

Arvid Limont (Bel)

2:10:43.7
2:11:12.6

1980 Moscow 1 August

The Soviet Union became the first Eastern European nation to stage the Games but it was unfortunate that due to political wrangling Japan and the United States were among the absentees. Their presence was sorely missed in the marathon. Vladimir Kotov, the Soviet champion and new record holder, was responsible for much of the work in the first half of the race. Rodolfo Gomez (Mex) made the first real break at 23 km and stayed in front until just after 35 km when he was overtaken by Cierpinski and the European record holder Gerard Nij-

on the final run-in and in winning by 17 seconds equalled Bikila's feat of the 1960s. The Soviet trio of Dzhumanazarov, Kotov and European champion Leonid Moseyev, one of the favourites, finished in third, fourth and fifth, ahead of the first non-European finisher Gomez, as the first seven finishers all bettered 2:13.

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| 1 | Waldemar Cierpinski (GDR) | 2:11:03 |
| 2 | Gerard Nijboer (Hol) | 2:11:20 |
| 3 | Satymkul Dzhumanazarov (Sov) | 2:11:35 |

European Championships 1946. From left: Stylianos Kyriakidis (Gre), Väinö Muinonen (Fin), Henning Larsen (Den), Squire Yarrow (GB) and eventual winner Mikko Hietanen (Fin).

