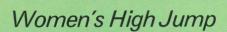# Track and Field

Women's High Jump

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Few Olympic Records

The length of the competition, nervous tension and not always favorable atmospheric conditions mean that the women's world record for the high jump has rarely been broken at the Olympic Games. Since the end of the Second World War, it has only been achieved once, by the American girl Mildred McDaniel in 1956 in Melbourne, with 1.76 m (5 ft 9 in). In 1972 in Munich, the young West German girl Ulrike Meyfarth won the Olympic title, equalling the Austrian Ilona Gusenbauer's record of 1.92 m (6 ft 3 1/2 in), the latter having to be content with the bronze medal. Second at the Olympic meeting, the Bulgarian Yordanka Blagoeva would improve the record by 2 cm (3/4 in) a few days after the end of the Games.

The Rumanian girl Yolanda Balas broke the world record (which she had held from 1958 to 1971) thirteen times running. She was twice Olympic Champion, in Rome in 1960 with 1.85 m (6 ft 1 in) and in Tokyo in 1964 with 1,90 m (6 ft 3 in). In each of her victories she stuck at 1 cm from the record which she then held. It was in Bucharest, however, in front of her own public, that the remarkable Rumanian achieved most of her best world performances.

HISTORY OF THE WORLD RECORD			
1.65 m	J. Shiley	USA	Aug. 7, 1932
1.65 m	M. Didrikson	USA	Aug. 7, 1932
1.66 m	D. Odam	GB	May 29, 1939
1.66 m	E. van Heerden	SAF	March 29, 1941
1.71 m	F. Blankers-Koen	HOL	May 30, 1943
1.72 m	S. Lerwill	GB	July 7, 1951
1.73 m	A. Tschudina	USSR	May 22, 1954
1.74 m	T. Hopkins	GB	May 5, 1956
1.75 m	Y. Balas	RUM	July 14, 1956
1.76 m	M. McDaniel	USA	Dec. 1, 1956
1.76 m	Y. Balas	RUM	Oct. 13, 1957
1.77 m	C. Feng-Jung	CHI	Nov. 17, 1957
1.78 m	Y. Balas	RUM	June 7, 1958
1.80 m	Y. Balas	RUM	June 22, 1958
1.81 m	Y. Balas	RUM	July 31, 1958
1.82 m	Y. Balas	RUM	Oct. 4, 1958
1.83 m	Y. Balas	RUM	Oct. 18, 1958
1.84 m	Y. Balas	RUM	Sept. 21, 1959
1.85 m	Y. Balas	RUM	June 6, 1960
1.86 m	Y. Balas	RUM	July 10, 1960
1.87 m	Y. Balas	RUM	Apr. 15, 1961
1.88 m	Y. Balas	RUM	June 18, 1961
1.90 m	Y. Balas	RUM	July 8, 1961
1.91 m	Y. Balas	RUM	July 16, 1961
1.92 m	I. Gusenbauer	AUT	Sept. 4, 1971
1.92 m	U. Meyfarth	WGE	Sept. 5, 1972
1.94 m	Y. Blagoeva	BUL	Sept. 24, 1972
1.94 m	R. Witschas	EGE	Aug. 24, 1974
1.95 m	R. Witschas	EGE	Sept. 8, 1974
1.96 m	R. Ackermann (Witschas)	EGE	May 8, 1976
1.96 m	R. Ackermann	EGE	July 3, 1977
1.97 m	R. Ackermann	EGE	Aug. 14, 1977
2.00 m	R. Ackermann	EGE	Aug. 26, 1977
2.01 m	S. Simeoni	ITA	Aug. 4, 1978
2.01 m	S. Simeoni	ITA	Aug. 31, 1978

It was the Italian Sara Simeoni who first went over the 2-meter barrier