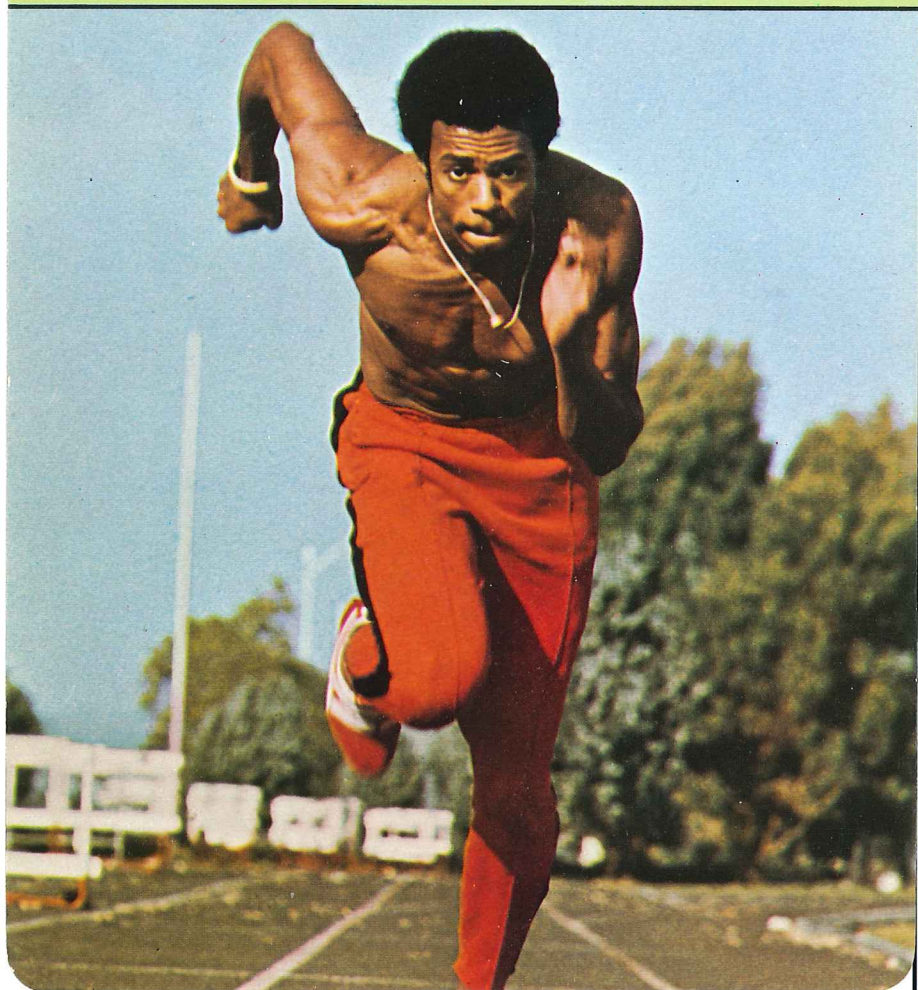


# Track and Field



*Steve Williams*



# Track and Field



## Steve Williams

### Five Record Runs

Totally unknown, a young man wearing a San Diego Track Club shirt took his place in the starting blocks. It was May 12, 1973, and the 100-yard dash was about to be run at Fresno, California. The starter's gun exploded, the runners sprang out—and exactly 9.1 seconds later the winner snapped the tape, tying the world record. He was Steve Williams, a college freshman, and he would never be unknown again. In fact, this 6' 3", 180-pound speedster was just beginning his phenomenal pursuit of world records.

Following that Fresno win, Steve became the man to beat at 100 and 200 meters—but nobody could. He capped off 1973 by going undefeated at both distances throughout Europe. Then, after a short slump at the start of the 1974 track season, he tied the standard of 9.9 seconds for 100 meters at the AAU National Championships on June 21, 1974. (This was just the first of five times Steve would equal that mark—a record in itself.) On June 7, 1975, he matched the world mark of 19.9 for 220 yards, to establish himself as the world's prime dash man.

With his surging power and ground-eating stride, Steve was America's best hope to take gold medals for both dashes at the 1976 Olympic Games. To achieve these golden goals, he took a leave from college and went to Gainesville, Florida, for intensive training. Throughout the 1975-76 season Steve strove to perfect his starts and improve his form. Fearful that an injury could end it all before Montreal, he avoided most meets. But in May 1976, at the Martin Luther King Games, in Atlanta, Georgia, he returned to competition and won the 200 and 100 meters. At the next meet, Steve strained a tendon. Then, at the U.S. Olympic Trials, he was ahead at 90 meters when the tendon went—and so did his dream of Olympic glory. Still, his unparalleled 5 records at 100 meters truly earned him the title of "The World's Fastest Human".

#### STEVE WILLIAMS

Born Nov. 13, 1953, New York, N.Y.

#### AWARDS AND RECORDS

Tied 100-yard dash mark of 9.1 seconds, 1973  
Tied 100-meter dash mark of 9.9, 5 times  
Tied 220-yard (with turn) mark of 19.9, 1975  
World Cup championship, 1977

*Here I come!*