

Mark Slavin

**January 31, 1954, Minsk, formerly Soviet Union – September 6, 1972,
Fürstenfeldbruck**

Mark Slavin was born in Minsk in the Soviet Union. As a child he led a privileged life because his grandfather had distinguished himself in the Red Army during World War II.

He trained as a wrestler at an elite sports school and was youth champion of the Soviet Union in 1971.

Despite his athletic successes, Slavin suffered increasingly from the prevailing antisemitism. He convinced his family to emigrate to Israel, and managed to leave the Soviet Union three months before the 1972 Olympics. He was naturalized immediately so as to be able to travel to Munich with the Israeli team.

His first fight was scheduled for September 5.

Mark Slavin was fatally wounded by several gunshots in one of the helicopters in Fürstenfeldbruck.

2 Mark Slavin at the age of about one, Minsk, formerly Soviet Union, ca. 1955

3 Mark Slavin with friends at his farewell party before emigrating to Israel, Minsk, formerly Soviet Union, spring of 1972

1 Mark Slavin at *Wingate* sports center, Netanya, Israel, July 1972

4 The Russian-Hebrew phrase book Mark Slavin had with him in Munich, Jerusalem, 1971

“How are you?”