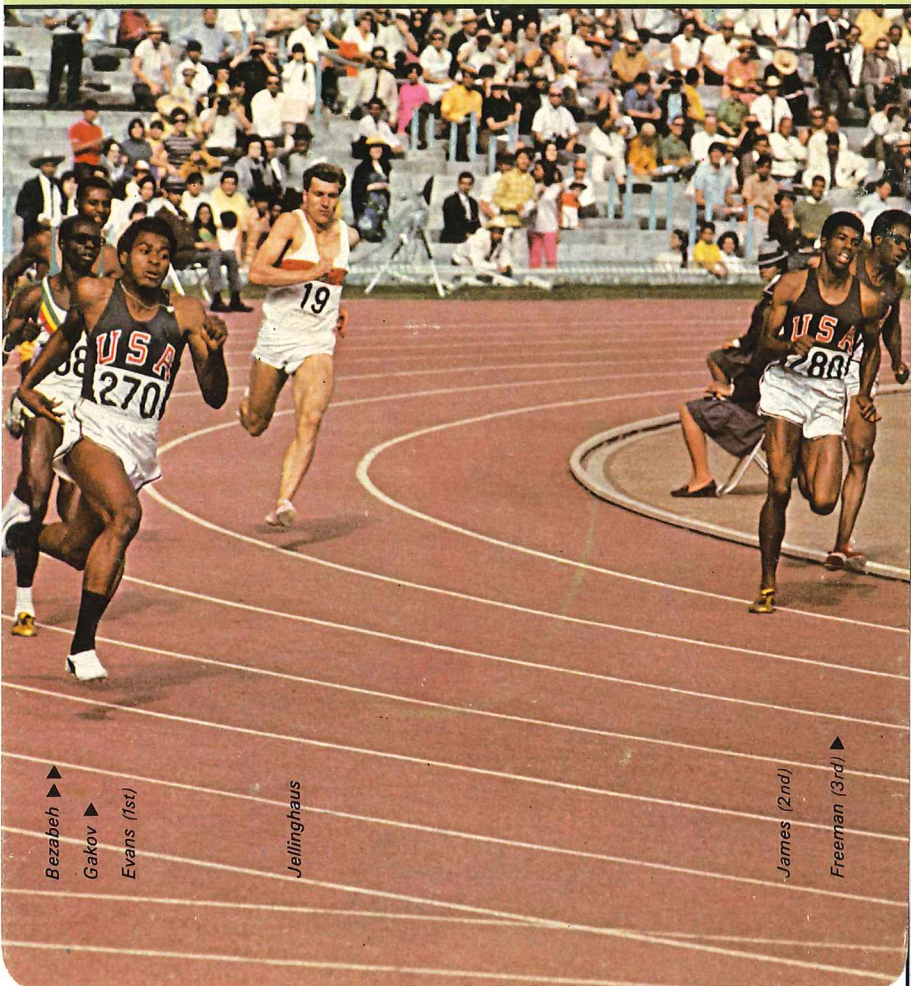


# Track and Field



*The 400 m*



Bezabeh ▲▲

Gakov ▲

Evans (1st)

Jellinghaus

James (2nd)

Freeman (3rd) ▲

# Track and Field



## The 400 m

### Only Three Countries in the Race

The United States, Germany, Jamaica: since 1900 only athletes from these three countries have succeeded in beating the world 400 m or quarter-mile record (the equivalent of 440 yards or 402.34 m). In Rudolf Harbig, the Germans had an exceptional athlete who at one time held both the 400 and 800 m world records. After the Second World War, Carl Kaufmann, generally regarded as one of the best men over 400 m in his day, failed to do more than equal the current records.

Between 1948 and 1952, Jamaica was unbeatable over 400 m, thanks to Herbert McKenley, Arthur Wint and George Rhoden: McKenley and Rhoden each held the world record, while Wint and Rhoden were Olympic gold medal winners. However, this supremacy was not to last.

Since 1955 the United States has held both the world record and the Olympic title, a fact which makes the Cuban Alberto Juantorena's exploit in beating Fred Newhouse and Herman Frazier of the USA in the final of the 1976 Montreal Olympics even more remarkable. Juantorena, who also holds the world record and Olympic title over

800 m, did not, however, beat the 400 m world record in Montreal with his time of 44.26. This was set back in 1968 by the American Lee Evans who won the Olympic gold medal with a time of 43.8.

Evans' world record, however, was set in Mexico, at an altitude of 2,600 m, and he was an exceptional athlete. For the time being at least, it seems unlikely that his record will be broken at sea level.

#### CHRONOLOGY OF THE WORLD RECORD

47.8	M. Long	USA	9. 29. 00	New York
47.4	T. Meredith	USA	5. 27. 16	Cambridge
47.0	E. Spencer	USA	5. 27. 28	Palo Alto
46.4	B. Eastman	USA	3. 26. 32	Palo Alto
46.2	B. Carr	USA	8. 5. 32	Los Angeles
46.1	A. Williams	USA	6. 19. 36	Chicago
46.0	R. Harbig	GER	8. 12. 39	Frankfurt
46.0	G. Klemmer	USA	6. 29. 41	Philadelphia
46.0	H. McKenley	JAM	6. 5. 48	Berkeley
45.9	H. McKenley	JAM	7. 2. 48	Milwaukee
45.8	G. Rhoden	JAM	8. 22. 50	Eskestuna
45.4	L. Jones	USA	3. 18. 55	Mexico City
45.2	L. Jones	USA	6. 30. 56	Los Angeles
44.9	O. Davis	USA	9. 6. 60	Rome
44.9	C. Kaufmann	WGE	9. 6. 60	Rome
44.9	A. Plummer	USA	5. 25. 63	Tempe
44.9	M. Larrabee	USA	9. 12. 64	Los Angeles
44.5	T. Smith	USA	5. 20. 67	San Jose
44.1	L. James	USA	9. 14. 68	South L. Tahoe
43.8	L. Evans	USA	10. 18. 68	Mexico City

1968 OG, 400 m final: USA in first 3 places, and a Olympic and world record for Evans (270)