

Obituaries

+ Milan Vranesevich

Milan Vranesevich passed away August 24, 2011 after a lengthy illness. He was born in Duquesne, PA on December 23, 1926, the son of the late George and Milka, nee Todovich.

He is survived by his wife Stoyanka, nee Popovich, daughters Xenia of Scott Township and Zora (George) Russell of Sorrento, FL; grandson George (Nancy) and great-grandson Dalton Russell of Florida, and brothers Dushan "Duke" (+Sophie) and Robert (Lyda) of West Mifflin, PA.

During World War II, Milan joined the Army and was stationed in the Philippines. He was a linotype operator for the American Srbobran, serving as foreman of the print shop for several years. Upon leaving there, he was honored with a dinner at which time the SNF Supreme Secretary Robert Rade Stone presented Milan with an engraved wrist-watch for his 23 years of service.

Milan then began to work for H. B. South Printing in McKeesport. During that time, he and his son were also proprietors of M and M, a small engine repair business. Not long after his retirement, Milan began a second career as a mechanic at Levine Brothers in Homestead, PA where he worked an additional 8 years. He retired at age 75.

Milan was a member of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in McKeesport. He was a cantor for many years and a member of the St. Sava Church Choir for 55 years, serving as president and treasurer. He was honored by the Serbian Singing Federation for having been a choir member for more than 50 years. He was also a founding member of the St. Sava Men's Club.

The Very Rev. Stephen Rocknage conducted a Pomen on Friday evening, August 26 and the funeral service the next day at 11:00 A.M. The choir and the other mourners present joined together in singing at all the services. It was beautiful.

Two soldiers awaited the funeral procession, saluting the casket as well as the mourners as they entered the mausoleum. After Fr. Stevo concluded the final service, the soldiers conducted the military honors.

In addition to flowers, donations in Milan's memory were received for the benefit of the St. Sava Church Restoration Fund.

Milan was a member of SNF Lodge 76 in Duquesne, PA.

Memory eternal.

THIS WEEKEND!

OCTOBER 7 – 9, 2011



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NOVAK DJOKOVIC WINS 2011 US OPEN



By Milos Rastovic

In the final match of the 2011 US Open at Arthur Ashe stadium in New York in front of more than 23,000 spectators, Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic confirmed that he is Number One in the world order. After more than a four-hour battle with former US Open champion Rafael Nadal, Djokovic prevailed in four sets 6 : 2, 6 : 4, 6 : 7 (3 : 7), 6 : 1. Although Nadal beat Djokovic last year at the same place in the final match in four sets, Djokovic showed us this year that he is the one of the best players in the history of world tennis at the age of only 24.

Djokovic won three Grand Slams (Australia Open, Wimbledon, US Open) of the four this year. He did not beat Roger Federer in the semifinal match of the French Open. Djokovic thinks, however, that to win four major single titles is not impossible: "I don't want to say that's not possible. It's possible. Everything is possible. But still, it's such a tough task to ask to win all four Grand Slams in a year. How many players did it in all history?"

Rod Laver (1969) was the only one who won four major single titles in the same year from the beginning of the Open era in 1968. Djokovic is in sixth place in the history of tennis with three Grand Slams in the same year. Jimmy Connors won three Grand Slams in 1974; Mats Wilander won three Grand Slams in 1988 (losing Wimbledon); Rafael Nadal won three Grand Slams in 2010 (losing Australia Open); Roger Federer won three Grand Slam's titles in 2004, 2006, and 2007. Djokovic has won 10 single titles out of 12 tournaments this year, which is the best score since John McEnroe (66 wins and 2 defeats) in 1984.

Djokovic has had "the greatest year in the history of our sport," said John McEnroe. Patrick McEnroe, the general manager of player development at the US Tennis Association, said, "Just as a single season, I think Djokovic's season is the best since Laver in 1969." Jim Courier, the United States Davis Cup captain, said: "Novak has two guys who have won double-digit majors, and they are both healthy, and he's still dominating them. That's why this feels more astounding to me." Boris Becker, who won six Grand Slams and 49 single titles, said that Djokovic's season is the most impressive season in the history of tennis. He did not expect that kind of domination in the era of Federer and Nadal.

After the final match with Nadal, Djokovic said that he was physically and psychologically exhausted, and very happy that the tournament was finished. Without strength for celebration, the most important thing for him was that the US Open mug was in his hands. He was working very hard, and for him, the only way to succeed in tennis was one hundred percent dedication to sports and balance between tennis and private life. Looking ahead, he says, "I think it's definitely going to take a lot of effort to try to repeat even half of what I have done this year for next year."

Djokovic has never forgotten to thank people who helped him become the most successful tennis player in the world.

In addition, he became a national ambassador of UNICEF to give him an opportunity to fight for children's rights and early childhood education. He is very happy that he can help develop education in Serbia, especially for children who do not have the opportunity to study and develop potential. Djokovic began playing tennis at the age of four, and his appearance on the world stage was at 16. With his most recent win, he became the best tennis player in the world.

- 1 Christopher Clarey, "The Season of Djokovic Challenges All Others," *The New York Times*, September 13, 2011, sec. Sport/Tennis.
- 2 Christopher Clarey, "The Season of Djokovic Challenges All Others," *The New York Times*, September 13, 2011, sec. Sport/Tennis.
- 3 Christopher Clarey, "The Season of Djokovic Challenges All Others," *The New York Times*, September 13, 2011, sec. Sport/Tennis.
- 4 From the Politika's reporter, "Djokoviceva sezona najimpresivnija u istoriji," *Politika*, September 8, 2011.