

Track and Field



Marjorie Jackson



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The Blue Streak

It may be true to say that no sprinter in track history, man or woman, retired with a competitive record closer to perfection than did Marjorie Jackson. In major Games, she contested six individual finals and came out of it with six gold medals. On top of that she stacked up another three relay gold medals and only lost a fourth on a relay mishap which was no fault of hers. The one gold medal she missed was at Helsinki in 1952. She had already won gold medals in the 100 and 200 metres, equalling three world records and breaking another in the process. In the relay, when set to take over on the final leg with a comfortable margin, the baton was clipped out of her hand by the knee of her incoming teammate, Winsome Cripps. Marjorie did nearly everything in her sprint career at a speed that found no match. Her arrival upon the pinnacle of fame happened, meteorically, when she was 17. Visiting Australia in 1949 was the immortal Fanny Blankers-Koen, winner of four gold medals at the Wembley Olympics the previous year. Now at Sydney the Dutch superstar found herself decidedly beaten by a teenage girl from the Blue Mountain town of Lithgow.

Marjorie was still only 18 when she opened her gold medal account at the British Commonwealth Games in Auckland. Including preliminaries, she started in ten races in three days and won every one of them, equalling two world records. She regained her Commonwealth titles in Vancouver in 1954. One thing this slender mover never required was a photo-finish camera to confirm her victories. Her Olympic wins by margins of 3 metres in the 100 m and 5 metres in the 200 m are proof that she was not only ahead of the opposition but also ahead of her times.

MARJORIE JACKSON

Born Sept. 13, 1931, in Coffs Harbour, AUS

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1952 OG gold medal 100 m 11.5 sec, Helsinki
1952 OG gold medal 200 m 23.7 sec, Helsinki
1950 CG gold medal 100 yards 10.8 sec, Auckland
1950 CG gold medal 220 yards 24.3 sec, Auckland
1950 CG gold medal 4 x 110 yards relay 47.9 sec,
1950 CG gold medal medley yards relay 1:13.4
1954 CG gold medal 100 yards 10.7 sec, Vancouver
1954 CG gold medal 220 yards 24.0 sec, Vancouver
1954 CG gold medal 4 x 110 yards relay 46.8 sec,

Worlds records

100 yards	10.4 sec	1952
100 m	11.4 sec	1952
200 m	23.4 sec	1952
220 yards	24.0 sec	1954
4 x 100 m relay	46.1 sec	1952
4 x 110 yards relay	46.3 sec	1952

Wales' Marjorie Jackson, a sprinter with a practically perfect record