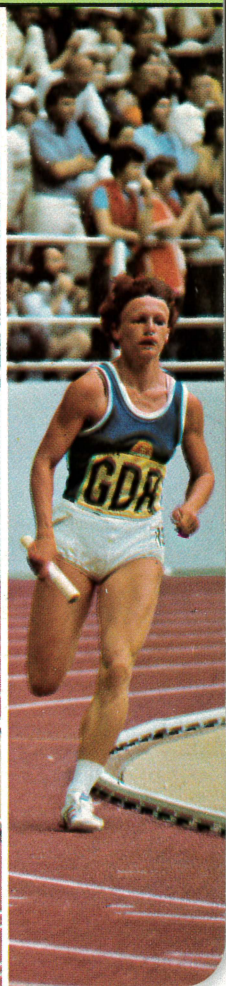
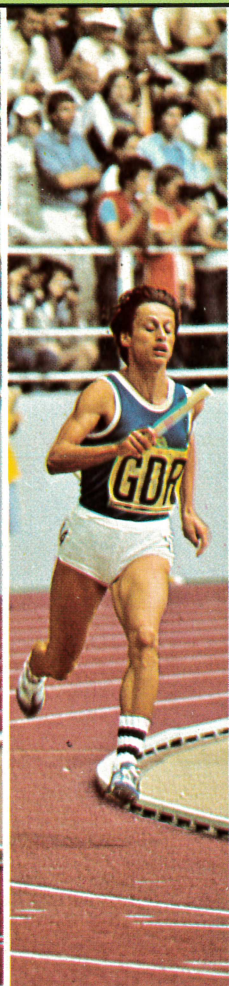
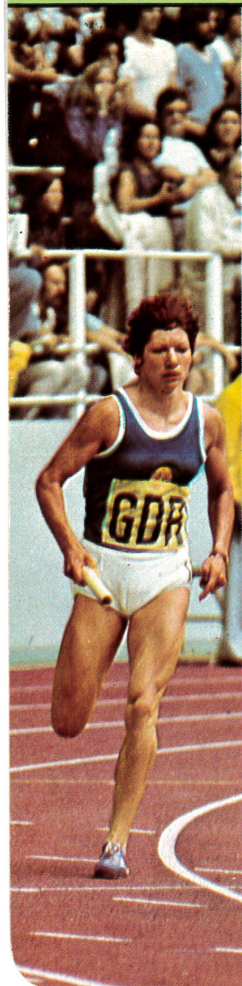


# Track and Field



*The Women's  
4 x 400 m*



# Track and Field



## The Women's 4 x 400 m



### East Germany's Private Preserve

During the period when the French women's 4 x 400-m relay team included the two joint world record holders over this distance, France failed to win a single 4 x 400-m title, though they had one in hand from the days before Colette Besson and Nicole Duclos set their new records. In 1968, the year in which Colette Besson won her individual title, the relay had not yet been incorporated into the Olympic program, and in the following year's European Championships in Athens, Colette was beaten at the finish by Britain's Lilian Board. The French girls had to make do with sharing a new world record with Great Britain. The 1971 European Championships ushered in the era of the East Germans and since that time East Germany has

won every single women's 4 x 400-m title.

In the 1976 Olympics at Montreal, for example, the East Germans positively pulverized the opposition and broke their own world record with 3 min 19.2 sec, finishing over 3 sec ahead of the Americans. On the occasion of the 1978 European Championships in Prague, the Russian team failed to frighten the East Germans into setting up yet another world record. Yet how could they be beaten when with Marita Koch and Christine Brehmer they had the world's two top women in the 400 m event, and holders of the best performances for the season? By the end of 1978 no fewer than seven East German girls featured among the world's top 20 in this event.

#### CHRONOLOGY OF THE WORLD RECORD

3 min 47.4 sec	USSR	L. Finogorova, T. Medvedeva, O. Klein, T. Voytenko	May 30, 1969	Moscow
3 min 43.2 sec	LET	L. Zagere, I. Verbele, S. Chtula, A. Dundare	June 1, 1969	Minsk
3 min 37.6 sec	GB	J. Pawsey, P. Attwood, J. Simpson, L. Board	June 22, 1969	London
3 min 34.2 sec	FRA	M. Monbet, E. Jacq, N. Duclos, C. Besson	July 6, 1969	Paris
3 min 33.9 sec	RFA	C. Czekay, A. Gleichfeld, I. Eckhoff, C. Frese	Sept. 19, 1969	Athens
3 min 30.8 sec	GB	R. Stirling, P. Lowe, J. Simpson, L. Board	Sept. 20, 1969	Athens
3 min 30.8 sec	FRA	B. Martin, N. Duclos, E. Jacq, C. Besson	Sept. 20, 1969	Athens
3 min 29.3 sec	EGE	R. Kuehne, I. Lohse, H. Seidler, M. Zehrt	Aug. 15, 1971	Helsinki
3 min 28.8 sec	EGE	D. Käsling, H. Seidler, M. Zehrt, B. Rohde	July 5, 1972	Paris
3 min 28.5 sec	EGE	D. Käsling, R. Kuehne, H. Seidler, M. Zehrt	Sept 9, 1972	Munich
3 min 23.0 sec	EGE	D. Käsling, R. Kuehne, H. Seidler, M. Zehrt	Sept. 10, 1972	Munich
3 min 19.2 sec	EGE	D. Maletzki, B. Rohde, E. Streidt, C. Brehmer	July 31, 1976	Montreal

*The East German girls at the 1976 Olympics: D. Maletzki, B. Rohde, E. Streidt and C. Brehmer*