

The True Story of the Iconic Skullman® "grateful dead" Lithuanian Olympic Basketball T-Shirt Uniforms

The Legendary Tie-Dyed Slam-Dunking Skeleton from the Barcelona Olympics lives on during Paris Summer Olympics with new Official 2024 Editions from Skullman.com

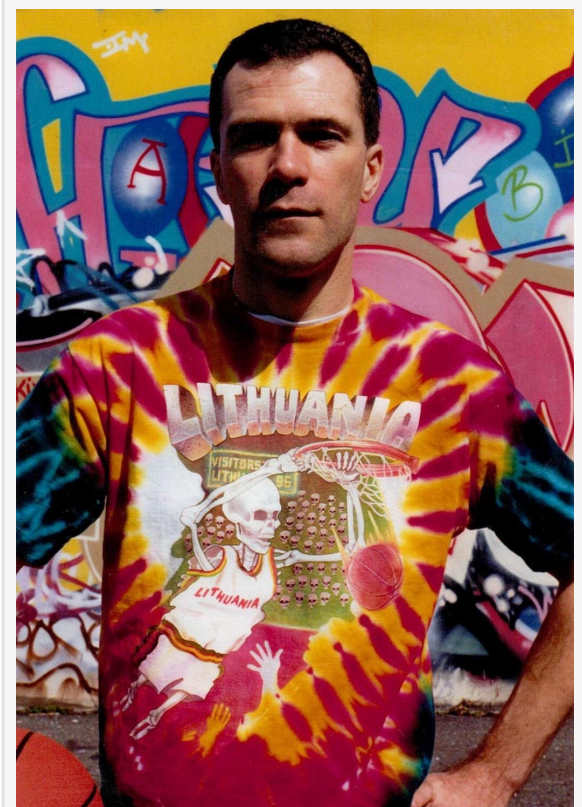
NEW YORK, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, July 30, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- "It's really difficult to understand the magnitude and the significance and the impact and the power of what went down with those shirts." said NBA Hall of Famer Bill Walton.

The 32nd year Official 2024 Collector's Editions of the legendary Skullman® Lithuania Tie Dye basketball t-Shirts have been released from Skullman.com.

The 1992 story:

The Lithuanian Olympic Men's Basketball Team showed up on the medal platform, wearing the way-out Skullman® tie-dyed basketball uniforms after clinching the bronze medal in the basketball competition at the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics. They wowed the world, and it turned out to be something that was never before seen in the world of Olympic sports uniforms fashion.

The Slammin' Skeleton Lithuanian Basketball uniforms were created by NYC apparel brand designer Greg Speirs for the team to have something fun to wear during the Olympics practice before the actual Olympic Games. Wearing the "Skullman Tie Dyes" energized and inspired the team. The reaction from the international Olympics audience was overwhelming.



Greg Speirs, American Brand Licensor wearing his Original 1992 Lithuania Tie Dye® Olympic Basketball Slam Dunking Skullman® T-Shirts and recognized for sponsoring the 1992 Lithuanian Olympic Basketball Team in the Barcelona Olympics. Appeared in "The Other Dream Team".

The players wore the shirts wherever they went after that. The public wanted to know [where they could get one](#).

“The story became a major news event impacting popular culture, taking its place in Olympics history, had a major influence on the future of sports fashion and changed it forever. The Tie Dyed Slammin® Skullman® became a legendary household icon.” said Mike Thompson of Slammin Sports®.

The story began when Lithuania, one of the Baltic States' former Soviet Satellite countries, during the time of the Reagan administration, broke from the Soviet Union and gained its newly found independence and freedom. Former Soviet player and then NBA star Sarunas Marciulionis, who was discovered by a coach at the Golden State Warriors, started rallying for donations and support for the new but financially strapped 1992 Lithuanian Olympic Men's Basketball team, with hopes of competing for the first time as free nation apart from the Soviet Union in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

Marciulionis received various monetary donations, including one from the Grateful Dead musical group. According to news reports, among the various donations the team received the Grateful

Dead came into the story with a separate \$5,000. donation of their own to Marciulionis, which was the part they played in this story.

“

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New York designer and apparel Licensor Greg Speirs also heard about the team's plight and came into this story and independently created the Skullman® Lithuania tie dyed basketball t-shirts just so the team could have something fun to wear during the practice time before the actual Olympic competitions.



The new Official 2024 Collector's Edition T-Shirts, featuring the 1993 Slam-Dunking Skullman from the Skullman Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement. Some of the Limited 2024 Collector's Editions have Special Patches and Embroideries. Exclusive Source at Skullman.com.

See IMDB bio doc.: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3998173/>

Listen to the podcast that uncovered the complete, true facts about the t-shirts:

<https://wonderly.com/shows/sports-explains-the-world/episode/13843-the-skullman-cometh/>

The team's plight was highlighted in the 2012 sports and political documentary film "The Other Dream Team":

Directed and produced by Marius Markevicius and Jon Weinbach, The film is about the Lithuanian Olympic basketball team's road to the 1992 Summer Olympic Games. It highlights these elite athletes' experiences behind the Iron Curtain, where they were subjected to the brutalities of Communism. Hiding from KGB agents and feared for their lives, Lithuania's basketball stars always shared a common goal – to utilize their athletic gifts to help free their country.



The Original Skullman Lithuanian Tie-Dyed Skullman Skeleton was "enshrined" in the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass, on Dec 07, 1993, a day that will live in Olympics infamy.

Aside from the hardships on the road to the '92 Olympics, the film celebrates Greg Speirs' iconic tie-dyed uniforms worn by the team, now an historic piece of Olympics' basketball history.

Read the news doc. facts.:

<https://www.amworldgroup.com/blog/lithuanian-slam-dunking-skeleton-back-for-the-other-dream-team-documentary>

Where the uniforms came from:

"The Skullman® Lithuania tie dye®basketball shirts are actually an independent apparel line brought into this story, created and solely owned by the designer. It was never an actual team jersey, nor was it ever part of the Grateful Dead. All licensing rights for the property and brand always originated exclusively from the designer right from the beginning in 1992." said Mike Thompson of Slammin' Sports.

Who is Greg Speirs?:

Speirs is the former art director who created the rock n' roll music magazine "Grooves" back in the 1970's, designed the legendary "Monaco Monk" icicle sleds for Prince Albert of Monaco's Olympic Monaco Bobsled Team for the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics & 1995 World Cup and collaborated in the 1970's with famed Woodstock Music Festival founder and record producer Artie Kornfeld, in particular with RCA Records. Artie Kornfeld is the man who coined the phrase "Far Out" when he spoke at Woodstock in 1969 and also coined the phrase "Take it to the Max" when he produced the record album for the Max Damian band in the 1970's, which Greg created

the album cover for.

"The designer played a much more significant role in the story of the Lithuanian Olympic Basketball Team than was first reported in 1992, including with respect to the funding of the Lithuanian team. Skewed misreports are often still picked up today by major newspapers based on the initial 1992 debunked and uncorrected narratives. But the true facts about the accurate source of the famous jerseys are finally being brought to light." recalled Mike Thompson of Slammin' Sports.

See CNBC news story:

<https://www.cnbc.com/amp/id/100165621>

"When the Olympics ended and demand for the shirts continued, Greg saw it as a great opportunity to help the team and chose to donate all of what would have been his profits to continue to fund the team. He licensed to the team use of the property to sell shirts for a limited time to raise money for the team and for Marciulionis' additional charities. That's why Greg is called the major sponsor of the 1992 Men's Lithuanian Olympic Basketball Team after the Olympics. He donated 100% of his profits to fund the team, [which started at \\$450,000](#) in the first wave of donations which continued after the Olympics and may have skyrocketed to millions according to news reports. All of Greg's profits were given to Lithuanian player Sarunas Marciulionous and the "Sarunas Lithuanian Children's Fund" to help sick children in need, which was set up and controlled by the



Greg Speirs and Prince Albert of Monaco in LaPlagne, France with the Olympic Bobsleds he designed for the Prince's Monaco Olympics Bobsled Team in the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics. The bobsleds came with matching T-shirt uniforms for the Monaco Olympic Bobsled team.



Just released, the Official 2024 Editions, featuring the 1993 Basketball Hall of Fame "enshrinement" Slam-Dunking Skullman on New Collector's Edition Green T-Shirts with a touch of tie-dye. Official 2024 Flaming, Dunking Basketball Trademark Brand Logo on back of Shirt.

former Lithuania team player and NBA star who received 100% of all funds with a portion used to fund Marciulionis' basketball school in Lithuania according to news reports." recalled Mike.

Any donation of funds given from the sale of a shirt ultimately came from the artist. It was Greg's to give and no one else's., ie. the \$450,000. given to a charity ultimately came from him. But that's not the way it was reported. The documented fact is that after the Olympics ended, as Licensor, it was his money that became the [biggest donation to the team](#), to Marciulionis, to his charity and to build Sarunas' basketball school in Lithuania, because those funds came from the sales of his shirts. Only Greg had the right to release profits to charity or to anyone. As the creator and exclusive Licensor of the property, 100% of his licensing profits were released to fund the team, Marciulionis and his charities." said Mike.

"The 1992 Lithuanian Basketball Team represents what happens in freedom...people excel. The Lithuanian Slam-Dunking Skullman® represents rising from nothing. Like a Phoenix from the ashes to slam-dunking a flaming basketball. It's not a dead skeleton, but the Skullman is alive and represents rebirth and a new life. When you are free you have the opportunity to succeed as an individual while still being part of a team. It was not only a victory in Olympic sports, but it was as if it were an overall triumph over communism itself. It's about freedom and free enterprise." recalled Speirs.

See IMDB bio:

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3998173/>

Listen to "The Other Dream Team" interview:

<http://www.gregspeirs.com/greg-speirs-audio-interview-by-the-other-dream-team-documentary-film/>

The uniforms were "enshrined" in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. on Dec.7th 1993, below a giant 12ft. x 8ft. 3-D incarnation of the legendary Slam Dunking Skeleton. Marciulionis' jersey was also added to the collection by the Basketball Hall of Fame's curator Mike Brooslin at the time.

See link: <http://www.lithuaniatshirt.com/basketball%20hall%20of%20fame.htm>

"It's really difficult to understand the magnitude and the significance and the impact and the power of what went down with those shirts." said NBA Hall of Famer Bill Walton.

Vintage editions of the shirts sell for hundreds of dollars online at sites like EBay. The new Official 2024 Editions and the Official, Original 1992 Skullman Lithuania Tie Dye® re-issue T-Shirts and merchandise are available from the source at www.Skullman.com Sold Since 1992. Some of the Limited 2024 Collector's Editions have Special Patches and Embroideries.

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