

## ★ JANET ELY LAGOURGUE ★

JANET ELY-LAGOURGUE is the first diver, and only the fourth female athlete to be inducted into The Albuquerque Sports Hall-of-Fame.

A member of both the 1972 (Munich) and 1976 (Montreal) U.S. Olympic diving teams, Janet was also a national collegiate champion, the 1975 world 10-meter platform champion, and won silver medals at both the 1975 (Mexico City) and 1979 (San Juan, P.R.) Pan American Games.

Janet Ely was born at Albuquerque's Presbyterian Hospital on September 12, 1953 and is the daughter of the late Rosamond "Posy" Pearsall-Ellett and D. Maxwell Ellett of Albuquerque.

Already a promising artist and classic pianist, Janet's diving talent began to emerge at the national level. She set her sights on the Olympic Games and moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan to finish her scholastic education and train with U.S. national and Olympic coach, Dick Kimball, at the University of Michigan. (Kimball's daughter, Vicki, is now the diving coach at the Albuquerque Academy).

In July of 1972, at Park Ridge, Illinois, Janet placed third on the 3-meter Springboard and first on the 10-meter Platform, to win a place on the United States Olympic Team. A month later, in Munich, Germany, Janet Ely joined Highland High School swimmer Cathy Carr—her girlhood neighbor, classmate and friend—as the first native Albuquerqueans ever to compete in the Olympic Games.

After a meteoric rise from a next-to-last place finish at the National AAU Diving Championships in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1968, to her first place finish at the U.S. Olympic Trials in 1972, Janet had established herself as one of the world's best divers.

Prior to the start of the Olympic Games (August 26-September 11, 1972), Janet was informed that her mother—a guiding light and major influence in her life—had terminal cancer and was not expected to survive the duration of the Olympic games. Notwithstanding, Posy Ellett and her family insisted that Janet remain in Munich and compete for the Olympic title.

To Janet's credit, she endured the challenge and finished in fourth place on both the 3-meter springboard (420.99 points) and the 10-meter platform (352.68 points). Along the way, she became the first female diver in the world to per-

form a backward 2½ somersault in the pike position from the 10-meter platform.

After the Munich Olympic Games Janet moved to Dallas, Texas and enrolled at Southern Methodist University, on an art scholarship, where she continued diving with Coach Brian Robbins, won national collegiate diving titles, and obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

In 1975, at Cali, Colombia Janet won the world 10-meter Platform diving championship, went on to win the 1976 U.S. Olympic Diving Trials Competition in Knoxville, Tennessee, and competed in her second consecutive Olympic Games at Montreal, Canada.

In addition to her World Championship and Olympic Games Performances, Janet was a two-time silver medalist in the Pan American Games, won Women's NCAA Diving Championship titles on both the 1-meter and 3-meter Springboards, and also won many the U.S. Open National Women's Diving Championships.

An exemplary senior national diving champion and U.S. international team member, Janet Ely culminated the 1970's decade by receiving the prestigious Lawrence J. Johnson Award for distinguished contributions to world diving.

Janet began her distinguished coaching career in 1976 with the Dallas Independent School District, and with Arizona State University's "Sun Devil Divers" in Tempe, Arizona prior to her selection as the USA's national age group diving coach at Mission Viejo, California. In 1988 Janet was selected as the USA's "National Age Group Diving Coach of-the-Year". During the next five years she produced four national Junior Olympic Team Diving Championships.

For the past decade Janet has served as the USA national diving coach for the USA-China international competition in Jinan, China, the Goodwill Games, the World Games in Perth, Australia, the World Cup Championships in Mexico City, the Junior World Championships in Orebroo, Sweden and London, England, and for the U.S. Senior National Championships and Olympic Trials, and has produced numerous individual champions and medalists.

Janet and her husband, Jacques Lagourgue, live in Mission Viejo, California with their daughter Elyssa. Their son, Ian, attends the St. Mark's School in Dallas, Texas and is an aspiring water polo player.