

# Track and Field



*The Women's  
Pentathlon*



# Track and Field



## The Women's Pentathlon



### Two Points Away from the Maximum

The replacement, as from the beginning of 1977, of the 200 m by the 800 m, has caused a major upheaval in the women's pentathlon. East Germany, which had taken the first three places at the Montreal Olympics with Sigrun Siegl, Christine Laser and Burglinda Pollak, the world record-holder, was taken by surprise. Failing to find athletes likely to maintain their supremacy in this event, they purely and simply scratched from the European Cup for multiple sports, a competition that they had always won. In 1978, at the European Championships in Prague, the new East German onslaught was still not ready, and it was again Burglinda Pollak who saved face by winning the silver medal (after the disqualification of the winner, the Russian Nadejda Tkatchenko, who had shown a "positive" result in the drug test).

The difficulties of adaptation encoun-

tered by the two "greats" of the women's pentathlon, East Germany and the USSR, just suited the powerful West German Eva Wilms, who was able to inscribe her name twice on the world record tables. Eva Wilms had taken part in her first pentathlon in 1976. She was essentially a shot-putter (holder of the West German record with 21.43 m, she had finished 7th in the Olympics at Montreal). When she established her second world record in June 1977 at Bernhausen, she put the shot 20.95 m, which brought her 1,198 points, that is only 2 points away from the maximum fixed by the international scoring table. With an 800-m run in more than 2 min 19 sec, however, it was obvious that she was to be only an ephemeral record-holder.

The disqualification of Nadejda Tkatchenko in Prague, however, gave her performance added value.

#### HISTORY OF THE WORLD RECORD

(With 800 m)

		100 m hurdles	Shot- putt	High- jump	Long- jump	800 m
Eva Wilms (WGE)	4,765 pts 1977	13.70 sec	20.62 m	1.74 m	6.03 m	2 min 19.90 sec
Eva Wilms (WGE)	4,823 pts 1977	13.83 sec	20.95 m	1.74 m	6.29 m	2 min 19.66 sec
Nadejda Tkatchenko (USSR)	4,839 pts 1977	13.49 sec	15.93 m	1.80 m	6.49 m	2 min 10.62 sec

*Disqualified, Nadejda Tkatchenko scored a total of 4,744 pts at the ECH in Prague*