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The Perfect Ten Of Nadias Life

By Jonathon Hardcastle

What happens to Olympic medallists when they retire from competition? Well some of them get

married with other gold medallists and become parents. At least this is the case for Nadia Comaneci and Bart Conner. Comaneci gave birth to their first child, a boy, named Dylan Paul, on June 3, 2006. It sounds as a perfect story of family happiness, but life was not always good for the legendary gymnast Nadia Comaneci.

She was born in the factory town Onesti, Romania in 1961 and was given the non-Romanian name Nadia by her mother after the heroine of a Russian film. Nadia is the shortened version of the Russian name Nadyezhda, which means literally "Hope." At the age of 14, Nadia became the star of the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal winning three gold medals, a silver medal and a bronze. Comaneci became also the first gymnast at the Olympics to receive the perfect score of ten.

After her triumph in Montreal young Nadia became a national hero in Romania. She kept on participating in games having to confront apart from her strong components the highly politicized environment of sports during the Cold War. After her coach's defection to the US her life changed drastically she was under constant surveillance, she was no longer allowed to travel outside Romania. Although she denies the rumors that she had tried to kill herself by drinking bleach and to have been sexually harassed by the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's son Nicu or to have been her lover she had become a prisoner in her own country. Finally in December 1989, shortly before the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu, she defected to the United States risking her life and walking for six hours at night through half-frozen lakes and impenetrable forests, to cross the Hungarian border.

With her arrival in the States Comaneci was surrounded again by controversy. Some American media suggested that she became the lover of the man who helped her escaping from Romania Constantin Panait, who was married and father of four children. In fact Panait held her captive for free months till she moved to Montreal to live with Alexandru Stefu, a Romanian rugby coach, and his family. In 1991 Nadia was again in the news when Stefu died in a scuba-diving accident.

It was then, when Comaneci was invited to Norman, Oklahoma by another legendary gymnast, Bart Conner to work with him in a gymnastics academy. A new life begun for her and she got back into

gymnastics. In 1994 she returned to Romania for the first time since she fled and in 1996 she returned again to get married with Conner in Bucharest. Since then they live together in Oklahoma working with young gymnasts and promoting the sport worldwide.

For all the fans of gymnastics worldwide, Nadia Comaneci will remain the young sweet girl of 1976 Olympics, who changed the history of the sport, but Nadia is not a little girl any more. She is a woman, who opened a new chapter in her adventurous life, called motherhood. As she stated to The Associated Pres, "We've been through a lot of high moments in our life in sports through what we accomplished but this is just something that is totally unique."

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My Perfect Sportsbook

By Sebastien Veilleux

Today, I am going to share with you some of the attributes my perfect online sportsbook would have. While regular online sportsbooks are a dime a dozen, good sportsbooks are much more rare. I've compiled a list of ten things my ultimate online sportsbook must have to win my business. See what you think.

Item One: Deposit Options

My perfect online sportsbook must have multiple depositing options. Allowing 3rd party deposits from places like NETeller and FirePay is a must.

Item Two: Deposit Amounts

I don't want to be forced to send a huge chunk of cash to some online sportsbooks. I want to be able to deposit just \$20 if I want. Allowing me to decide what's the best deposit amount is a must.

Item Three: Play Amounts

The Perfect Ten Of Nadias Life

Again, I don't want some online sportsbook dictating to me how much of my own money I need to gamble with. I want to be able to bet with my mood. If I want to wager \$5 on some game, that's my right.

Item Four: Safety

The online sportsbook must be legit. I want to see licensing from a government entity. In this day and age, there's no way I would risk one penny with some outfit that lacked this.

Item Five: Horse Racing action

I love playing the ponies. There are many tracks in the USA and I want my online sportsbook to take action on most of them. Many online sportsbooks fail in this area.

Item Six: Prop Bets

Yes, prop bets are a novelty bet, but I love them. My perfect online sportsbook will have many prop bet options to keep me entertained.

Item Seven: Payout Speed

This should go without saying, but when I click to withdrawal my money, I wanted it yesterday. There's no reason I should have to wait for days on end to get my money—unless I choose a check or something.

Item Eight: Bonus Cash

I won't even bother to play anywhere without bonus cash. Most sportsbooks offer bonus cash, so there's no reason to play at one that doesn't. Also, the bonus cash needs to be reasonable to earn.

Item Nine: Easy to use

I want a plain vanilla simple interface. I'm not interested in seeing a ton of graphics and ads pop up on a page when I'm trying to decide who to play.

Item Ten: Customer Service

The online sportsbook needs good customer service people who speak my language and know what's going on. I don't want any attitudes and I don't want to wait days on end for an email reply.

There you have it. That's my list of ten items that my perfect online sportsbook would have. There are others, but these are critical items for me. How about you?

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