

= Ansgar Løvold =

Ansgar Løvold (19 November 1888 ? 12 November 1961) was a wrestler , butcher and philanthropist from Kristiansund , Norway . He is most known for participating at the 1912 Summer Olympics and for launching the idea for the Kristiansund and Frei Fixed Link .

Løvold started wrestling during his journeyman years while living in Oslo . He joined IF Ørnulf and became Norwegian Champion in Greco @-@ Roman wrestling in 1912 . This qualified him to the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm , but Løvold lost both his matches in the light heavyweight event . He moved back to Kristiansund in 1913 , where he founded a wrestling club and started as an instructor . He also founded wrestling clubs in Molde and Trondheim . As a butcher , he ran several butcher shops in town . From 1951 , Løvold dedicated his time to working towards a fixed link for Kristiansund .

= = Early life and professional career = =

Løvold was born on 19 November 1888 in Kristiansund , Norway , as son of Missionary Ole Løvold (1846 ? 1919) . Løvold started as a butcher apprentice with his brother B. O. Løvold , before setting out on his journeyman years , where he worked at Bye in Bergen and Axel Jensen in Oslo . He received his trade certificate in 1910 . He moved back to Kristiansund in 1913 , where he lived for the rest of his life . He married Bergljot , who died in 1958 .

Løvold established a butcher shop in Storgaten in 1914 , which he ran until it was taken over by the municipality in 1917 . He then operated various retailing businesses until joining Nordmøre Slakteri . There he was chief of operations until the slaughtering company closed in 1932 . He then established Ansgar Kjøtt og Pølseforretning , which at first was located at Nordmør Landbruksforretning but after two years moved to Massestretet . His store was destroyed in the bombings of the Norwegian Campaign during World War II , although rebuilt after the war . After he retired , the store was taken over by his sons .

= = Sports career = =

It was during the journeyman years in Oslo that Løvold joined organized wrestling . Wrestling in Kristiansund was first introduced by Løvold wrestling at circuses and town fairs . On 8 January 1911 he held a major show against circus artist Erik Blixt , for which Løvold was promised 100 Norwegian krone (NOK) if he won . Although successful , he did not accept the prize money , as it would have made him a professional . He started competing for Fagforeningernes TIF and later IF Ørnulf in Oslo . He represented the latter when he won the 1912 Norwegian championships , thus qualifying him for the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm . There he participated in the Greco @-@ Roman light heavyweight , but was sent home after losing both his introductory rounds , against Finland 's Karl Lind and Austria 's Karl Barl .

After moving home to Kristiansund in 1913 , Løvold was instrumental in establishing a wrestling club . The sport became popular and within a few years all the major sports clubs were offering wrestling . Especially the labor movement 's clubs took up the sport , and Kristiansund was quickly known as a wrestling town . Løvold coached several clubs , including IL Nordlandet and Ynglingen . In 1913 he succeeded at getting sponsorships of NOK 300 from various companies throughout town to purchase mats , which was instrumental in making the sport more popular in town . He later became known as a benefactor and sponsor of local wrestling . Kristiansund 's first major national tournament was held in 1915 and the first Norwegian Championships in Kristiansund were held in 1922 . Løvold also traveled to the neighboring town of Molde to establish a wrestling club there , although wrestling never became as popular in Molde as in Kristiansund . He also established Trondheim 's first wrestling club . From 1939 , when the labourers ' wrestling clubs in Kristiansund merged to form the club Kristiansund AK , Løvold represented this club .

= = Philanthropy = =

Løvold was an active member of Foreningen Kristiansunderen , an organization which worked for the betterment of the town . After seeing The Little Mermaid in Copenhagen , Løvold started working to build a mermaid statue fountain in Kristiansund . The mermaid statue was never built , although he eventually secured sufficient funding to build a fountain . Løvold traveled to the United States in 1951 to visit his siblings Oscar and Lise in Minnesota , which he had not seen in 42 years . He also visited New York City , where he drove through the Holland Tunnel . On his way home he came in contact with Prime Minister Oscar Torp .

Back in Kristiansund , Løvold started working with the idea of building a subsea road tunnel from Kristiansund to the mainland . He discussed the issue in Foreningen Kristiansunderen where it received support . Løvold was an important enthusiast for the fixed link project , which would materialize as the Kristiansund and Frei Fixed Link in 1992 . The local press dubbed him the fixed link general . In 1955 he organized an inspection of Freifjorden ; using echo sounding it was possible to survey the depth of the fjord . Afterwards he took contact with County Governor Olav Oksvik and the two started working towards implementing the plans .

Along with Engineer Gunnar Tonning , Løvold traveled several times to Oslo to meet with national politicians and authorities . In addition to Torp , he consulted the engineering company Aas & Jakobsen , the NATO office and Kolbjørn Varmann , Minister of Transport and Communications . In 1958 a joint municipal and county committee was established to follow up the plans , where Løvold was appointed chairman . Its main function was the ordering seismic surveys of Freifjorden , which gave positive results . Major Worm Eide manned for caution and stated that there was no funding available . Subsequently a committee led by Ole Mollan was appointed , which criticized the original committee for not prioritizing more critical transport investments .

During the entire planning and construction of the Tromsø Bridge , Løvold subscribed to both the Tromsø newspapers , Nordlys and Bladet Tromsø , to follow the development . Erling Kjeldsen , who was the main initiator of the Tromsø Bridge , was an inspiration for Løvold . Following in the steps of Tromsø , Løvold established Tunnelforeningen (" The Tunnel Association ") . Its prime goal was to circulate a petition , which received 6 @, @ 000 signatures ? two thirds of the electorate . The organization also featured parades in the 1961 Constitution Day parade . During the summer , Løvold painted a large , white " tunnel entrance " on a cliff at Spellmannshaugen as a public relations gimmick . The point he painted was the exact location the Freifjord Tunnel would have its opening . Another organization , Fastlandsforeningen (" The Mainland Association ") was established by Løvold on 27 September 1961 . That year another public committee was established , again chaired by Løvold . Løvold died on 12 November 1961 in Kristiansund , 72 years old .