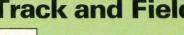# Track and Field

The Women's Discus

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The Luck of Micheline

The French pianist Micheline Ostermeyer took the Olympic discus title in 1948 in London with a throw of 41.92 m (she was also the women's Olympic shot-put champion). The absence of the Russian athletes made her victories a great deal easier. At the very time the Olympics were taking place in London, in Moscow Nina Dumbadse was bringing the world record to 53.25 m.

The Russian girl Tamara Press was less lucky than Micheline Ostermeyer. At the Olympics in Rome, she had to bow to her compatriot Nina Ponomareva (52.59 m against 55.10 m). Twenty-four hours after the ceremony of the closing of the Games, still in Rome, she established a new world record with 57.15 m.

With the exception of the Rumanian girl Argentina Menis, only Germans and Russians have been holders of the title. But since the victory of Micheline Ostermeyer in 1948, the Olympic title has in spite of everything escaped these countries twice: the Czech girl Olga Fikotova won in 1956 at Melbourne, and the Rumanian Lia Manoliu, beating the great favorite, Liesel Westermann, won in 1968 in Mexico. Faina Melnik (only fourth) was even less fortunate than Westermann in 1976 in Montreal.

HISTORY OF THE WORLD RECORD				
48.31 m	G. Mauermayer	GER	1936	Dresden
53.25 m	N. Dumbadse	USSR	1948	Moscow
53.37 m	N. Dumbadse	USSR	1951	Gori
53.61 m	N. Romaskova	USSR	1952	Odessa
57.04 m	N. Dumbadse	USSR	1952	Tbilissi
57.15 m	T. Press	USSR	1960	Rome
57.43 m	T. Press	USSR	1961	Moscow
58.06 m	T. Press	USSR	1961	Sofia
58.98 m	T. Press	USSR	1961	London
59.29 m	T. Press	USSR	1963	Moscow
59.70 m	T. Press	USSR	1965	Moscow
61.26 m	L. Westermann	WGE	1967	Sao Paulo
61.64 m	C. Spielberg	EGE	1968	Breitingen
62.54 m	L. Westermann	WGE	1968	Werdohl
62.70 m	L. Westermann	WGE	1969	Berlin
63.96 m	L. Westermann	WGE	1969	Hamburg
64.22 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1971	Helsinki
64.88 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1971	Munich
65.42 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1972	Moscow
65.48 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1972	Augsburg
66.76 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1972	Moscow
67.32 m	A. Menis	RUM	1972	Constantza
67.44 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1973	Riga
67.58 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1973	Moscow
69.48 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1973	Edinburgh
69.90 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1974	Prague
70.20 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1975	Zurich
70.50 m	F. Melnik	USSR	1976	Sotchi
70.72 m	E. Jahl-Schlaak	EGE	1978	Dresden
71.50 m	E. Jahl-Schlaak	EGE	1980	Potsdam
71.80 m	M. Vergova	BUL	1980	Sofia

Faina Melnik (USSR) brought the world record from 64.22 m to 70.50 m