

Somewhere, over the rainbow ...

An obituary for the death of Michael Krüger, a real IRONMAN icon

Our long-time sports fellow Michael Krüger has passed away at the age of 56 with his family.

His greatest passion was triathlon.

After his first marathon in 1987 in the city of Kiel, where he lived with his family, his ambition grabbed him and the fire for the endurance competition was set.

After many triathlon competitions from Everyman to Middle Distance, he started 1994 in Roth at the legendary IRONMAN Europe and qualified at the first attempt for IRONMAN Hawaii, which he finished in 10 h.22 min.

What followed sounds like a fairy tale for many!

From 1994 until 2012 Micha has been competing almost continuously in Kona, Hawaii. He finished 17 times on Big Island and earned the legendary finisher shirts and the medals.

In addition to his yearly main goal IRONMAN Hawaii, he finished more than 50 other IRONMAN events worldwide.

- 3x top 5 age group Ironman Hawaii,
- 3x age group victory Ironman Florida,
- Age group victory in 8:52 hours at Ironman Klagenfurt,
- Age class victory Powerman Zofingen,
- German champion age group duathlon.

He succeeded in several other sporting events.

In October 2015 Michael did qualify again at the Ironman France in Vichy with the goal of competing 18 times in Hawaii in 2016. True to his motto: Stay strong- never give up! See you at the finish line! This goal was denied him.

In February 2016 he felt that something was wrong with him. He complained of a lack of strength, his fine motor skills deteriorated and above all that he could no longer run as fast as he was used to.

In September 2016 doctors diagnosed the incurable and fatal disease ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - a chronic degenerative disease of the central nervous system). From now on life changed abruptly!

Only one year later Michael could not walk any more, could not eat alone and was henceforth dependent on full assistance. In November 2017 the disease had already progressed to such an extent that he could no longer breathe alone. Michael had to be looked after by a 24-hour / days nursing service. After four years of suffering, he crossed the finish line for the last time on August 6, 2020.

He leaves behind his wife Daniela and two little daughters.

We are incredibly sad. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and his relatives.

Rest in peace, Michael!

