

Athletic season 2023

The last time Ryan Crouser recorded a throw that was shorter than 22 metres was in April last year. Since then, he's broken his own world record and currently owns 17 of the 21 throws beyond 23 metres.

And unfortunately for his rivals, the 30-year-old insists he's still got a lot left in his tank.

When Crouser recorded his historic performance at the USATF Los Angeles Grand Prix in May by setting a world record of 23.56m, improving on his mark of 23.37m from 2021, the two-time Olympic champion stated: "I'm really excited because it didn't feel polished. It felt like I had a tonne of power and I caught a big one."

One can only wonder what a 'polished' throw from the defending world champion would look like, but that's for his rivals to find out.

Crouser led the US to their first ever shot put sweep in Oregon last year, taking the crown with a championship record of 22.94m, with 2019 world champion Joe Kovacs taking silver, and Josh Awotunde (22.10m) the bronze. Thanks to Crouser's wildcard as defending champion, the USA will field four men in the shot put, so their chances of another medal sweep will be improved with the inclusion of Payton Otterdahl.

The battle for medals will be intense, though. Two-time gold medallist Kovacs comes with a season's best of 22.69m set during his first outdoor competition in 2023. Tom Walsh, meanwhile, has a best of 22.58m, but the New Zealander has finished ahead of Kovacs in three of their four clashes this season. Having finished fourth in Oregon last year, Walsh will be keen to make it back on to the podium.

His compatriot Jacko Gill has reached the final at the past six global championships, and after setting a PB of 22.12m earlier this year, the 28-year-old should fancy his chances of improving on his seventh-place finishes from 2019 and 2022.

Jamaica's Rajindra Campbell sits in fourth on the world lists with the national record of 22.22m he set in Madrid, more than two metres farther than his pre-2023 best. The 27-year-old has the ability to compete for medals, but this will be his first global championships.

Earlier this month, Olympic fifth-place finisher Zane Weir posted a PB of 22.15m to win in Vicenza. His teammate Leonardo Fabbri beat Walsh and Tomas Stanek at the Rome Diamond League with 21.73m, and improved his season's best to 21.81m two weeks later. The Italian duo will hope to put up a formidable performance in Budapest.

World indoor champion Darlan Romani, the last man to beat Crouser at a major championships, has competed just once this year, throwing a best of 21.58m. But the Brazilian has finished in the top five at the past six global championships he has contested, so can never be ruled out.

Stanek, the 2021 European indoor champion, has a best this year of 21.90m, set when taking silver at the European Indoor Championships.

Other potential contenders include European champion Filip Mihaljevic, five-time Mexican champion Uziel Munoz multiple African champion Chukwuebuka Enekwechi and Luxembourg's Bob Bertemes.

Medal winners			Relevant records					
2013 World			WR	23.56	Ryan Crouser	USA Westwood CA	27 May 2023	
1	David Storl	GER	21.73	WJR	21.14	Konrad Bukowiecki	POL Oslo	9 Jun 2016
2	Ryan Whiting	USA	21.57	Eur	23.06	Ulf Timmermann	GER Haniá	22 May 1988
3	Dylan Armstrong	CAN	21.34	Ame	23.56	Ryan Crouser	USA Westwood CA	27 May 2023
2014 World indoor			Afr	21.97	Janus Robberts	RSA Eugene, OR	02 06 2001	
1	Ryan Whiting	USA	22.05	Asi	21.77	Tajinderpal Singh	IND Bhubaneswar	19 Jun 2023
2	David Storl	GER	21.79	WIR	22.82	Ryan Crouser	USA Fayetteville	24 Jan 2021
3	Tom Walsh	NZL	21.26	CZE	22.01	Tomáš Staněk	Schönebeck	2 Jun 2017
2014 Europe				22.01	Tomáš Staněk	Warszawa	15 Aug 2017	
1	David Storl	GER	21.41	All-time list				
2	Borja Vivas	ESP	20.86	1	23.56	Ryan Crouser	USA Westwood CA	27 May 2023
3	Tomasz Majewski	POL	20.83	2	23.23	Joe Kovacs	USA Zürich	7 Sep 2022
2015 Europe indoor				3	23.12	Randy Barnes	USA Westwood CA	20 May 1990
1	David Storl	GER	21.23	4	23.06	Ulf Timmermann	GER Haniá	22 May 1988
2	Asmir Kolašinac	SRB	20.90	5	22.91	Alessandro Andrei	ITA Viareggio	12 Aug 1987
3	Ladislav Prášíl	CZE	20.66	6	22.90	Tom Walsh	NZL Doha	5 Oct 2019
2015 World				7	22.86A	Brian Oldfield	USA El Paso TX	10 May 1975
1	Joe Kovacs	USA	21.93	8	22.75	Werner Günthör	SUI Bern	23 Aug 1988
2	David Storl	GER	21.74	9	22.67	Kevin Toth	USA Lawrence KS	19 Apr 2003
3	O'Dayne Richards	JAM	21.69	10	22.64	Udo Beyer	GER East Berlin	20 Aug 1986
2016 World indoor				11	22.61	Darlan Romani	BRA Stanford CA	30 Jun 2019
1	Tom Walsh	NZL	21.78	World season list				
2	Andrei Gag	ROU	20.89	1	23.56	Ryan Crouser	USA Westwood CA	27 May
3	Filip Mihaljević	CRO	20.87	2	22.69	Joe Kovacs	USA Nashville TN	29 Apr
2016 Europe				3	22.58	Tom Walsh	NZL London	23 Jul
1	David Storl	GER	21.31	4	22.22	Rajindra Campbell	JAM Madrid	22 Jul
2	Michał Haratyk	POL	21.19	5	22.15	Zane Weir	ITA Vicenza	8 Aug
3	Tsanko Arnaudov	POR	20.59	6	22.12	Jacko Gill	NZL Auckland	16 Mar
2016 Olympic				7	22.11	Payton Otterdahl	USA Banská Bystrica	20 Jul
1	Ryan Crouser	USA	22.52	8	22.10	Josh Awotunde	USA Eugene OR	9 Jul
2	Joe Kovacs	USA	21.78	9	22.08	Roger Steen	USA Tucson AZ	19 May
3	Tom Walsh	NZL	21.36	10	21.88	Uziel Muñoz	MEX Westwood CA	27 May
2017 Europe indoor				11	21.84	Leonardo Fabbri	ITA Vicenza	8 Aug
1	Konrad Bukowiecki	POL	21.97	European season list				
2	Tomáš Staněk	CZE	21.43	1	22.15	Zane Weir	ITA Vicenza	8 Aug
3	David Storl	GER	21.30	2	21.84	Leonardo Fabbri	ITA Vicenza	8 Aug
2017 World				3	21.77	Tomáš Staněk	CZE Domažlice	13 Aug
1	Tom Walsh	NZL	22.03	4	21.63	Filip Mihaljević	CRO Chorzów	16 Jul
2	Joe Kovacs	USA	21.66	5	21.52	Roman Kokoshko	UKR Leiria	12 Mar
3	Stipe Žunić	CRO	21.46	6	21.21	Bob Bertemes	LUX Leiria	12 Mar
2018 World indoor				7	21.15	Mesud Pezer	BIH Bar	1 May
1	Tom Walsh	NZL	22.31	8	21.14	Armin Sinančević	SRB Slovenska Bistrica	27 May
2	David Storl	GER	21.44	9	21.10	Scott Lincoln	GBR Chorzów	25 Jun
3	Tomáš Staněk	CZE	21.44	10	20.92	Michał Haratyk	POL Białystok	21 May
2018 Europe				11	20.84	Andrei Toader	ROU București	20 May
1	Michał Haratyk	POL	21.72	Czech season list				
2	Konrad Bukowiecki	POL	21.66	1	21.77	Tomáš Staněk	CZE Domažlice	13 Aug
3	David Storl	GER	21.41	21.71	Tomáš Staněk	Turnov	23 May	
2019 Europe indoor				21.71	Tomáš Staněk	Ostrava	27 Jun	
1	Michał Haratyk	POL	21.65	21.64	Tomáš Staněk	Firenze	2 Jun	
2	David Storl	GER	21.54	21.64	Tomáš Staněk	Kladno	13 Jun	
3	Tomáš Staněk	CZE	21.25	21.26	Tomáš Staněk	Ústí Nad Orlicí	8 Aug	
2019 World				21.13	Tomáš Staněk	Tábor	30 Jul	
1	Joe Kovacs	USA	22.91	21.12	Tomáš Staněk	Székesfehérvár	18 Jul	
2	Ryan Crouser	USA	22.90	21.04	Tomáš Staněk	London	23 Jul	
3	Tom Walsh	NZL	22.90	20.65	Tomáš Staněk	Lausanne	30 Jun	
2021 Europe indoor				20.60	Tomáš Staněk	Praha	5 Jun	
1	Tomáš Staněk	CZE	21.62					
2	Michał Haratyk	POL	21.47					
3	Filip Mihaljević	CRO	21.31					
2021 Olympic								
1	Ryan Crouser	USA	23.30					
2	Joe Kovacs	USA	22.65					
3	Tom Walsh	NZL	22.47					
2022 World indoor								
1	Darlan Romani	BRA	22.53					
2	Ryan Crouser	USA	22.44					
3	Tom Walsh	NZL	22.31					
2022 World								
1	Ryan Crouser	USA	22.94					
2	Joe Kovacs	USA	22.89					
3	Josh Awotunde	USA	22.29					
2022 Europe								
1	Filip Mihaljević	CRO	21.88					
2	Armin Sinančević	SRB	21.39					
3	Tomáš Staněk	CZE	21.26					
2023 Europe indoor								
1	Zane Weir	ITA	22.06					
2	Tomáš Staněk	CZE	21.90					
3	Roman Kokoshko	UKR	21.84					

