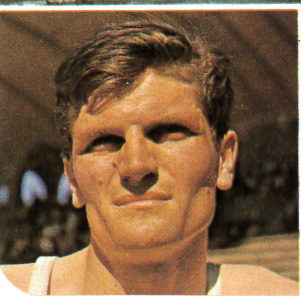
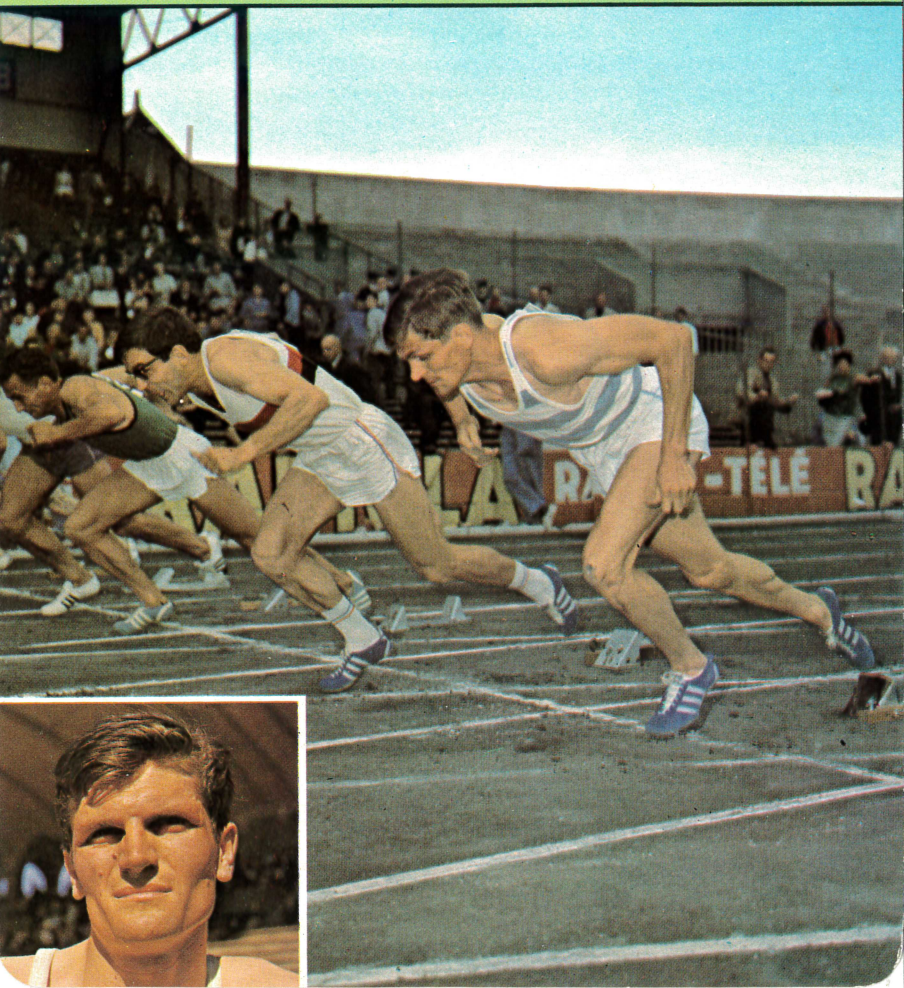


Track and Field



Jocelyn Delecour



Track and Field



Jocelyn Delecour

A Great Relay Man

Even though he is not the most brilliant sprinter that French athletics has ever known, Jocelyn Delecour remains without question the most consistent. This is because he had a great analytic ability and a rare talent for observation. He was the first to understand that the superiority of the Americans was due as much to the work they put in throughout the year as to their talent. He himself was not especially gifted, but by putting himself through a rigorous training program during the winter of 1957-58 under the guidance of coach Joseph Maigrot (until then, the season lasted barely three months for the French sprinters), he rapidly rose from a modest national level to the European summit.

Delecour was the first Frenchman to run the 100 m in under 10.5 sec and the 200 m in under 21 sec and was the only French athlete to win a medal at the 1958 European Championships in Stockholm. Four years later, his Countryman Claude Piquemal, with more muscular energy than style, deprived him of the 100 m European title by beating him at the tape.

At the age of 33, Jocelyn Delecour ran the 100 m in 10.3 sec at the 1968

Olympic Games in Mexico, but it was in the relay that he made his personal mark in the course of an exceptionally long career. He was in fact the pivot of the relay teams which won the gold in the 4 x 100 m at the 1966 European Championships in Budapest, and the two bronze medals at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo and the 1968 Games in Mexico. He was three times French champion in the 100 m, five times in the 200 m, was selected for the national team 58 times and became a member of the French Athletic Committee in 1969.

JOCELYN DELECOUR

Born Jan. 2, 1935, in Tourcoing, France

AWARDS AND RECORDS

- 1958 ECH: bronze medal in the 200 m in 21.3 sec
 - 1962 ECH: silver medal in the 100 m in 10.4 sec
 - 1966 ECH: gold medal in the 4 x 100 m relay in 39.4 sec, on the second leg, with Marc Berger, Claude Piquemal and Roger Bambuck
 - 1964 OG: bronze medal in the 4 x 100 m relay in 39.3 sec, on the last leg, with Paul Genevay, Bernard Laidebeur and Claude Piquemal
 - 1968 OG: bronze medal in the 4 x 100 m relay in 38.4 sec, on the last leg, with Gérard Fenouil, Claude Piquemal and Roger Bambuck
- World record in the 4 x 100 m relay:
38.9 on July 22, 1967, on the last leg, with Marc Berger, Claude Piquemal and Roger Bambuck

Jocelyn Delecour (in the foreground): the most consistent of French sprinters