SPORTING LEGENDS: ALEXANDER DITYATIN

SPORT: GYMNASTICS

COMPETITIVE ERA: 1975 - 1981

Alexander Nikolaievich Dityatin (born August 7, 1957 in Leningrad) is a Russian gymnast, three-time Olympic Champion, and *Honoured Master of Sports of the* USSR.

Winning eight medals at the 1980 Summer Olympics, he set the record for achieving the most medals of any type at a single Olympic Games. Dityatin competed for the Leningrad Dinamo sports society.

Dityatin's first Olympic success was at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, where he won two silver medals - on the rings and in the team competition. At the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow he won the all-around title and seven more medals, including two gold ones.

As of August 2008 he is the only athlete who won a medal in each of the eight gymnastics events at one Olympics. Shortly after the 1980 Olympics, Dityatin was seriously injured while training, which ended his career.

Dityatin graduated from *Leningrad Lesgaft Institute of Physical Education*. He was awarded Order of the Badge of Honor (1976), and Order of Lenin (1980, for guarding the State Border of the USSR). Between 1980 and 1995 Dityatin was the head coach of a sports team from Leningrad (Leningrad OKPP).

In 2004 Dityatin was inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame.
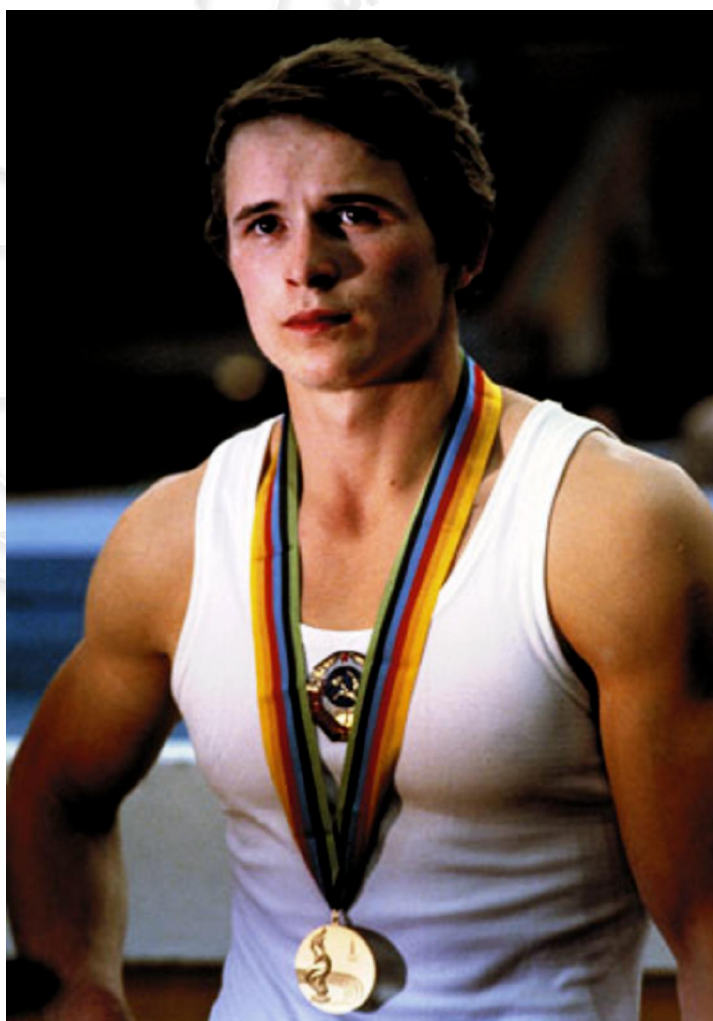
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Scott Burton's Final Thought

It takes something very special to win an Olympic Medal, but to win 8 Medals at one Olympiad is truly unbelievable.

Alexander Dityatin demonstrated a tremendous amount of skill, consistency and athletic brilliance, that's for sure"

Alexander Dityatin's Olympic Gymnastic Career Was Truly Golden"