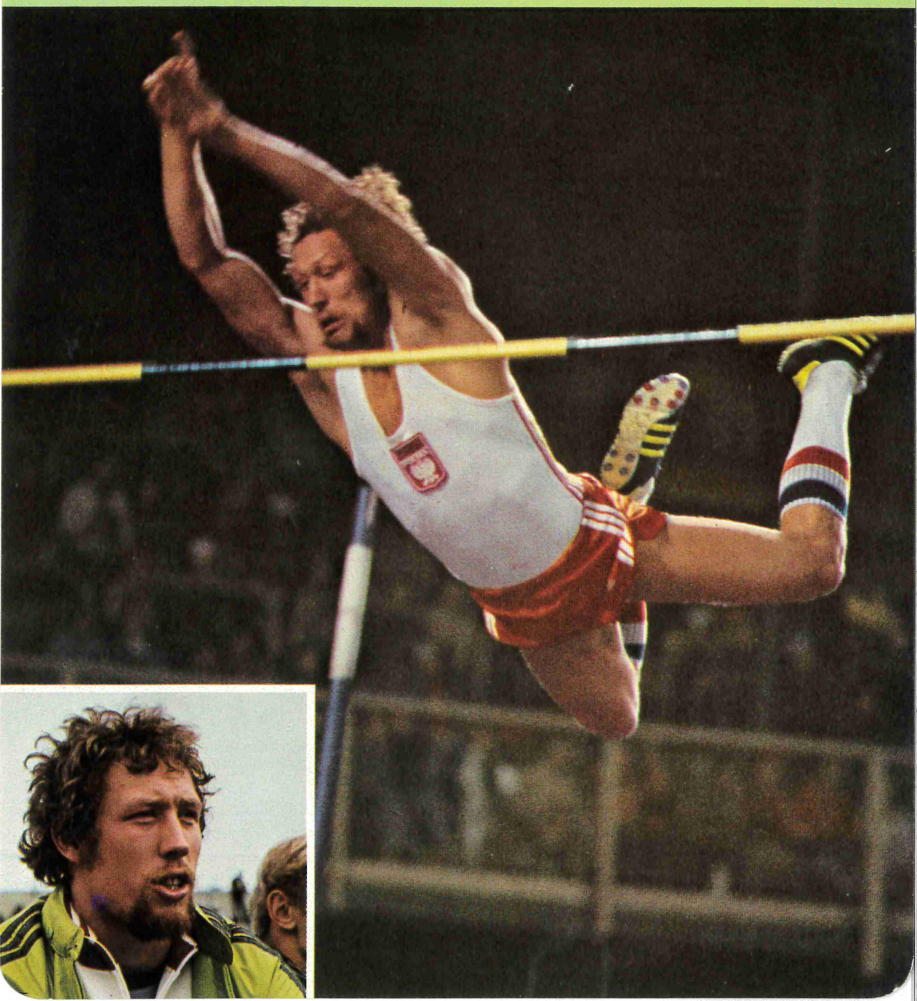


# Track and Field



*Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz*



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## Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz



### *Strong, but Often Beaten*

Like the sailors of the Baltic used to braving the weather, he apparently has strength in every competition. By being in close contact with them, he has ended up identifying with them: the same hard look, the same strong jaw, the same rounded shoulders. How is it then that the Pole Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz has been beaten more often than he deserves during his already long career (he began pole-vaulting at the age of 11 clearing 1.80 m)? Of course, lesser titles and records are not lacking in his honors list. But at the end of the 1978 season, he was still chasing in vain the world record which he had attempted to beat 24 times in 1977.

The year of the Montreal Olympics, he was, however, in superb form, having cleared 5.60 m just before he arrived in Canada. Alas, the day before the final, he sprained his ankle and had to be content, sick at heart, with an inglorious eleventh place, with a jump of 5.25 m. The Americans, whom he had challenged several times on their territory, in indoor competitions, were in the utmost dread of him. It was to another Pole, more "fluid" and less conspicuous, Tadeusz Slusarski, that

they surrendered the gold medal. In 1977, "Koza" had a sparkling season. He was nevertheless still beaten at Dusseldorf, in the first World Cup, by the American Mike Tully (5.55 m against 5.60 m).

All his rivals continue, however, to say the same thing: "Koza" is world record-holder material. Strength of arm (he has a very high grip of the pole), speed (he has run 60 m in 6.75 sec), agility (he did gymnastics when he was younger), confidence, he has everything in his favor.

#### WLADYSLAW KOZAKIEWICZ

Born Dec. 8, 1953, at Solechnikakh, Poland

#### AWARDS AND RECORDS

1974 ECH: 2nd with 5.35 m  
1976 OG: 11th with 5.25 m  
1977 ECH: Indoor Championships, 1st with 5.51 m  
1977 WC: 2nd with 5.55 m  
1978 ECH: 4th with 5.45 m  
1979 ECH: Indoor Championships, 1st with 5.58 m  
European records:  
5.60 m on 20 June 1975 at Warsaw  
5.62 m on 29 May 1976 at Bydgoszcz  
5.64 m on 12 June 1977 at Warsaw  
5.66 m on 17 July 1977 at Warsaw  
European Indoor Championship record:  
5.57 m on 13 Feb. 1976 at Toronto

*Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz: only fourth at the 1978 ECH in Prague with 5.45 m*