



CHAPTER FOUR

STORIES OF NINE DECADES WHAT HAPPENED 60 YEARS AGO



Kantorek king for the first time

*Then 28-year-old **Pavel Kantorek** already had two previous starts in Košice behind him, as well as the Olympics in Melbourne and a fourth place in Fukuoka, Japan, from 1957. It's difficult to say how he planned his starts that autumn; the truth, however, is that only two weeks before the Košice Marathon he triumphed in a marathon in Leipzig, Germany, and later in December set off on a journey for another marathon in distant Japan.*

*He was evidently well prepared, however, because from the entire field of runners in Košice on **12 October 1958**, only German **Lothar Beckert**, the fifth-place finisher at the 1958 European Championships in Stockholm, was able to stay with him to the final metres. Even today he recalls their barnstorming finish directly on the stadium track, where they both wrestled with fatigue and cramps. Pavel became another homegrown winner from Czechoslovakia after long 24 years. That's how Pavel Kantorek recorded the first of his three victories at the Kosice Marathon. Later won here also in 1962 and 1964.*

RESULTS***Kosice Peace Marathon, October 28, 1958******Men***

1.	Pavel Kantorek	TCH	2:29:37,2
2.	Lothar Beckert	GER	2:29:42,6
3.	Paavo Kotila	FIN	2:30:30,8