

Track and Field



Andrea Lynch



Track and Field



Andrea Lynch

Barbados Bombshell

The pistol fired at the start of the 4x100 metres relay at the World Cup in Dusseldorf and the East German team were on their way to what seemed certain victory. But both fans and statisticians were confounded. The supposedly unbeatable East Germans were defeated by a team which had never run together before. The Europe select quartet, consisting of two British and two West German girls, zipped round Lane 7 in 42.51 seconds to win by a clear metre. Their time could not be recognized as a record because they were not a national team, but their achievement was almost sublime. According to the official report, the changeover between Elvira Possekell on the first leg to Andrea Lynch "was perfection itself". Ever since 1970, when Barbados-born Andrea won the first of several big competition medals, taking second place in the European Junior Championships when only 17, her sprinting was eye-catching.

The fine art of propelling balanced forces along a straight line for the few short seconds that take up a sprinter's effort has always been second nature to her. Lack of size and strength has been compensated by technique and

flexibility. Coached by Tom McNab, she learned all the many ways in which a sprinter can channel power into effective forward momentum.

Winner of the WAAA 100 metres in 1973, 1975, and 1976, and of the National Indoor 60-metre title in the same years, her smallness and rapid pick-up have made her most difficult to beat over the shorter dash indoors. In 1975, she sped to a gold medal at the European Indoor Championships in Katowice, Poland.

Perhaps the closest Andrea ever came to an ideal performance was at the United States Track and Field Federation Championships in Wichita (Kansas) in 1977. Clocked at 10.9 sec in the 100 metres on three hand watches, she suffered the anticlimax of knowing that the electronic timer had failed to register, depriving her of the confirmation which would have brought her a ratified world record.

ANDREA LYNCH

Born Nov. 24, 1952, in Barbados, West Indies.

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1974 ECH bronze medal:	100 m, 11.28 sec
1974 CG silver medal:	100 m, 11.31 sec
silver medal:	4 x 100 m relay
1974 ECH (indoor) silver medal:	60 m, 7.17 sec
1975 ECH (indoor) gold medal:	60 m, 7.17 sec

Andrea Lynch—a petite but strong sprinter