

Track and Field



The Long Jump



Track and Field



The Long Jump



Jesse Owens and Bob Beamon

The first world long jump record dates from 1901 (7.61 m by the Irishman Pat O'Connor). The chronology of the record is in fact made up of a relatively small number of names. In this most natural of contests, which is concerned with jumping as far as possible after a short springing run, records are seldom short-lived. Pat O'Connor kept his for twenty years. Jessie Owens was a record-holder for 25 years. Bob Beamon, who has held the record since the Olympic Games in Mexico in 1968 with a fantastic jump of 8.90 m, is awaiting a successor and he is likely to wait a long time.

Jessie Owens is certainly the most gifted of those whose name is enrolled on the list of world record-holders. First and foremost a sprinter, for him the long jump was merely an extra. He could certainly have improved on his 8.13 m if he had worked at his technique. But he had hardly any time as he became a professional at the age of 22 years.

Bob Beamon for his part had the ability to profit to the maximum from particularly favorable conditions. Wind at the limit allowed of 2 m/sec, and above all Mexico's altitude (in Mexico it is reckoned that

air resistance is 20 per cent below that at sea level). Before the Olympic Games Bob Beamon had a personal record of 8.33. After the Olympic Games he never did better than 8.20 m.

LONG JUMP WORLD RECORDS

7.61 m	P. O'Connor	GB	Aug. 5, 1901
7.69 m	E. Gourdin	USA	July 23, 1921
7.76 m*	R. Le Gendre	USA	July 7, 1924
7.89 m	W. De Hart		
	Hubbard	USA	June 13, 1925
7.90 m	E. Hamm	USA	July 7, 1928
7.93 m	S. Cator	HAI	Sept. 9, 1928
7.98 m	C. Hambu	JAP	Oct. 27, 1931
8.13 m	J. Owens	USA	May 25, 1939
8.21 m	R. Boston	USA	Aug. 12, 1960
8.24 m	R. Boston	USA	May 27, 1961
8.28 m	R. Boston	USA	July 18, 1961
8.31 m	I. Ter-Ovanessian	USSR	June 10, 1962
8.31 m	R. Boston	USA	Aug. 15, 1964
8.34 m	R. Boston	USA	Sept. 12, 1964
8.35 m	R. Boston	USA	May 29, 1965
8.35 m	I. Ter-Ovanessian	USSR	Oct. 19, 1967
8.90 m	B. Beamon	USA	Oct. 18, 1968

* Record set up during the Olympic Games in Paris, but in the pentathlon. The winner of the long jump, William De Hart Hubbard cleared only 7.44 m.

Bob Beamon: a prodigious jump at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico