

SHORT HISTORICAL NOTES XXVII

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). 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.



Mitsuo Tsukahara (December, 22, 1947, Tokio, Japan)

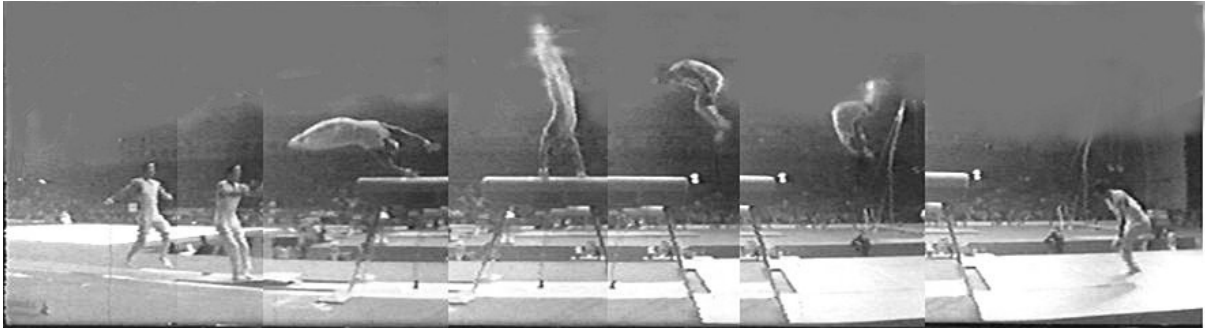


Mitsuo Tsukahara started with gymnastics at age of 13, what is from today perspective very, very late. His body constitution and extreme high quality of motor control with great motor abilities allowed him fast development of technical knowledge.

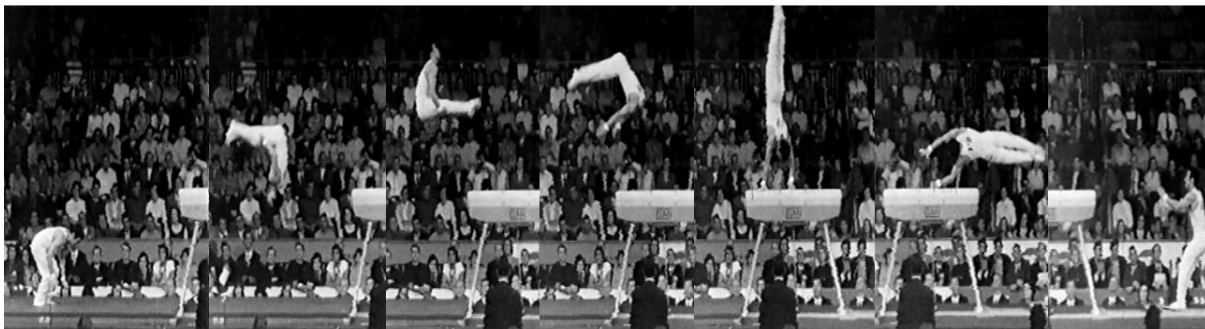
After only eight years of practicing gymnastics he made Olympic debut at Olympic Games in New Mexico with earning team gold medal, while he finished 18th in all around and 4th on floor.

On left is his photo while performing Yamashita vault. By his words this vault was his weak point and he could not achieve high results. After he thought he could perform something original and overpass weakness of Yamashita and from December 1969 he trained new vault. He started to perform on side horse handstand and roll backward on decline mats, later added salto and as a whole vault wanted to perform handstand with $\frac{1}{2}$ turn with salto backward. As it was quite difficult to do it, new creativity was to use cartwheel with $\frac{1}{4}$ turn inward and everything was much easier.

During World Championship in Ljubljana he showed both of his vaults tucked and piked version (in finals).



Kinogram of Tsukahara performing Tsukahara tucked at WC 1970 in Ljubljana (from book Čuk, Karacsony: Vault, 2004)



Kinogram of Tsukahara performing Tsukahara piked at WC 1970 in Ljubljana (from book Čuk, Karacsony: Vault, 2004)



At Olympic Games in München he surprised everyone again with new element. From high bar he performed double salto backward tucked with 1/1 turn. (Kinogram from FIG's Code of Points)

After his gymnastics career he held many different positions in gymnastics, his son (with Chieko Oda, also Olympic gymnast) Naoya was also gymnast who gained gold medal at OG 2004 as team member.

Besides many honors, he was also decorated with Japan Medal of Honor with purple ribbon. For the gymnastics, he is one of the greatest inventors, his name lives every day in all gymnastic halls.

Mitsuo Tsukahara greatest results:

1968	OG	New Mexico (Mexico)	1. Team
1970	WC	Ljubljana (Slovenia)	1. Team, 1. Vault, 2. All Around, 2. Rings
1972	OG	München (Germany)	1. Team, 1. Horizontal bar, 3. Rings
1974	WC	Varna (Bulgaria)	1. Team
1976	OG	Montreal (Canada)	1. Team, 1. Horizontal bar, 2. Vault 3. All Around, 3. Parallel bars
1978	WC	Strasbourg (France)	1. Team

