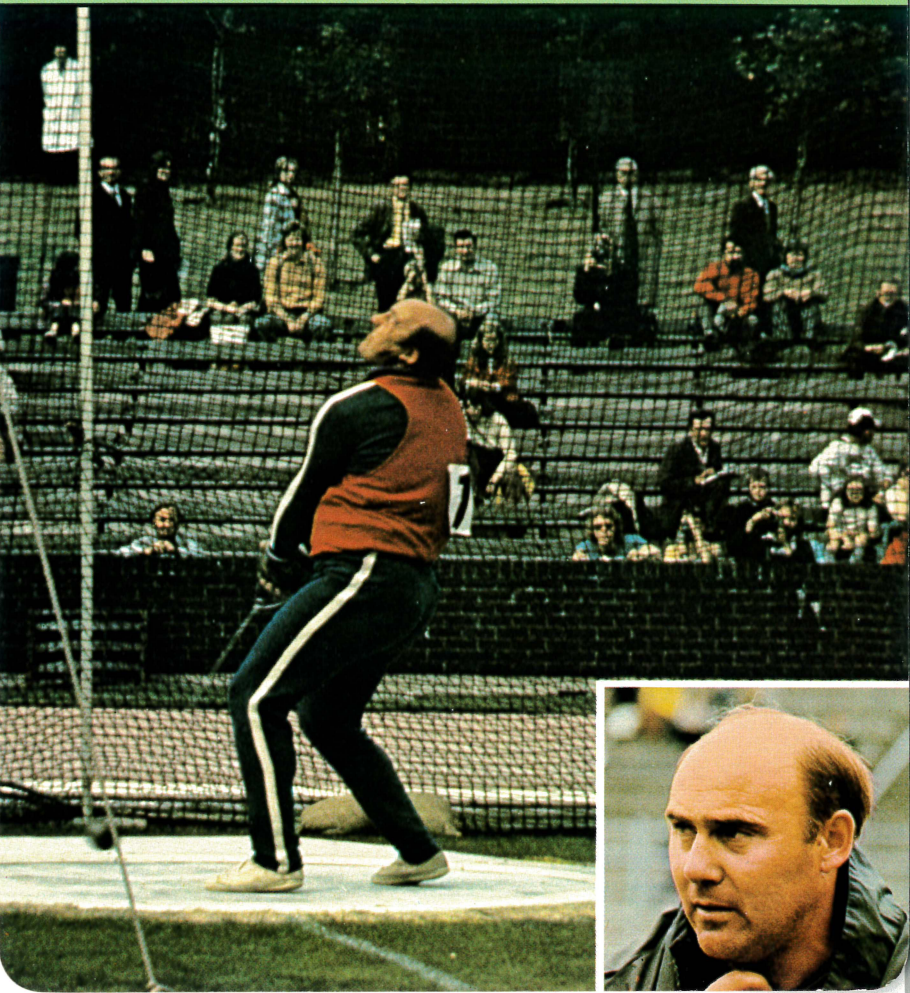


Track and Field



Anatoly Bondartchuk



Track and Field



Anatoly Bondartchuk

A Gold Hammer at Munich

Curious fellow that Ukrainian, Anatoly Bondartchuk! Large, placid, bald and slightly pot-bellied, outside the stadium he is not much to look at. You would think him the ordinary man in the street he would have continued to be had it not been for athletics. And then, in the thrower's circle, when you approach him for an interview, suddenly the hammer-thrower gets the devil in him; you find malice in his small eyes and you are surprised by the sharpness of his replies.

As a very average discus-thrower he opted to throw the hammer in 1965. Since then his progress has been swift and he has risen straight to the world class. Among the Soviet specialists he was ranked 25th, with a throw of 63.57 m (208 ft 6 in) at the end of his first season, and he narrowly missed selection for the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico. 1969 was his great year: European champion in Athens, where he broke the world record, he beat the record again later in the year. Strong (he lifts 386 lb from the shoulder and

485 lb in the kneebend), swift, and extremely good technically, he became Olympic champion in Munich.

He was eclipsed by the Soviet younger generation and rather disappeared the year before the Olympic Games in Montreal. Suddenly he leapt back from anonymity. He even qualified for the Olympics, and he had the satisfaction of seeing his pupil, Yury Sedik, fifteen years his junior and like himself a Ukrainian, climb to the top step of the podium. The Russians took all the places on the podium, much to the chagrin of the West Germans who had been much fancied in 1976. Bondartchuk himself stood on the third step.

ANATOLY BONDARTCHUK

Born May 31, 1940 at Konstantinovo, Ukraine

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1972 OG: Gold medal, with a throw of 75.50 m
1976 OG: Bronze medal, with a throw of 75.48 m
1969 ECH: Gold medal with a throw of 74.68 m
1971 ECH: Bronze medal with a throw of 71.40 m
World records: 74.68 m on Sept 20, 1969 in Athens; 75.48 m on Oct. 13, 1969 at Rovno (USSR)