



## CHAPTER FOUR

### STORIES OF NINE DECADES WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARATHON IN KOŠICE 60 YEARS AGO



*The 1960 Olympic Games caused the marathon organizers in Košice no small amount of worry, when only 29 days fell between the marathon in Rome, won by a barefoot Abebe Bikila, and the starting gun in Košice.*

*So, it wasn't to be expected that any top runners would take part in both of these races, scheduled so close together, which is why, after the brilliant victory of Sergei Popov in 1959 in a world-best time for that season of 2:17:45.2, the expectations in eastern Slovakia were significantly more modest.*

*In the end, only one runner made the trip from the Eternal City to Košice: Swede Arnold Vaide, who had finished 21st in Rome. The trip was certainly worth it, though, when he took the silver in Košice and was able to smile a little more than he had at the finish line in the Olympics a month before. Only Brit **Samuel Hardicker** was better, and after his victory in Slovakia, he could not have guessed that his best season was to come the following year, when by year's end he found himself in an excellent sixth place in the world marathon tables with a time of 2:20:58 run in Chiswick.*

The 1960 marathon in Košice also revealed a kind of crisis at home, because despite the Olympics and the perhaps weaker international competition, the top ten remained without a homegrown Czechoslovak runner. But only by one place, since Vojtěch Hec of Dynamo Prague finished in 11th place with a time of 2:34:12.2.

The Košice Peace Marathon compensated for these rather modest sporting results, however. On the eve of the start, on **8 October 1960, the statue of the marathon runner** from the studio of Academic Sculptor Arpád Račko **was ceremonially unveiled** and almost instantly became the most eye-catching symbols of the oldest marathon in Europe.

## **RESULTS**

### **Košice Peace Marathon, October 9, 1960**

#### **Muži**

1.	Samuel Hardicker	GBR	2:26:46,8
2.	Arnold Vaide	SWE	2:27:18,4
3.	Anti Vikari	FIN	2:27:32,2