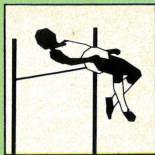


Track and Field



Nenad Stekic



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The 'Yugoslav Panther'

By erasing from the tables Igor Ter-Ovanessian's European long jump record (8.35 m) and by improving on this performance by 10 cm, Nenad Stekic had struck a great blow, exactly a year before the Montreal Olympic Games. He did it on 27 July 1975, in the Canadian capital, in the pre-Olympic trials. The Yugoslav then became the joint favorite with Robinson from the USA to win the gold medal. One year later, he failed completely in his event and finished 6th with a jump of 7.89 m, which was a far cry from his performances during the previous year.

This was a cruel disappointment for this impulsive and hyper-nervous young man, whose unfortunate speciality is missing most of the great world and European athletics meetings: (a) in 1971, he did not get through the qualifying rounds for the Helsinki European Championships (7.35 m). (b) in 1972, his injury prevented him from taking part in the Munich Olympic Games. (c) in 1977, selected for the European team for the first World Cup in Düsseldorf, after a protracted six-month battle with the Frenchman Jacques Rousseau, he only managed to jump 7.77 m and finished fourth.

This lanky athlete, 5 ft 11 in tall (1.79 m) and weighing 135 lb (61 kg), is a member of the Red Star club of Belgrade, a student at the Faculty of Economic Sciences, and is the current European record-holder.

As long ago as 27 October 1974, in Rio, for the inauguration of the artificial track, he had cleared 8.24 m which at the end of the season put him in second place in the world and in first place in Europe...

Nenad, like his famous Soviet predecessor Ter-Ovanessian, uses a two-and-a-half scissor jump, and jumps very close to the board. It is due to his above-average speed—he has been timed at 10.4 secs in the 100 m—that he gets a totally exceptional lift off the ground. However, the Yugoslav hesitated for a long time between the high jump and the long jump.

NENAD STEKIC

Born March 7, 1951, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1974 ECH: silver medal

1976 OG: 5th with 7.89 m

1978 ECH: silver medal

European record: 8.45 m on July 27, 1975

Nenad Stekic: a great blow before the Montreal Olympic Games