

# Track and Field



*The Women's  
1,500 m and Mile*



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### Bragina's Three Records

The women's 1,500 m was not recognized as an Olympic event until 1972. The first staging produced a series of remarkable runs by the Russian Ludmilla Bragina, who was to beat her own world record three times, in her heat, semi-final and in the final. Over five days she improved her world's best time by nearly five seconds.

Russian succession was assured in the 1976 Montreal Games by Tatiana Kazankina, who won her Olympic gold with 4 min 05.48 sec. One month earlier she had smashed Bragina's record with 3 min 56 sec.

At the beginning of 1979 this record still seemed out of reach and there were barely half-a-dozen girls who had run the distance in less than 4 min.

The mile, even in English-speaking countries, is rarely run by women. It's not even on the Commonwealth Games program—where the 1,500 m is preferred. This is why the world's record for the distance is way down on that for the 1,500 m. Tatiana Kazankina's record for 1,500 m represents a 4 min 14 sec mile.

The women's 1,500 m was first seen in the European Championships in 1969,

and the Russians had to wait until 1978 to win their first title over the distance through Giana Romanova. Before her there were J. Jelickova of Czechoslovakia in 1969, and K. Burneleit and G. Hoffmeister of East Germany in 1971 and 1974.

#### WOMEN'S 1,500 M RECORDS

|          |              |      |                |
|----------|--------------|------|----------------|
| 4: 17.13 | A. Smith     | GB   | June 3, 1967   |
| 4: 15.6  | M. Gommers   | HOL  | Oct. 24, 1967  |
| 4: 12.4  | P. Pigni     | ITA  | July 2, 1969   |
| 4: 10.7  | J. Jelickova | CZE  | Sept. 20, 1969 |
| 4: 09.6  | K. Burneleit | EGE  | Aug. 15, 1971  |
| 4: 06.9  | L. Bragina   | USSR | July 18, 1972  |
| 4: 06.5  | L. Bragina   | USSR | Sept. 4, 1972  |
| 4: 05.1  | L. Bragina   | USSR | Sept. 7, 1972  |
| 4: 01.4  | L. Bragina   | USSR | Sept. 9, 1972  |
| 3: 56.0  | T. Kazankina | USSR | June 28, 1976  |
| 3: 55.0  | T. Kazankina | USSR | July 6, 1980   |

#### WOMEN'S MILE RECORDS

|         |                |     |               |
|---------|----------------|-----|---------------|
| 4: 37.0 | A. Smith       | GB  | June 6, 1967  |
| 4: 36.8 | M. Gommers     | HOL | June 14, 1969 |
| 4: 35.3 | E. Tittel      | WGE | Aug. 20, 1971 |
| 4: 29.5 | P. Cacchi-Pini | ITA | Aug. 8, 1975  |
| 4: 23.8 | N. Marasescu   | RUM | May 21, 1978  |
| 4: 22.1 | N. Marasescu   | RUM | Jan. 27, 1979 |
| 4: 21.7 | M. Decker      | USA | Jan. 26, 1980 |

*The Rumanian Natalia Marasescu and Svetlana Ulmassova (USSR) during the 1978 Prague ECH*