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BY NANCY HESLIN

ENTREPRENEUR

Top Performers

Monaco's most famous Olympic resident may be 5-time Winter Games competitor Prince Albert but there is no shortage of Olympians-turned-entrepreneurs in the Principality.

Olympians Paula Radcliffe, Kory Tarpenning and Nicholas Frankl at La Condamine.

Chris Froome, Novak Djokovic, Ivan Ljubičić, Pernilla Wiberg and Peter Sagan. These are a handful of the Olympians who call Monaco home, where ideal weather and a multicultural community are only part of the country's attractivity. For marathoner Paula Radcliffe, "Monaco has great infrastructure and sport facilities and it offers easy connections and travel to competitions". And, says American pole vaulter Kory Tarpenning, "Prince Albert is a great sports fan." For retired athletes Monaco is a unique hub to do business. "A lot of the residents here have achieved something in their lives," explains bobsledder Nicholas Frankl, "and consequently you have the chance to engage in great and diverse conversations and build opportunities with some of the smartest people in the world."

Kory Tarpenning

USA

Pole Vault

1988 Seoul & 1992 Barcelona

Business: Co-owner of three Nike franchise in Monte Carlo, Marseille and Nice (as well as Nike Team sport business throughout France and French territories), plus three Starbucks Coffee shops in Monaco and the Rossano Ferretti Hairspa at the Hotel de Paris. He also organizes corporate hospitality around sporting events and is always looking new opportunities.

From early childhood "Tarp" had Olympic dreams and he recalls walking into the stadium for his first Opening Ceremonies at Seoul

1988. "What hit me was the pride to be representing the United States of America in the world's biggest global sporting event," the 59-year-old describes.

Tarpenning, who has attended most summer and winter Olympic Games since 1988, first came to Monaco to compete at the 1987 Herculis athletics meet. After spending six years in Paris in the mid-90s, he moved to Monaco in 1996 for what was an intended short stay before returning stateside. "I needed to make a living. In fact, life as a professional athlete is much like running your own business and I found that I would be better off trying to run my own business and being in control of my own destiny than simply being an employee. I loved this place so much and all that it had to offer that I made my transition to life as a businessman. Twenty-five years later, I am still here and not intending to go anywhere else."

Best Olympic memory: "There is the excitement and anticipation of the American team coming together and the competition itself but the Olympic experiences after the Games also count, from the team visit to the White House to meet the president and always being able to call yourself an Olympian."

Paula Radcliffe

Great Britain

Marathon, 5000m, 2000m and 10,000m

1996 Atlanta, 2004 Athens and 2008 Beijing (selected for 2012 London)

Business: Commentator, Sport Ambassador, Families On Track
Radcliffe, who was a BBC commentator at this summer's Olympics, joined a running club

when she was nine and met her coaches two years later. She held the Women's World Marathon Record with a time of 2:15:25 for 16 years, from 2003 to 2019. "It is an honor and privilege to wear your country's colors and to run your best for them. Competing in championships representing my country always got the best from me." Over the years, she spent a lot of time in the French Pyrenees, and visited Monaco "to try" and ended up loving it. "After I retired, I naturally steered towards areas of work I felt passionate about but never had time to dedicate properly to while competing."

The 47-year-old mother of two is working on developing Families on Track—events that encourage families and kids to exercise and get healthy—and hopes to bring it to Monaco as well as other countries.

Best Olympic memory: "My first Olympics in Atlanta, seeing the likes of Pete Sampras in the dining hall at the Olympic Village. Also starting my race while Mike Powell and Carl Lewis were facing off alongside in the Long Jump."

Joël Bouzou

France

Modern Pentathlon

1980 Moscow, 1984 Los Angeles (Bronze), 1998 Seoul, 1992 Barcelona

Business: Founder and president Peace and Sport, president World Olympians Association and advisor to Prince Albert.

At a young boy age, Bouzou played a variety of sports (cross country running, fencing, swimming and rugby) but at age 14 he discovered modern pentathlon—fencing, freestyle swimming (200m), equestrian show jumping (15 jumps),



and a final combined event of pistol shooting and cross country running (3,200m)—and started to train seriously.

“The Olympics is not nationalism but patriotism,” says 65-year-old Bouzou, “It is a proud moment walking behind the French flag. Not only do you feel that you are part of team France, but that the best of the best are there with you.”

The World Champion moved to Monaco in 1998. At the time he was secretary general of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne, the governing body of modern pentathlon founded in London in 1948, which moved its offices to the Principality that year.

“I have never left sport,” he shares. “My career happened naturally and coincided with my studies.” Whether as president of Peace and Sport or the World Olympics Association, Bouzou uses sport as a tool to better humankind and to

help stabilize communities. “We take the best that sport has to offer to bring out the best in people.” In 2010, he was recognized for “his unique worldwide leadership role in promoting peace and mutual understanding among different cultures, and his leadership of organizations devoted to these objectives” by the the University for Peace with a Honoris Causa Doctorate in Humane Letters.

For Bouzou, the same skills you learn as an athlete—dedication, the energy required to reach a goal and working as a team to constantly learn—apply to running a business or organization. “The ability to focus on the work at hand is important but you also need to take a step back to make sure your strategies are still good and your implementation is consistent.”

Best Olympic memory: “Standing on the podium with American Greg Losey at the 1984 Olympics in LA.

We were celebrating as he had just won the Silver and I'd won the Bronze. Another standout moment was riding my last Olympic horse in Barcelona in 1992. It was not the best result of my career but I had a very difficult horse and did the best I could.”

Nicholas Frankl

Hungary

Bobsleigh, pilot 2- & 4-man

1994 Lillehammer, 1998 Nagano & 2002 Salt Lake City

Business: Founder My Yacht Group, a business events company on a superyacht based around a charity at high profile venues around the world, including F1 Monaco and Austin (and tentatively at the inaugural Saudi Arabian Grand Prix

in December), Art Basel Miami, and in St. Bart's.

Unlike most Olympic competitors, Frankl—aka Bob Herzec (Bob Prince, in Hungarian)—came into his sport late in the game. His “modern Olympic history” began at the age of 29 when he did his first bobsleigh training in Innsbruck in October 1992, and his first race was in Cortina, Italy, three months later. The founder and captain of the Hungarian bobsleigh team qualified in Calgary in October 1993 for the 1994 Olympics.

With his journalist father, Frankl grew up in the world of Formula One and started coming to Monaco nearly 30 years ago for holidays and for the Grand Prix. His connection to the Monaco bobsleigh team helped him to establish great friendships that eventually led him to live in Monaco, “the most exclusive country club in the world but also one of the most welcoming happy and diverse.”

These days, the 50-year-old is a limited partner in Sway Ventures, a tech-focused venture capital firm out of San Francisco that consults Axiom Space, which is taking the first private astronauts to the International Space Station for a 10-day \$60,000,000 mission.

Best Olympic memory: “Being in the Olympic Village, and especially the dining room, was a treat as you got to hang out with the other athletes, including legendary figure skaters Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan and, of course, the British dynamic pairs skaters of Torvill and Dean. But walking into the Opening Ceremony in Lillehammer as a light snow fell over the stadium was very special. This took place during the war in Sarajevo and the Bosnian bobsleigh team, including the coaches, was made up of three Muslims (one married to a Croatian), two Eastern Orthodox and one Catholic.”