**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_%28gymnastics%29)" 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.



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_%28gymnastics%29) (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_%28gymnastics%29) 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.