

Track and Field



Vladimir Yaschenko



Track and Field



Vladimir Yaschenko

A Revelation

It was an 18-year-old Soviet youth who was the great revelation of the 1977 athletics season. Before the international junior match between the USA and the USSR in Richmond (Virginia), hardly anyone had ever heard the name of Vladimir Yaschenko. But in Richmond, on July 4, 1977, he cleared the bar at 2.33 m (7' 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ "') on his first attempt, breaking the American Dwight Stones's world record by 1 centimeter. He then attempted 2.35 m, but failed on all three attempts. All the same, he promises well for the future, for his first two attempts were very nearly successful.

Vladimir Yaschenko uses the straddle technique, like his idol, his countryman Valeri Brumel, former world record holder. With his 6ft 3 in for 174 lb, the young Ukrainian looks as though he was made for the high jump. In fact the USSR may well have found a second Valeri Brumel in this fair-haired young man who was first spotted when, aged 16, he cleared 2.12 m. In 1976 he won the Russian national junior championship, and by this time he was already clearing 2.22 m. His pursuit of Valeri Brumel's world record of 2.25 m was already

on, and did not stop even after his prodigious feat in Richmond.

Before his record-breaking jump, his best outdoor performance had been 2.22 m, but indoors he had cleared 2.26 m during the international junior match between East Germany and the USSR in February 1977 in East Berlin. Yaschenko later confirmed this performance in Donetsk, where he took the European junior championship title with a jump of 2.30 m on Aug. 8, 1977.

He did not participate in the European Cup nor in the World Cup competitions in 1977, but in March 1978 he came into the headlines again with a jump of 2.35 m, a new world record indoors.

VLADIMIR YASCHENKO

Born Jan. 1, 1959, in Kharkov, Ukrainian SSR

AWARDS AND RECORDS

World record holder in high jump with 2.34 m on June 16, 1978, at Tbilissi, USSR
USSR high jump champion in junior category 1976 and 1977
Junior European high jump champion in 1977 at Donetsk (2.30 m)
European indoor champion in 1978 at Milan (2.35 m)
European champion in 1978 at Prague with 2.30 m

Vladimir Yaschenko brought back the high jump world record to the straddle technique