

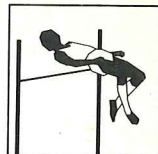
Track and Field



Triple Jump



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Triple Jump

The Rarified Air of Mexico

The triple jump event of the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico was one of the few competitions worthy of mention in the history of this hybrid specialty. Although the altitude presented problems as far as middle-distance runners were concerned, it favored long-jumpers and triple-jumpers equally. In Mexico City (altitude 2,260 m) the triple jump record which has stood for eight years was beaten four times during the final. Even the day before, during the qualifying rounds, the record had been broken by the Italian Giuseppe Gentile (17.10 m, against 17.03 m by the Pole Jozsef Schmidt). In the final Gentile cleared 17.22 m at his first attempt, only to be pushed into third place by the Russian Victor Saneyev (17.23 m) and the young Brazilian Nelson Prudencio (17.27 m). Saneyev had the last word with a distance of 17.39 m with his last attempt.

On this day, 18 Oct. 1968, six men exceeded 17 m—something which had never been accomplished on this scale before. The outgoing champion and former world record holder Jozsef Schmidt had to be content

with 16.89 m and seventh place: Saneyev, Prudencio and Gentile, the American Art Walker (17.12 m) the Russian Nikolai Dudkin (17.09 m) and the Australian Phil May (17.02 m) had all done better.

CHRONOLOGY OF WORLD RECORD

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 15.52 m, Daniel Ahearn (USA), | May 30, 1911 |
| 15.52 m, Anthony Winter (AUS), | July 12, 1924 |
| 15.58 m, Mikio Oda (JPN), | Oct. 27, 1931 |
| 15.72 m, Chuhei Nambu (JPN), | Aug. 4, 1932 |
| 15.78 m, Jack Metcalfe (AUS), | Dec. 14, 1935 |
| 16.00 m, Naoto Tajima (JPN), | Aug. 6, 1936 |
| 16.00 m, A. Ferreira da Silva (BRA), | Dec. 3, 1950 |
| 16.01 m, A. Ferreira da Silva (BRA), | Sep. 30, 1951 |
| 16.12 m, A. Ferreira da Silva (BRA), | July 23, 1952 |
| 16.22 m, A. Ferreira da Silva (BRA), | July 23, 1952 |
| 16.23 m, Leonid Cherbakov (USSR), | July 19, 1953 |
| 16.56 m, A. Ferreira da Silva (BRA), | Mar. 16, 1955 |
| 16.59 m, Oleg Ryakhovsky (USSR), | July 28, 1958 |
| 16.70 m, Oleg Fedoseyev (USSR), | May 3, 1959 |
| 17.03 m, Jozsef Schmidt (POL), | Aug. 5, 1960 |
| 17.10 m, Giuseppe Gentile (ITA), | Oct. 16, 1968 |
| 17.22 m, Giuseppe Gentile (ITA), | Oct. 17, 1968 |
| 17.23 m, Victor Saneyev (USSR), | Oct. 17, 1968 |
| 17.27 m, Nelson Prudencio (BRA), | Oct. 17, 1968 |
| 17.39 m, Victor Saneyev (USSR), | Oct. 17, 1968 |
| 17.40 m, Pedro Perez Duenas (CUB), | Aug. 5, 1971 |
| 17.44 m, Victor Saneyev (USSR), | Oct. 17, 1972 |
| 17.89 m, Joao de Oliveira (BRA), | Oct. 15, 1975 |

Victor Saneyev, who twice beat the world record in 1968, seen here during an indoor meeting