longer period of time; BUMBERS has two brothers also active in basketball, but not on "All Stars" team.

If BALTRUNAS should be the coach of Australian basketball team, information on him is on card 1761. He speaks fluently Latvian and knows Riga having graduated from college there.

Another person interested in Latvian sportsmen is the Latvian singer

Elsa ZEBRANSKA (see card 5586),

who departed recently for Australia on a concerto tournee; when departing she stated to newspapermen that she intends to be in Melbourne during the Olympic games and would appear there in Latvian national costume to cheer for Latvian sportsmen regardless in which team. Her stay in Australia is not known, but the publishers of "Australijas Latvietis" should know where to find her.

In spring 1956 in NY

Henrijs BAGATAIS (see card 4858)

stated that he intends to visit his relatives in Australia during the Olympic Games; his brother is on card 1922.

As to Soviet track sports-woman V. BALODIS (BALODE), card 5764, there is no additional information of her.