

# Track and Field



## *The 110-m Hurdles*



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### Considering the Use of the Stop Watch

The world 110-m hurdles record has always suffered from the fact that, in English-speaking countries, the race has for a long time been run over only 120 yards (109.72 m). These 28 cm represent about three hundredths of a second. However, the record for 120 yards was, at one time, distinctly better than that for 110 m in 1931, the Swede Erik Wennerstroem was the world record holder in the 110 m with a time of 14.4 sec, whereas the record for 120 yards was already 14.2 sec (Percy Beard, USA).

The first big leap forward in the record time took place on 27 August 1936 in Oslo: the American Forrest Towns, who had just taken the Olympic title in Berlin, improved at a stroke the record by 4 tenths of a second (13.7 as against 14.1). After World War II, the West German Martin Lauer achieved an historic performance on 7 July 1959 in Zürich: 13.2 sec.

The Frenchman Guy Drut would perhaps have been capable of breaking the "13.0 barrier", but his disqualification by the International Federation left the way open in particular to the

Cuban A. Casanas, who was narrowly beaten in the Olympic final in Montreal, but who has since got his revenge.

#### CHRONOLOGY OF WORLD RECORD

15.0	F. Smithson	USA	July 7, 1908
14.8	E. Thompson	CAN	Aug. 8, 1920
14.8	S. Pettersson	SWE	Sept. 18, 1927
14.6	G. Weightman-Smith	SAF	July 31, 1928
14.4	E. Wennerstroem	SWE	Aug. 25, 1929
14.4	B. Sjoestedt	FIN	Aug. 19, 1931
14.4	P. Beard	USA	June 23, 1932
14.4	J. Keller	USA	July 16, 1932
14.4	G. Saling	USA	Aug. 2, 1932
14.4	J. Morris	USA	Aug. 12, 1933
14.4	J. Morris	USA	Sept. 8, 1933
14.3	P. Beard	USA	July 26, 1934
14.2	P. Beard	USA	Aug. 6, 1934
14.2	A. Moreau	USA	Aug. 2, 1935
14.1	F. Towns	USA	June 19, 1936
14.1	F. Towns	USA	Aug. 6, 1936
13.7	F. Towns	USA	Aug. 27, 1936
13.7	F. Wolcott	USA	June 29, 1941
13.6	D. Attlesey	USA	June 24, 1950
13.5	D. Attlesey	USA	July 10, 1950
13.4	J. Davis	USA	June 22, 1956
13.2	M. Lauer	WGE	July 7, 1959
13.2	L. Calhoun	USA	Aug. 21, 1960
13.2	E. McCullough	USA	July 16, 1967
13.2	W. Davenport	USA	July 4, 1969
13.2*	R. Milburn	USA	Sept. 7, 1972
13.1	R. Milburn	USA	June 20, 1973
13.1	R. Milburn	USA	July 22, 1973
13.1	G. Drut	FRA	July 23, 1975
13.0	G. Drut	FRA	Aug. 22, 1975

\*Since 1976, only electronically-timed records have been recognized:

13.24	*R. Milburn	USA	OG 1972
13.21	*A. Casanas	CUB	Aug. 21, 1977