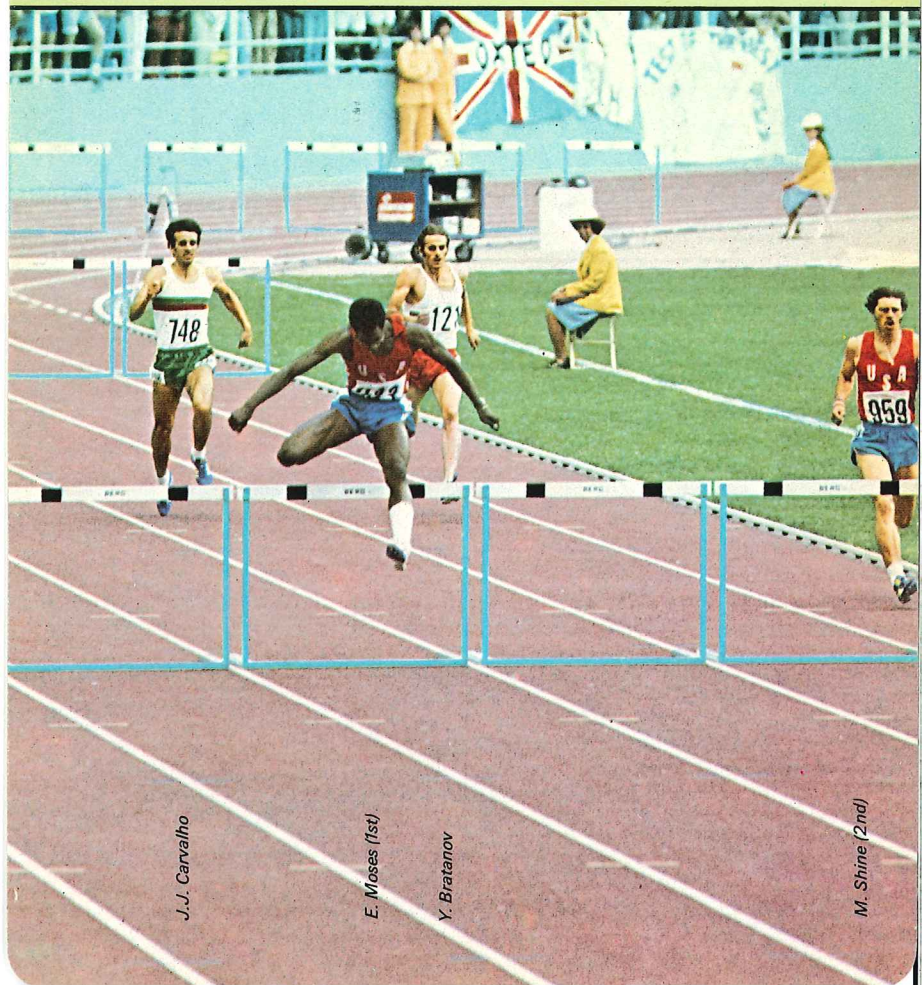


# Track and Field



## 400 m Hurdles



J.J. Carvalho

E. Moses (1st)

Y. Bratanov

M. Shine (2nd)

# Track and Field



## 400 m Hurdles

### Some Confusion

The first 400 m hurdles world record was recognized in 1908, although the event had been on the OG program since 1900. The reason for this anomaly was that the event had been subject to some confusion for a long time, since sometimes 30" and sometimes 36" high hurdles were used.

The winner of the 400 m hurdles in the 1904 OG, the American Harry Hillman, had clocked 53.0, but over 30" hurdles, and his time was not ratified. The first world record was finally awarded to the winner at the London OG in 1908, Charles Bacon, another American, (55.0).

It is worth noting that the Americans were very slow to recognize this event, which was not included in the US Championships until 1914. However, this did not stop them taking the first 5 Olympic gold medals awarded.

There was another subject of hot controversy: knocking hurdles down. At present, a runner is allowed to knock over one, or even several hurdles, as long as he does not do it on purpose, but this was not so before the Second World War. The first man to break the

52.0 barrier was the Irishman Robert Tisdall in the 1932 OG final in Los Angeles (51.7), but he had knocked one hurdle over and the man who finished second, the young American Glenn Hardin, was awarded the world record with 52.0.

#### WORLD RECORD CHRONOLOGY

55.0	C. Bacon	USA	7.22.08	London
54.2	J. Norton	USA	6.26.20	Pasadena
54.0	F. Loomis	USA	8.16.20	Antwerp
53.8	S. Petterson	SWE	10. 4.25	Paris
52.6	J. Gibson	USA	7. 2.27	Lincoln
52.0	M. Taylor	USA	7. 4.28	Philadelphia
	G. Hardin	USA	8. 1.32	Los Angeles
51.8	G. Hardin	USA	6.30.34	Milwaukee
50.6	G. Hardin	USA	7.26.34	Stockholm
50.4	J. Litujev	USSR	9.20.53	Budapest
49.5	G. Davis	USA	6.29.56	Los Angeles
49.2	G. Davis	USA	8. 6.58	Budapest
	S. Morale	ITA	9.14.62	Belgrade
49.1	R. Cawley	USA	9.13.64	Los Angeles
48.8	G. Vanderstock	USA	9.11.68	South L. Tahoe
48.1	D. Hemery	GB	10.14.68	Mexico
47.8	J. Akil-Bua	UGA	9. 2.72	Munich
47.64	E. Moses	USA	7.25.76	Montreal
47.45	E. Moses	USA	6.11.77	Los Angeles

Before the introduction of counterbalanced hurdles, knocking a hurdle down meant that a world record could not be ratified. For this reason two excellent performances were not recognized at the time:

52.5	M. Taylor	USA	7. 7.24	Paris
51.7	B. Tisdall	IRL	8. 1.32	Los Angeles

*An American double in the 1976 OG 400 m hurdles; an Olympic and world record for E. Moses*