

Track and Field



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World Record Holder for Just One Hour

Roger Bambuck's day of glory was 20 June 1968, in Sacramento (California). On that day, he was world record holder over 100 m for just one hour before C. Greene, J. Hines and Rey Smith all ran the distance in 9.9 sec. He was then at the peak of his form and might well have been seen on the winner's rostrum at Mexico City had he not suffered from a bad attack of flu just one week before the competition. After this, his career suffered from his failure in the Olympics. After an absence from the cinder track in 1969, he started training again without much conviction and following an unfortunate match against Poland in Warsaw, he did not even enter for the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972. It was clear that he had missed his chance four years earlier and that there was nothing left for him to do on the track.

Bambuck was a proud athlete whose ultra-sensitive temperament sometimes made him appear abrupt. He was undoubtedly France's first ever world-class sprinter to emerge, and he made his debut on the rough track of Pointe-à-Pitre in Guadeloupe before revealing the true extent of his ability in Paris during the schools and universities

Championships the following year. In 1964 he won the 100 m in a time of 10.4 sec and the 200 m in 20.7 (European junior record), before winning two semi finals in the Tokyo Olympics in 1964. In 1966, he was one of the stars of the European Championships in Budapest, winning the 200 m, and the silver medal in the 100 m, as well as contributing towards his country's victory in the 4 x 100 m relay. He took on the Americans and beat Turner in Montreal in 1967 during the first Americans v. Europe match. He kept on improving for the next twelve months.

ROGER BAMBUCK

Born Nov. 22, 1945, at Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe

AWARDS AND RECORDS

- 1968 OG: 5th in finals of 100 m (10.10) and of 200 m (20.47) bronze medal in 4 x 100 m (38.42) with G. Fenouil, J. Delecourt and C. Piquemal (RE)
- 1966 ECH: silver medal in 100 m (10.5) gold medal in 200 m (20.9) gold medal in 4 x 100m (39.4) with M. Berger, Delecour and Piquemal

World and European records:

10.0 in 100 m on June 20, 1968, in Sacramento
38.9 in 4x100 m on July 27, 1967, in Ostrava (CZE) with Berger, Delecour and Piquemal
Co-holder of the European 100 m record

Eight individual titles as French champion (100 and 200 m) and 24 selections to his credit