

**John L. Marshall, DVM, MD**  
**1936-1980**

Dr. John L. Marshall, aged 43, a pioneer and leader in the field of Sports Medicine, died on February 12, 1980 in an airplane crash at Lake Placid en route to the Winter Olympic Games. In 1975 he had been appointed the Team Physician for the U.S. Olympic Ski Team. Dr. Marshall, who had a degree in Veterinary Medicine as well as Medicine, was a leader in the field of Sports Medicine and among his many appointments counted those of Team Physician to the New York Football Giants. Orthopaedic Consultant to the New Jersey Basketball Nets, Orthopaedic Consultant for Contact Sports for the New York City Athletic League, Chairman of the Cornell Veterinary College's Advisory Council and Consultant to the University Health Services at Cornell's Ithaca campus. He was a Clinical Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Cornell University Medical College (where his appointment to Full Professor was pending). He was an Attending Surgeon at the Hospital for Special Surgery where he founded its Service for Orthopaedic Sports Medicine.

He was also the Chief of the Hospital for Special Surgery's Comparative Orthopaedics Laboratory where his research was devoted to studies of the pathomechanics of ligamentous injuries of the knee and their long-term effects on this important and highly vulnerable articulation. He developed an experimental model in the dog by sectioning the anterior cruciate ligament and used this to show the biochemical and biochemical degenerative processes that followed. He inspired a number of young Orthopaedic Surgeons, Anatomists, Bioengineers, Biochemists and Veterinarians to join him in his research projects which permitted him to extend his inquiries into the susceptibility of the knee and other joints to athletic injury, the consequences of such injuries and the best means for their prevention, repair and rehabilitation. By the time of this death, he had authored or co-authored some 60 or 70 original basic and clinical articles in his field of interest.

He was an excellent clinician, expert surgeon and inspiring teacher. Although in the course of his work he reached and profoundly affected the lives of illustrious professional athletes, he was just as importantly concerned for the problems of unknown high school and college athletes. He worked to improve conditioning and preventive injury programs in use at New York City's Public School Athletic League and Cornell's Ithaca campus and provided clinical out-patient and in-patient services at the Hospital for Special Surgery for the care of those who were unfortunate enough to sustain injuries. For these efforts he received the New York City Public School Athletic Coaches Association Community Services Award in 1975 and the Public School Athletic League's John Perry Bowditch Award in 1977.

He also worked locally, nationally and internationally to further research programs in athletic injuries and their financing. For this purpose he was heavily involved in public education and used his connections with well-known athletes to further his goals. By the time of his death he had made many contributions to the news media including 20 or more articles in the popular press and magazines. He also helped to found the Sports Medicine Research and Education Foundation of which he served as Executive Director.

He was born in Schenectady, New York, on June 16, 1936, received his D.V. M. from Cornell in 1960 and his M.D. from Albany Medical College in 1965. His postgraduate education was gained at Tufts-New England Medical Center and at the Hospital for Special Surgery- New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical Center. In 1971 he was awarded a North American Traveling Fellowship by the American Orthopaedic Association. He was certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1972 and spent his whole orthopaedic surgical professional life at the Hospital for Special Surgery- Cornell.

John Marshall was an avid sportsman himself, participating in all sorts of activities including yachting, equestrian, contact, winter and racquet sports. He also learned to fly and had a commercial multi-engine instrument –rated pilot's license.

He is survived by his widow, the former Janet Van Arsdale, and his children, Laurie and John.

Nominator:     Russell F. Warren, MD  
                  New York, NY