

# Track and Field



*Alexander Grigoriev*



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### 14 Years after Brumel

Alexander Grigoriev was not yet 8 when his fellow-countryman Valeri Brumel set his last world record by reaching 2.28 m (7'5 3/4"). This was in 1963. What he loved more than anything in those days was football and ice hockey. Three years later he started to jump at the specialized sports school in Leningrad where he was received by Pavel Goikhman, who was to remain his trainer. "Physically Alexander was indistinguishable from his fellows," Pavel said, "but he had an exceptional love of contest and an exceptional will to win at any price."

He became a member of the national team in 1975, and in particular that year won the finals of the field events of the European Cup in Nice. Even then this glutton for work was being talked of as an Olympic favorite, when, in April 1976, he hurt himself in training as a result of a bad fall. The final of the Montreal Olympic Games took place without him. But there are no indications that he would have been able to distinguish himself, since the rain hindered the powerful jumpers that his height (6'2") and weight (187 lb) place him among.

But after the following winter he distin-

guished himself during indoor competitions, already beating Brumel with 2.26 m (7'5"), then 2.27 m, and finally with a jump of 2.28 m (7'5 3/4"). He was ready for the feat he accomplished in June at Riga where his performance of 2.30 m (7'6 1/2") killed two birds with one stone: the national Soviet and the European records. Struck from world rolls of honor by the American Pat Matzdorf, Brumel had just lost his two last records, fourteen years after he had set them up. But the star was already rising of another Soviet prodigy: Vladimir Yaschenko was to bring back world supremacy to his country and glory to the stomach. From then on Grigoriev could live only in his shadow.

#### ALEXANDER GRIGORIEV

Born Oct. 7, 1955, at Minsk, USSR

#### AWARDS AND RECORDS

European Cup 1978: silver medal with 2.28 m

World Cup 1979: 3rd with 2.24 m

European record: 2.30 m. 1977, June 5, at Riga

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*Alexander Grigoriev: as good in the straddle technique as in the Fosbury flop.*