

## SHORT HISTORICAL NOTES XIX

Anton Gajdoš, Bratislava, Slovakia

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.



**NINA BOCHAROVA (24 September 1924 Suprunovka, Ukraina – 31. August 2020 Roma, Italy)**

Nina Bocharova was born in Soviet Union in Ukrainian region of Poltavia. While the great hunger in Ukraina (1932-1933) she remembers she was always hungry and had to steal carrots from collective farm field and eat peels from potatoes. No wonder she had only 155 cm of height. According to nowadays gymnasts she was already after WWII model of modern gymnast. During WWII, despite her young age, she took active national duty and transported granates to partisans. In 1944 she moved to liberated Kiev and entered Institute of Physical Education. During her studies she worked at station, where she unloaded cars, what gave her extra strength. In 1948 she graduated with degree of trainer-teacher. She was member of club named Stroitelj (builder) and work under coach Mihail Dmitrev.

Unfortunately Soviet Union did not took part at OG 1948 in London. In 1949 she won USSR championship in all around and repeated it in 1951. Between 1949 and 1951 she was also national champion on beam (1949 and 1951) and on uneven bars (1950, 1951)

Nina Bocharova invented and performed an exercise that no one else in the world has ever performed: a side split on the uneven bars. Since the bars were then of an old design, other athletes had to hold the stands for safety. (photo bellow from <https://stuki-druki.com/authors/Bocharova-Nina.php>)



It almost happened she could not go to Helsinki OG in 1952. However, she promised not to perform difficult jump on beam and authorities allowed her to join national team.

Reward for her was great. With national team she won, and won also gold medal on beam. In all around she took silver medal behind her teammate Maria Gorokhovskaya. With team she also took silver medal in rhythmic exercise with apparatus.

Her next and last international event was World Championship 1954 in Rome, where despite

she was 30 years old, she helped team to win on artistic events and rhythmic event.

After she stopped competing, she was a coach in Moskow and Kiev, where she retired in 1979. She was awarded with state ordens and in 2012 with orden of Ukrainian Olympic Committee. Like many other gymnasts she lived healthy and died in age of 96.



Photo on right: Maria Gorokhovskaja - left - winner at OG 1952 and Nina Botsharova - 2nd place all around