

Začátkem nového roku jsme obdrželi milý **dopis od pana Stanislava Jeníka z Kanady** (Bramptonu - předměstí Toronta).

Všem atletům i trenérům přál úspěšný nový rok 2013 s dobrými atletickými výsledky, pozdravoval především Josefa Tůmu (Pepíčka) - svého bývalého trenéra a Libora Žáka.

Pan Stanislav Jeník nám také napsal svoje vzpomínky na sportovní začátky v Havlíčkově Brodě.

I will try to remember (as promised) and add a few track and field memories to the chronicle of Havlickuv Brod athletic team.

First of all let me introduce myself for those who do not know me.

My name is Stanislav Jenik, born in Havlickuv Brod in 1945.

If my memory serves me correct, my athletic carrier started around 1961/2, (16/17 years old), quite late thou.

As every kid living very close to the water on Kalinovo nabrezi, located on the banks of Sazava river, I began to play the ice hockey and later progressed to Kotlina. Loved the competition, team, but the luck of artificial ice and just a few games played a season, I got frustrated to a point that I switched from hockey and joined a basketball team coached by Mr.Bacik.

I stayed with the team for couple of years, played lots of games, travelled within Pardubicky kraj and enjoyed myself.

Soon nevertheless, I realized, that in order to play the basketball, the speed is very important, but the height is as or more important to advance to higher levels.

From the Sokolovna's windows (Sokolovna was located on the small athletic stadium, almost in the centre of the city) I had noticed guys and girls running around the small 250 meter track practising starts from the starting blocks, running laps and short distances etc.

At that point, I think I have fallen in love with the track and field. I felt that this was a sport that was tailored to my needs. I had approached Mr.J. Tuma (the coach) andacquired about joining the athletic club. He agreed and that was my the beginning.

The winter trainings were held in the gym running laps over various hurdles. When the weather permitted, running through the snow in the open fields outside of the city was tough and most memorable.

I remember my first control meet in Trebic, where, first time in my life I ran 400 meters flat. What an experience. After 300 meters I ran out of gas so to speak. The time over 60 seconds reflected my enormous effort, and frustration at the same time.

Mr.Tuma casually said: It was not bad for the first time.....

Next plan was to work on the speed endurance. More control tests proved, not immediatly, that the plan in place worked out well.

Unfortunately, I kept no records or they got lost.

1963 I left Havlickuv Brod and went to Mlada Boleslav to study at strojni prumyslova skola. Immediately I joined the Skoda athletic team.

Just a few well-known names may be familiar like Zelezny (Jan's father) - javelin, Sachomsky - javelin, (both were in Dukla Praha), Becvarvsky-decathlon (so was he), Sedlacek - decathlon, Prikrylova - long jump, Bernardova - high jump etc.

After try-outs, I was assigned to run 400 meters for the team which was competing in the 2. atleticka liga. Once a month some of the team members, myself included, competed at try-outs in Houstka (Stara Boleslav) with athletes from Dukla Praha. This was most enjoyable time in my sports life and it was well worth it. Even-though I trained (off and on) and obviously not enough, my potential did not allow me to run 400 meters under 51 seconds.

Being a member of MB the track and field, I was selected to the Sports Army Team in Mlada Boleslav based on shutting a rifle, running army hurdles and throeing agrenade on the target. So far army life was good (lasted one year) until the top brass found out that I hurt my throeing elbow. I was transferred to Lustenice where I ended my short lived carrier in the track and field, but never lost love for it.

Stan. Jenik