

All Time Men's World Ranking Leader

EVER WONDER WHO the overall best performers have been in our authoritative World Rankings for men, which began with the 1947 season? Stats Editor Jim Rorick has pulled together all kinds of numbers for you, scoring the annual Top 10s on a 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.

First, in a by-event compilation, you'll find the leaders in the categories of Most Points, Most Rankings, Most No. 1s and The Top U.S. Scorers (in the World Rankings, not the U.S. Rankings). Following that are the stats on an all-events basis.

All the data is as of the end of the 2019 season, including a significant number of recastings based on the many retests that were carried out on old samples and resulted in doping positives. (as of April 13, 2020)

Event-By-Event Tabulations

100 METERS

Most Points

1. Carl Lewis 123; 2. **Asafa Powell 98**; 3. Linford Christie 93; 4. Justin Gatlin 90; 5. **Usain Bolt 85**; 6. Maurice Greene 69; 7. Dennis Mitchell 65; 8. Frank Fredericks 61; 9. Calvin Smith 58; 10. Valeriy Borzov 57.

Most Rankings

1. Lewis 16; 2. **Powell 13**; 3. Christie 12; 4. tie, Fredericks, Gatlin, Mitchell & Smith 10.

Consecutive—Lewis 15.

Most No. 1s

1. Lewis 6; 2. **tie, Bolt & Greene 5**; 4. Gatlin 4; 5. tie, Bob Hayes & Bobby Morrow 3.

Consecutive—Greene & Lewis 5.

200 METERS

Most Points

1. Frank Fredericks 105; 2. **Usain Bolt 103**; 3. Pietro Mennea 87; 4. Michael Johnson 81; 5. **Don Quarrie 80**; 6. Robson da Silva 62; 7. Carl Lewis 61; 8. Andy Stanfield 60; 9. Calvin Smith 58; 10. Wallace Spearmon 53.

Most Rankings

1. Fredericks 13; 2. **Bolt 12**; 3. tie, Mennea & **Quarrie 11**; 5. tie, da Silva & Johnson 10.

Consecutive—Fredericks 10.

Most No. 1s

1. **Bolt 7**; 2. Johnson 5; 3. tie, Fredericks, Mennea, Mel Patton, **Quarrie & Tommie Smith 3**.

Consecutive—**Bolt**, Johnson, Patton & T. Smith 3.

400 METERS

Most Points

1. Michael Johnson 106; 2. LaShawn Merritt 96; 3. Jeremy Wariner 73; 4. Butch Reynolds 68; 5. Alberto Juantorena 62; **6. Herb McKenley 60**; 7. Lee Evans 59; 8. Kirani James 55; 9. Mal Whitfield 53; 10. Chris Brown 52.

Most Rankings

1. Merritt 12; 2. Johnson 11; 3. Brown 10; 4. tie, Reynolds & Wariner 9.

Consecutive—Johnson 11.

Most No. 1s

1. Johnson 10; 2. Wariner 5; 3. tie, Evans, Juantorena & Merritt 4.

Consecutive—Johnson 8.

800 METERS

Most Points

1. Wilson Kipketer 84; 2. David Rudisha 83; 3. Seb Coe 78; 4. Yuriy Borzakovskiy 71; 5. Mike Boit 65; 6. tie, Wilfred Bungei & Mbulaeni Mulaudzi 64; 8. Mal Whitfield 63; 9. Johnny Gray 62; 10. Roger Moens 60.

Most Rankings

1. Gray 11; 2. tie, Borzakovskiy, Coe, Kipketer & Rudisha 10.

Consecutive—Rudisha 10.

Most No. 1s

1. Rudisha 7; 2. Kipketer 6; 3. Whitfield 5; 4. tie, Coe & Peter Snell 4.

Consecutive—Kipketer & Rudisha 4.

1500 METERS

Most Points

1. Hicham El Guerrouj 96; 2. Asbel Kiprop 90; 3. Noureddine Morceli 89; 4. Bernard Lagat 80; 5. Kip Keino 74; 6. Steve Cram 67; 7. Steve Scott 66; 8. Saïd Aouita 65; 9. John Walker 64; 10. tie, Silas Kiplagat & Steve Ovett 60.

Most Rankings

1. tie, Kiprop & Scott 11; 3. tie, El Guerrouj, Lagat, Morceli & Walker 10.

Consecutive—Kiprop 11.

Most No. 1s

1. tie, El Guerrouj & Morceli 7; 3. Kiprop 6; 4. Cram 5; 5. tie, Ovett, Peter Snell & Walker 3.

Consecutive—El Guerrouj & Morceli 7.

5000 METERS

Most Points

1. tie, Haile Gebrselassie 77, 2. Emil Zátopek 76; 3. tie, Kenenisa Bekele & Eliud Kipchoge 62; 5. tie, Ron Clarke & Mo Farah 59; 7. Harald Norpoth 55; 8. Kip Keino 54; 9. Murray Halberg 51; 10. Saïd Aouita 50.

Most Rankings

1. Gebrselassie 10; 2. tie, Kipchoge, Bernard Lagat & Norpoth 9; 4. tie, Salah Hissou, Edwin Soi & Zátopek 8.

Consecutive—Kipchoge 9.

Most No. 1s

1. tie, Aouita, Bekele, Farah, Gebrselassie, Halberg & Zátopek 5.

Consecutive—Aouita, Gebrselassie & Halberg 4.

110 HURDLES

Most Points

1. Colin Jackson 124; 2. Greg Foster 120; 3. Allen Johnson 119; 4. Willie Davenport 92; 5. Terrence Trammell 74; 6. Roger Kingdom 73; 7. Mark Crear 72; 8. tie, Alejandro Casanas & David Oliver 71; 10. Hayes Jones 70.

Most Rankings

1. Jackson 17; 2. Foster 15; 3. Johnson 14; 4. Davenport 12; 5. tie, 5 with 11.

Consecutive—Jackson 17.

Most No. 1s

1. tie, Davenport, Foster & Kingdom 5; 4. tie, Johnson, Jones & Renaldo Nehemiah 4.

Consecutive—Davenport 5.

400 HURDLES

Most Points

1. Edwin Moses 108; 2. Harald Schmid 97; 3. Samuel Matete 85; 4. Bershawn Jackson 84; 5. Kerron Clement 76; 6. tie, Danny Harris & Andre Phillips 75; 8. tie, Yuriy Lituyev & Félix Sánchez 72; 10. tie, Stéphane Diagana & Angelo Taylor 67.

Most Rankings

1. Schmid 13; 2. tie, Clement, Jackson, Matete, Moses, David Patrick & Sánchez 11.

Consecutive—Schmid 13.

Most No. 1s

1. Moses 9; 2. tie, Clement, Glenn Davis & Sánchez 4; 5. tie, 5 with 3.

Consecutive—Moses 6.

HIGH JUMP

Most Points

1. Javier Sotomayor 117; 2. Dwight Stones 90; 3. Stefan Holm 88; 4. Yaroslav Rybakov 83; 5. tie, Mutaz Barshim & Patrik Sjöberg 77; 7. Dietmar Mögenburg 74; 8. tie, Valeriy Brumel & Stig Pettersson 59; 10. Ivan Ukhov 57.

Most Rankings

1. Sotomayor 14; 2. tie, Mögenburg & Sjöberg 12; 4. tie, Holm & Stones 11.

Consecutive—Mögenburg & Sotomayor 12.

Most No. 1s

1. Sotomayor 8; 2. Brumel 5; 3. tie, Barshim & Stones 4; 5. Holm 3.

Consecutive—Brumel 5.

POLE VAULT

Most Points

1. Sergey Bubka 147; 2. Bob Richards 102; 3. Renaud Lavillenie 96; 4. Maksim Tarasov 86; 5. Rodion Gataullin 80; 6. Tim Lobinger 71; 7. Władysław Kozakiewicz 69; 8. Ron Morris 68; 9. Wolfgang Nordwig 67; 10. Thierry Vigneron 62.

Most Rankings

1. Bubka 15; 2. Tarasov 12; 3. tie, Lavillenie, Lobinger & Richards 11.

Consecutive—Bubka 15.

Most No. 1s

1. Bubka 13; 2. Richards 8; 3. Lavillenie 7; 4. Kozakiewicz 4; 5. Sam Kendricks 3.

Consecutive—Richards 8.

LONG JUMP

Most Points

1. Carl Lewis 148; 2. Igor Ter-Ovanesyan 118; 3. Larry Myricks 112; 4. Ralph Boston 92; 5. Iván Pedroso 90; 6. Mike Powell 86; 7. tie, James Beckford & Dwight Phillips 81; 9. Arnie Robinson 63; 10. Erick Walder 53.

Most Rankings

1. Lewis 17; 2. Ter-Ovanesyan 15; 3. Myricks 14; 4. Beckford, Pedroso & Powell 11.

Consecutive—Ter-Ovanesyan 15.

Most No. 1s

1. Lewis 10; 2. Boston 8; 3. Pedroso 6; 4. Phillips 5; 5. tie, Powell & Robinson 4.

Consecutive—Boston 8.

TRIPLE JUMP

Most Points

1. Viktor Saneyev 120; 2. Mike Conley 116; 3. Jonathan Edwards 101; 4. Jozef Schmidt 98; 5. Christian Taylor 89; 6. Adhemar da Silva 85; 7. Leonid Shcherbakov 81; 8. Willie Banks 72; 9. tie, Will Claye & Christian Olsson 70.

Most Rankings

1. Conley 14; 2. Saneyev 13; 3. Schmidt 12; 4. tie, Banks, da Silva, Edwards & Phillips Idowu 11.

Consecutive—Conley 14.

Most No. 1s

1. Saneyev 9; 2. Taylor 8; 3. Edwards 7; 4. tie, Conley & Schmidt 6.

Consecutive—Saneyev 9.

SHOT PUT

Most Points

1. Parry O'Brien 126; 2. Udo Beyer 123; 3. Reese Hoffa 104; 4. Adam Nelson 95; 5. Christian Cantwell 91; 6. John Godina 89; 7. Ulf Timmermann 81; 8. Randy Matson 79; 9. Werner Günthör 70; 10. Tomasz Majewski 64.

Most Rankings

1. tie, Beyer & O'Brien 15; 3. tie, Hoffa & Nelson 13; 5. Cantwell & Majewski 12.

Consecutive—Beyer & O'Brien 14.

Most No. 1s

1. tie, Beyer & O'Brien 7; 3. tie, Matson & Timmermann 5; 5. tie, Godina & Hoffa 4.

Consecutive—Beyer 6.

DISCUS

Most Points

1. Virgilijus Alekna 143, 2. Lars Riedel 120; 3. tie, Jürgen Schult & Jay Silvester 107; 5. tie, Gerd Kanter & Al Oerter 104; 7. Wolfgang Schmidt 103; 8. Ludvík Daněk 101; 9. Piotr Małachowski 100; 10. Adolfo Consolini 96.

Most Rankings

1. Schult 18; 2. Alekna 17; 3. tie, Riedel & Silvester 15; 5. Kanter & Oerter 14.

Consecutive—Schult 18.

Most No. 1s

1. Alekna 7; 2. Robert Harting & Oerter 6; 4. Schmidt 5; 5. tie, Consolini, Daněk, Fortune Gordien & Riedel 4.

Consecutive—Harting 6.

JAVELIN

Most Points

1. Jan Železný 154; 2. Janusz Sidlo 139; 3. tie, Steve Backley & Janis Lulis 114; 5. Tero Pitkämäki 103; 6. Andreas Thorkildsen 87; 7. Sergey Makarov 80; 8. Toivo Hyytiäinen 65; 9. tie, Boris Henry & Jorma Kinnunen 63.

Most Rankings

1. Železný 19; 2. Sidlo 18; 3. Backley 15; 4. Makarov 14; 5. Lulis 13.

Consecutive—Sidlo 18.

Most No. 1s

1. Lulis 9; 2. Železný 7; 3. tie, Sidlo & Thorkildsen 5; 5. tie, Backley, Bud Held & Pitkämäki 3.

Consecutive—Lulis & Železný 5.

DECATHLON

Most Points

1. Vasiliy Kuznyetsov 100; 2. Roman Šebrle 86; 3. Dan O'Brien 76; 4. Daley Thompson 71; 5. Tomáš Dvořák 68; 6. Erki Nool 61; 7. tie, Bryan Clay & Ashton Eaton 58; 9. tie, Guido Kratschmer & Christian Plaziat 57.

Most Rankings

1. Šebrle 13; 2. Kuznyetsov 12; 3. tie, Dvořák, Kratschmer, Nool, Tom Pappas & Michael Smith 9.

Consecutive—Šebrle 13.

Most No. 1s

1. O'Brien 6; 2. Thompson 5; 3. Dvořák & Eaton 4; 5. tie, 7 with 3.

Consecutive—O'Brien 4.