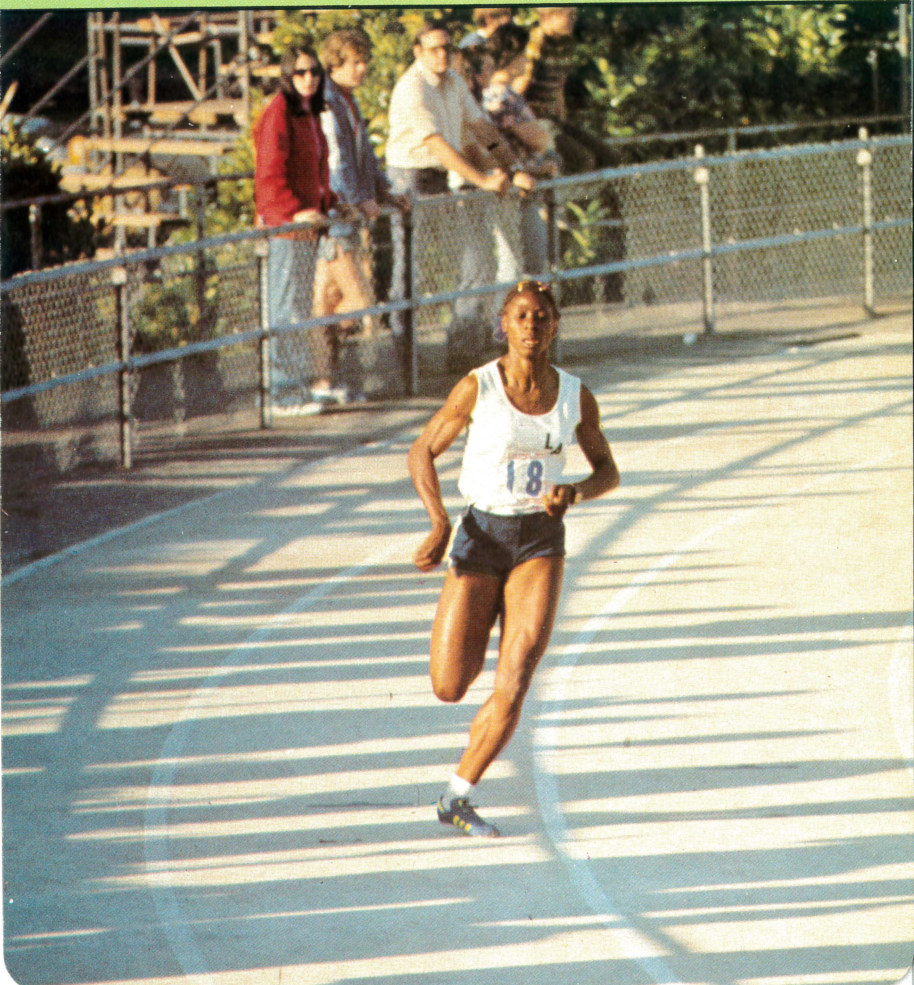


Track and Field



Rosalyn Bryant



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400 m Specialist

'Women are doing great things, accomplishing as much as men.' The speaker is Rosalyn Bryant, one of those women who has been accomplishing a great deal in American track. 'I know I hurt every bit as much as the men do when I run a quarter-mile.' She stops, ponders a moment and then asks of no one in particular, 'Why do they still put my records in the fine print in the results column and forget to mention me in the articles?'

Bryant spent her early years in Chicago. She has been running as long as she can remember, and as a girl quickly ran out of competition from her girl friends. That was when she started going against the boys. At age 13, Rosalyn joined the Chicago Zephyrs Track Club, and then advanced to the Mayor Daley Youth Foundation team. In 1975, Bryant packed her bags and headed west to Los Angeles where she competed for the Los Angeles Mercu-ettes, coached by Fred Jones. She then enrolled in Los Angeles State University in the fall of 1977.

Among her accomplishments are a spectacular indoor season in 1977

when in the space of two months, Bryant set world indoor records at 220, 440 and 500 yards; at 500 meters and joined a record-setting half-mile medley relay team.

Rosalyn gained a measure of fame at the 1976 Olympic Games at Montreal. Although she finished fifth in the 400 m race, she broke the existing U.S. record with her effort. Immediately after the race, she set a new goal for herself. 'I want to win in Moscow', she said, referring to the 1980 Olympic Games. At first she toyed with the idea of moving up to the longer 800 m, but at the 1978 AIAW outdoor championships in Knoxville, Tenn., Bryant confined her activities to the shorter distances. Counting qualifying heats and final events, Rosalyn competed in 10 different races during the meet. Easily her most impressive effort was a 400 m in 50.93 sec, in which she beat Olympian and arch-rival Lorna Forde by more than a full second. Bryant's 50.93 was the fifth best in U.S. history and the fastest in a non-Olympic year. That effort shows she is headed in the right direction on the road to Moscow.

Bryant has a smooth yet powerful stride