

Track and Field



Dorothy Hyman



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The Cudworth Express

Only an unusually intuitive traveller to the north of England would notice anything to write home about concerning the mining village of Hickleton Main. Collieries produce coal, a natural resource without which Britain could not survive industrially; they do not traditionally produce fast sprinters. Yet Hickleton Main produced Dorothy Hyman, in her day the fastest sprinter in Britain, Europe and the Commonwealth, and after her day still the British athlete with the most dazzling medal collection ever.

Dorothy's talent was developed and reached its full flowering in a period when flamboyance did not widely prevail as an accomplishment in the sportswoman's repertoire.

It was in 1958, that Dorothy picked up her first gold medal as a member of the England sprint relay team who beat Australia in world record time. A year later, she was Britain's top sprinter and went on to win silver and bronze medals in the Rome Olympic Games in 1960. There she lost the 100 metres to Wilma Rudolph, the American girl regarded by experts as the fastest woman in history up to that time.

In 1963, Dorothy was rated World No. 1,

clipping European records of 11.3 sec and 23.2 sec for the metric sprints. Injury curtailed her Olympic preparation in 1964, but despite this she reached the 100 metres final in Tokyo and added a relay bronze to her collection. Perhaps the truest indication of the consistency and quality of Dorothy's contribution to British sprinting was that between 1957 and 1964 she won 21 out of 30 individual races (excluding relays) in international matches.

Disqualified in 1965 for receiving payment for her autobiography, Dorothy made another comeback in 1969 and proved yet again that she was Britain's best by taking the WAAA 200 m title.

DOROTHY HYMAN

Born May 9, 1941, in Cudworth, Yorkshire

AWARDS AND RECORDS

OG 1960 silver medal:	100 m, 11.3 sec.
bronze medal:	200 m, 24.7 sec
OG 1964 bronze medal:	4x100 m, 44.0 sec
ECH 1958 silver medal:	4x100 m, 46.0 sec
ECH 1962 gold medal:	100 m, 11.3 sec
silver medal:	200 m, 23.7 sec
bronze medal:	4x100 m, 44.9
CG 1958 gold medal:	4x110 yards, 45.3 sec
CG 1962 gold medal:	100 yards, 11.2 sec
gold medal:	220 yards, 23.8 sec
silver medal:	4x110 yards, 46.6 sec
World records:	4x110 yards relay 45.3 (1958)
	4x110 yards relay 45.2 (1963)

Hard work made Dorothy Hyman the fastest British sprinter in her day