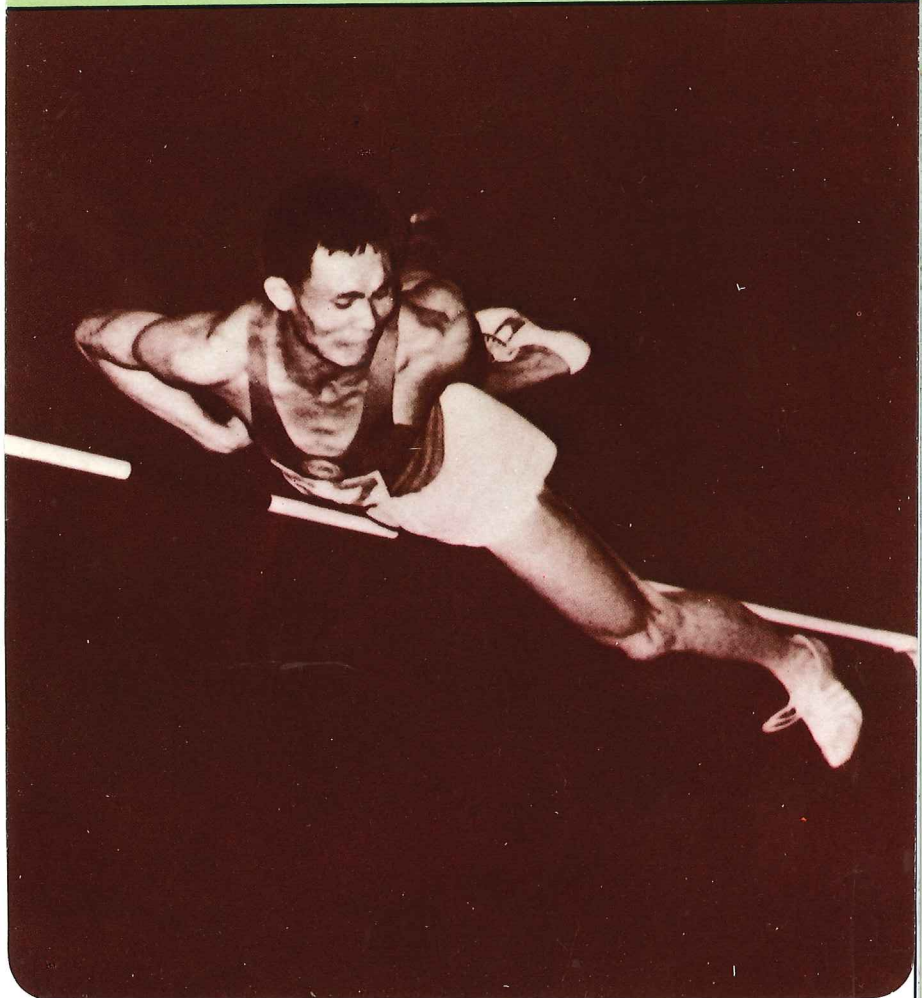


Track and Field



'Ni Chih-Chin



Track and Field



Ni Chih-Chin

Jumping For Mao

Back in 1970, a high jumper broke the Russian Valeri Brumel's world record but even now his name does not appear on the official lists. Probably it will never figure, because the athlete in question was Ni Chih-Chin, from the People's Republic of China which, as is well known, quit the international sports scene in 1958 for political reasons. Recently, China has begun making renewed contact with the outside world, and it is hoped that she will take part in the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. But on 8 Nov. 1970, China was not a member of the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) and that was the day on which Ni Chih-Chin cleared 2.29 m. He performed this feat before 80,000 spectators in the Chang-cha Stadium in Hunan Province; the event was shown on national television and recorded on film and in photographs for the benefit of those beyond the Great Wall. On that particular day, Ni Chih-Chin was in terrific form, clearing 1.98 m, 2.03 m, 2.13 m, 2.18 m successively while still wearing his track suit, then 2.24 m and finally

2.29 m with his second attempt. With this jump, he broke Brumel's record (set in 1963) by 1 cm. By a coincidence, both men were born on the same day. And Ni Chih-Chin's jump was 5 cm higher than Fosbury's winning leap in Mexico in 1968. Ni Chih-Chin is 1.84 m tall, relatively small for a specialist high jumper, but above average height in China. This fact only serves to illustrate what a remarkable feat his was. And yet he did not turn to athletics until after trying various other sports at school, chiefly basketball. He is also a good sprinter (100 m in 10.6) and long jumper (7.56 m). Ni Chih-Chin used the same style as Brumel, a forward dive roll after a seven-step run-up.

NI CHIH-CHIN

Born Apr. 14, 1942, in Fukien province, China
Married Ho Tsu-Fen, record holder of Chinese 100 m (11.5) and instructress at the Peking Sports Institute

AWARDS AND RECORDS

Progression:

2.11 m, in 1961	2.21 m, in 1964
2.17 m, in 1962	2.25 m, in 1965
2.20 m, in 1963	2.27 m, in 1966

Jumped 2.29 m, on Nov. 8, 1970 (unofficial record)

For political reasons, Ni Chih-Chin's world record will never be officially entered