



## CHAPTER FIVE

### STORIES OF NINE DECADES WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARATHON IN KOŠICE 50 YEARS AGO



*Two years after the Olympics in Mexico the marathon world was again moved forward, when the legendary Ron Hill set a new world record of 2:09:28 with his summertime victory at the Commonwealth Games.*

*It needs to be added in the next breath, however, that this was not entirely clear at the time, and Košice in a certain way played a part in the whole plot. Namely in that year of 1970, Australian **Derek Clayton** travelled to the Košice as a clear favourite, and he was convinced – and at that time the athletic authorities also confirmed it – that he was the holder of the valid world record with a performance of 2:08:33. Later, however, the length of the track in Antwerp, where Clayton had won in this record time in 1969, was questioned, and today this performance is no longer listed in the most relevant sources. This doesn't detract, however, from Clayton's abilities, since his name figures in a lot of other great performances, including an earlier one from Fukuoka in 1967 with a time of 2:09:36, which undoubtedly was the world record at the time.*

*Before we return to Clayton, just a note that the earlier mentioned **Ron Hill** finally presented himself in Košice, too. This was a bit later, in the year commemorating the 50th anniversary of*

*the founding of the Košice marathon, which was memorable not only for the celebrations, but also for the extremely unkind weather.*

*The Australian champion Clayton got off the plane at the beginning of October 1970 in Košice only to learn that the organizers arranged very competitive race. They had managed to draw in the silver medallist from the previous Olympics, Japanese runner **Kenji Kimihara**, as well as the Košice Marathon winner from 1967, the Serb (but at that time still a Yugoslav) **Nedjalko Farčič**.*

*It should also be added that the diplomatic visitors to the Košice Marathon in 1970 were also representative. The event was honoured by the attendance of then head of European Athletics **Adriaan Paulen** and IAAF Secretary General **Frederic Holder**. Paulen was extremely fond of Košice and later remembered it after achieving the highest position in the IAAF. He came to Košice in 1980 as chairman of this respected association.*

*The race in 1970 took a somewhat surprising turn, when none of the mentioned favourites was enough for the Russian **Mikhail Gorelov**, who set a personal best in Košice, winning with a time he would never surpass. Clayton had to settle for fifth place, but it must be added that, regardless of the finish, he is undoubtedly one of the most famous runners to have ever presented himself in Košice.*

## **RESULTS**

### **Košice Peace Marathon, October 5, 1970**

#### **Muži**

1.	Mikhail Gorelov	RUS	2:16:26,2
2.	Kenji Kimihara	JPN	2:18:06,4
3.	Nedjalko Farčič	YUG	2:18:34,6