

ERNEST REIDEL, 81, CHAMPION CANOE RACER

For 11

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Ernest Reidel, a champion canoeist, died Saturday at the South Dade home he shared with his stepson, Donald Dahlfues.

Mr. Reidel, 81, recently moved to Miami from Cape Coral, Fla., where he had lived for nearly 20 years.

Born in the area of New York called Hell's Kitchen, Mr. Reidel began canoeing as a teenager. In 1920, after only one year of training, he won his first major race on the Hudson.

He went on to win the Vanderbilt Trophy 16 times, the Manhattan Tandem 12 times, and the American Association's International Paddling Trophy 18 times. He was the record holder of the Manhattan Island Marathon Race and a 13-time winner of the President's Cup Regatta in Washington, D.C.

He won his greatest acclaim in the Olympics. As a member of the U.S. team in 1936, Mr. Reidel learned that new regulations excluded canoes. Undaunted, the athlete thrilled spectators by taking a bronze medal paddling a kayak borrowed from the German team.

Mr. Reidel also competed in the 1940, 1948 and 1952 Olympics.

Survivors in addition to his stepson include a brother, Edward Reidel Jr.; and sister-in-law, Isabel.

The family suggests memorial donations to the American Canoe Association.



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