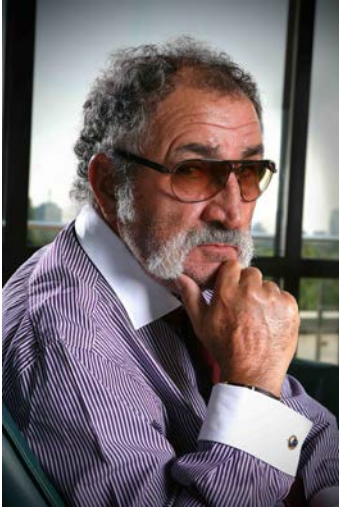


Ion Tiriac



Date of Birth: 9 May 1939
Nationality: Romanian
Place of Birth: Braşov, Romania

Sporting Career

Ion's first involvement in professional sport came as an ice hockey player for the "Știința" Sports Club of Bucharest. It was not long before he gained national recognition, being selected to represent Romania at both the World Championships and the 1964 Winter Olympic Games in Innsbruck.

Following the tournament, Tiriac swapped his skates for a tennis racket and embarked on a particularly successful doubles career that peaked with victory at Roland Garros in 1970, when he and his long time doubles partner Ilie Năstase defeated the legendary Arthur Ashe and his partner Charlie Pasarell in the final. Tiriac also represented Romania in the Davis Cup on over 150 occasions, including three finals.

After retiring as a player in 1979, Tiriac continued his career in sports as a manager and coach to multiple grand slam singles winners including Boris Becker, Goran Ivanisevic, Marat Safin and Virginia Ruzici. Tiriac worked with Becker from 1985 to 1994 and mentored him to winning the "Most Improved Player of the Year" award in their first year together. Becker then went on to win his first of six grand slam titles at Wimbledon at the age of just 17.

Business Career

Away from tennis, Ion has built himself an illustrious business empire worth over 1 billion US dollars as of 2010. This has seen him declared as the richest man in Romania. Following the collapse of communist Romania in 1989, Ion founded Banca Tiriac, the first private bank in the country. Tiriac then proceeded to start numerous businesses and investments in, amongst other things, retail, insurance and car dealerships.

Madrid Open

Tiriac is still involved in the professional tennis game as owner of the Madrid Open, which Roger Federer won earlier this year. Ion is constantly looking to innovate as shown by his decision to dye the traditionally red clay courts blue for the 2012 tournament. Despite some opposition to the move, Tiriac remains undeterred and is considering the use of fluorescent tennis balls next year in order to improve viewer experience.

Charity Work

The Tiriac Group sponsors 'The Dumbrava Minunta Foundation' which has been providing a home environment for disadvantaged children at their Poiana Soarelui complex in Romania since 1991. Composed of 11 houses and a central pavilion, the foundation offers orphaned and abandoned children a place to call home and also qualified staff who work towards building a brighter future for each child.