

# Track and Field



## *The Women's Long Jump*



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### Distinguished Names

The history of the world long-jump record is decorated with some of the most distinguished names in women's athletics: those of the Dutch girl Fanny Blankers-Koen, of the New Zealander Yvette Williams, the British girl Mary Rand-Bignal, and of the West German Heide Rosendahl. Missing, however, in this list is the Polish girl Irena Szewinska, who obtained the title of European champion in this event (when she was still called Kirszenstein), and then that of Olympic runner-up.

Since 1955, the women athletes of the Eastern European countries have let the world record escape them only twice, but their supremacy had often been challenged in the big international competitions. In particular they were beaten in the 1958 and 1971 European Championships by the German girls L. Jacobi and L. Mickler, while in the Olympic Games the title escaped them in 1964 (M. Rand) and in 1972 (H. Rosendahl).

However, it was a Russian girl who succeeded where excellent East German specialists like Angela Voigt and Sigrun Siegl had failed: Wilma Bardauskiene was the first to cross the 7-m (23 ft)

barrier. This feat caused some surprise. The 25-year-old married woman with children cleared 7.07 m on 19 August 1978. She had taken her time, for she had cleared her first "hurdle", that of 6 m, in 1969, nine years before. Though late, her appearance at top level, in 1978, was remarkable since between 19 August and 5 September, she beat the world record twice and won the European title in Prague.

#### HISTORY OF THE WORLD RECORD

5.98 m	K. Hitomi	JAP	20 May 1928
6.12 m	C. Schulz	GER	30 July 1939
6.25 m	F. Blankers-Koen	HOL	19 Sept. 1943
6.28 m	Y. Williams	NZL	20 Feb. 1954
6.28 m	G. Vinogradova	USSR	11 Sept. 1955
6.31 m	G. Vinogradova	USSR	18 Nov. 1955
6.35 m	E. Krzesinska	POL	20 Aug. 1956
6.35 m	E. Krzesinska	POL	27 Nov. 1956
6.40 m	H. Claus	EGE	7 Aug. 1960
6.42 m	H. Claus	EGE	23 June 1961
6.48 m	T. Chelkanova	USSR	16 July 1961
6.53 m	T. Chelkanova	USSR	10 June 1962
6.70 m	T. Chelkanova	USSR	4 July 1964
6.76 m	M. Rand	GB	14 Oct. 1964
6.82 m	V. Viscopoleanu	RUM	14 Oct. 1968
6.84 m	H. Rosendahl	WGE	3 Sept. 1970
6.92 m	A. Voigt	EGE	9 May 1976
6.99 m	S. Siegl	EGE	19 May 1976
7.07 m	W. Bardauskiene	USSR	19 Aug. 1978
7.09 m	W. Bardauskiene	USSR	29 Aug. 1978

*Wilma Bardauskiene: she is the first woman to have cleared 7 m*