**NADIA COMANECI**

**Nadia Elena Comaneci** (1961) is a [Romanian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanians) [gymnast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gymnastics) who, at the age of 14, "became the first gymnast in Olympic history to be awarded the [perfect score of 10.0](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perfect_10_(gymnastics))" at the [1976 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1976_Summer_Olympics) in [Montreal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montreal).She would eventually go on to receive six more "perfect 10s" in Montreal as well as three [gold medals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold_medal#Olympic_Games). A few years later, she won two gold medals at the [1980 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_Summer_Olympics) in [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow). Comaneci is one of the best-known gymnasts in the world and is credited with popularizing the sport around the world. In 2000, she was named as one of the Athletes of the 20th Century.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mariana_Constantin.jpg)

At the age of 14, Comaneci made history at the [1976 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1976_Summer_Olympics) in [Montreal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montreal), [Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada). During the team compulsory portion of the competition on July 18, [her routine on the uneven bars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gymnastics_at_the_1976_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Women%27s_uneven_bars) received a [perfect ten](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perfect_10_(gymnastics)) (and a gold medal), the first time in modern Olympic gymnastics history that the score had ever been awarded. When [Omega SA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omega_SA), the traditional Olympics scoreboard manufacturer, asked before the 1976 games whether four digits would be necessary for gymnastics, it was told that a [perfect 10.00](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perfect_10_(gymnastics)) was not possible. Nadia's perfect marks were thus displayed as 1.00 instead. The crowd was at first confused, but soon understood and gave her a rousing ovation.

Over the course of the Montreal games, Comaneci would earn six additional tens. She also won a gold medal for [the individual all-around](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gymnastics_at_the_1976_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Women%27s_artistic_individual_all-around) and [the balance beam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gymnastics_at_the_1976_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Women%27s_balance_beam). She also won a bronze for the [floor exercise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gymnastics_at_the_1976_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Women%27s_floor) and a silver as part of the [team all -around](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gymnastics_at_the_1976_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Women%27s_artistic_team_all-around).

Comaneci's achievements are pictured in the entrance area of [Madison Square Garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madison_Square_Garden) in New York City, where she is shown presenting her perfect beam exercise.

Comaneci was the first Romanian gymnast to win the Olympic all-around title. She also holds the record for being the youngest Olympic gymnastics all-around champion ever. With the revised age-eligibility requirements in the sport (gymnasts must now turn 16 in the calendar year to compete in the Olympics; in 1976 gymnasts had to be 14 by the first day of the competition), it is currently not possible to break this record legally.