

## SHORT HISTORICAL NOTES XVI

Anton Gajdoš, Bratislava, Slovakia & Ivan Čuk, Faculty of Sport, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Ph.D. Anton Gajdoš born on 1.6.1940 in Dubriniči (today Ukraine) lives most of his life in Bratislava (ex TCH, nowadays SVK). He comes from gymnastics family (his brother Pavel have world championship medals) and he devoted his life to gymnastics. His last achievement is establishment of Narodna encyklopedia športu Slovenska ([www.sportency.sk](http://www.sportency.sk)). Among his passion is collecting photos and signatures of gymnasts. As we tend to forget old champions and important gymnasts, judges and coaches, we decided to publish part of his archive under title Short historical notes. All information on these pages is from Anton's archives and collected through years.



### **MIROSLAV CERAR (October, 28 1939 Ljubljana, Slovenia)**

Miroslav Cerar was born to father Ivan (navy officer) and mother Pavla (housekeeper and seamstress). In 1947 he started with gymnastics at TVD Partizan Narodni dom (the first Slovene gymnastics club, established in 1863). His development was extremely fast due to his excellent physical preparation, as he was very flexible and strong. He was between 1958 and 1970 the best gymnast on pommel horse, with great achievements also on other apparatus. He was famous for his scissors and excellent double leg circles, which allowed him to perform Russian circles on pommels.

Medals from major competitions:

#### **Olympic games**

1964 Gold: Pommel horse, Bronze: Horizontal bar

1968 Gold: Pommel horse

#### **World Championship**

1958 Bronze: Pommel horse

1962 Gold: Pommel horse, Parallel bars

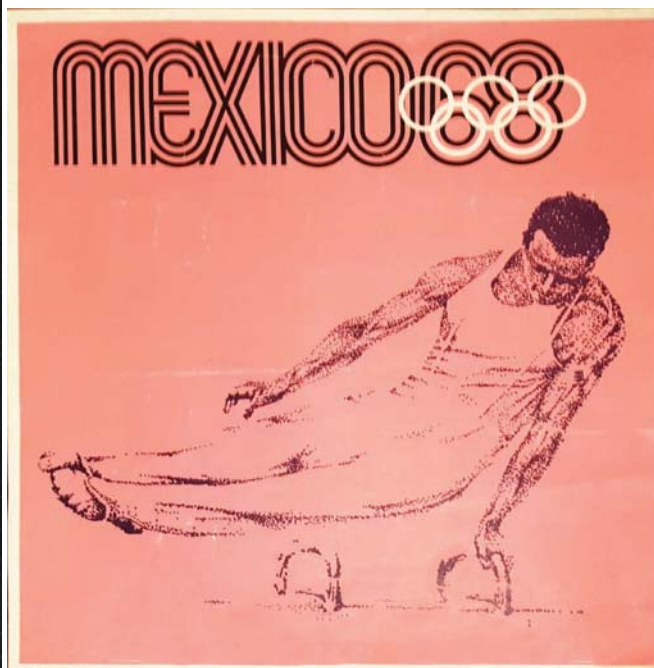
1966 Gold Pommel horse, Parallel bars

1970 Gold: Pommel horse



Left: Miroslav Cerar on poster for WC 1970

Bellow: Miroslav Cerar on poster for OG 1968



### European Championship

1961 Gold: All around, Pommel horse, Rings, Bronze: Floor exercise, Vault

1963 Gold: All around, Horizontal bar, Rings, Silver: Vault, Bronze: Floor exercise

1965 Gold: Parallel bars, Silver: Pommel horse, Floor exercise, Bronze: Rings

1967 Silver: Pommel horse, Bronze: Horizontal bar

1969 Gold: Pommel horse Silver: Parallel bars, Bronze: Horizontal bar

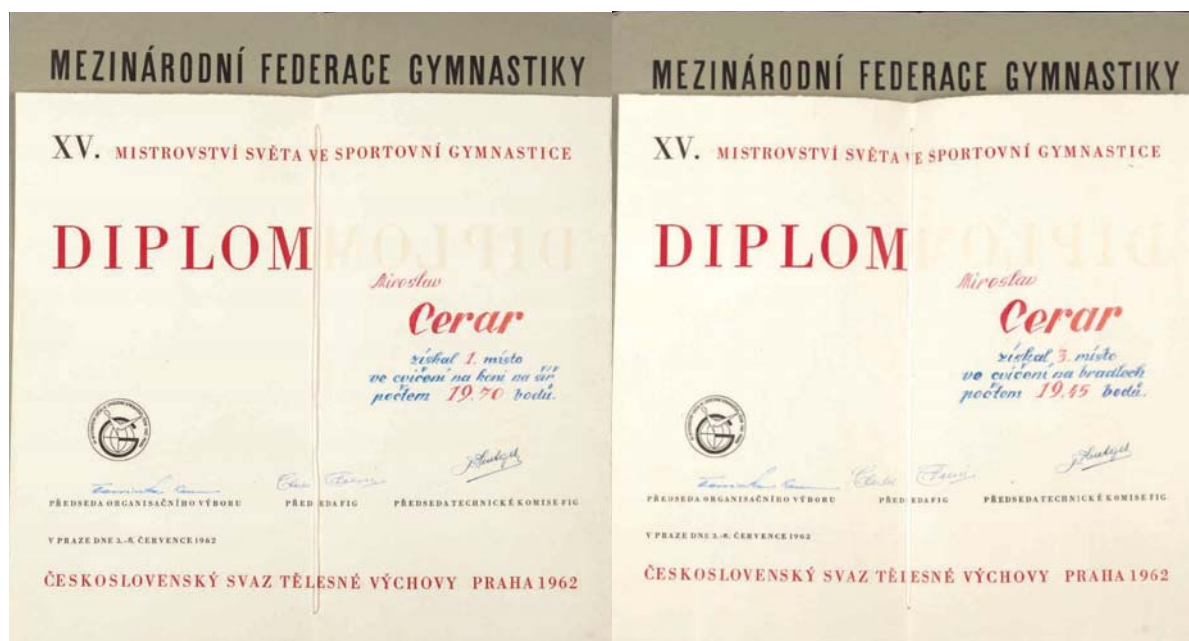
He also won Mediterranean Games in all around two times and at Spartakiada in Prague 1965 (CZE) he won 6 gold medals and for his exercise on pommel horse he scored perfect 10.

He was named as the best Yugoslav athlete 9 times, and also named as the best athlete after the WWII. He earned major state awards as award AVNOJ in Yugoslavia and The Golden Order of Merit in Slovenia.

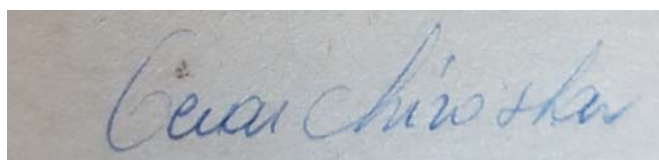
Silver Olympic Order for his distinguished service to sport from IOC received in 1985, and order for his excellence in gymnastics by FIG in 1971. He was introduced into Gymnastics Hall of Fame (USA) in 1999.

After his gymnastics career, he became lawyer, since 2005 he is retired and works for Slovene Olympic Committee (which he personally cofounded with Leon Štukelj and Slovene national sport associations) as volunteer. He is very much involved into international Fair Play organization.

At World Championship in Prague 1962 he won gold on pommel horse. Later in finals on parallel bars, Boris Šahlin (Ukraina, ex Soviet Union) was better evaluated by judges than Cerar. Crowd in the gym hall disagreed and they made such a noise for more than a half hour and stopped competition. FIG officials changed score for Cerar and he was by this decision the first. When preparing exhibition into his honor of 80<sup>th</sup> birthday we found in archive he has two gold medals and two diplomas, the first diploma is for the first place on pommel horse, while the second diploma states he was the third on parallel bars. Probably this is something worth for Guinness book of records.



He will be leader of Slovene Olympic Delegation at Olympic games 2020 in Tokyo.



**Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday!**