

Athletic season 2023

For the first time in 12 years, the World Championships heptathlon field will be missing Nafissatou Thiam.
 The Belgian all-rounder has dominated the event for the past seven years, winning two world titles and two Olympic gold medals, as well as five continental crowns – three indoors and two outdoors. But following her world indoor record at the European Indoor Championships in March, some recent achilles tendon problems have forced the 28-year-old to miss this year's World Championships.
 As a further plot twist, Poland's Adrianna Sulek – who also surpassed the previous world indoor record when taking European indoor silver behind Thiam – recently announced that she is pregnant and will be missing the rest of the season.
 It paves the way for a new champion to be crowned in Budapest, with Anna Hall perhaps being the most likely candidate.
 The 22-year-old from the USA made a huge breakthrough in Oregon last year, adding almost 300 points to her PB to take bronze with 6755. She picked up this season where she left off, winning in Götzis with a PB of 6988, elevating her to fifth on the world all-time list.
 Six weeks later, she won the US title with 6677, giving her the best two scores in the world this year heading into Budapest. This time, she may not have the home crowd support that she benefitted from in Oregon, but she has enough of a points buffer over the rest of the entrants that she doesn't need to be at her very best in every discipline.
 That said, she also can't afford for any big disasters – which can often happen in combined events.
 Katarina Johnson-Thompson, world champion in 2019, is on the comeback trail. The Briton was forced to withdraw from the Olympic heptathlon in 2021 through injury, then returned to action to place eighth at last year's World Championships before taking Commonwealth gold on home soil.
 Her form has continued to improve this season and she finished second to Hall in Götzis with 6556 – her best score in four years. Since then, she has made good strides in the hurdles and long jump, which will give her a confidence boost ahead of Budapest.
 Anouk Vetter took silver behind Thiam in Oregon and Tokyo, but the Dutch record-holder hasn't completed a heptathlon this year. She contested the first day of the Hypo Meeting in Götzis, however, and recorded good marks in the hurdles and 200m, so she will likely be in the hunt for medals in Budapest.
 Vetter's teammates Emma Oosterwegel and Sofie Dokter could also be in contention. Oosterwegel, the Olympic bronze medalist, has a best this year of 6209, but she always produces her best score of the year at a major championships. Dokter, meanwhile, finished just outside the medals at the European Indoor Championships and set a heptathlon PB of 6321 in Götzis.
 Despite the absence of Thiam, Belgium will still be sending a reigning global champion to compete in the heptathlon in Budapest. World indoor champion Noor Vidts hasn't contested a full heptathlon this year, but she displayed good form indoors, taking European indoor bronze with 4823, and has been solid across the board in individual disciplines in recent months.
 Expect the home crowd to cheer loudly for Xenia Krizsan. The 2021 European indoor bronze medalist holds the Hungarian record at 6651, which she set when winning in Götzis two years ago. She recorded three fouls in the heptathlon long jump at last year's World Championships in Oregon, but rebounded to place fifth at the European Championships in Munich with 6372 – her best score in a championship heptathlon.
 Carolin Schäfer, the 2017 world silver medalist, won in Ratingen with 6369 and forms part of a strong German team, alongside Sophie Weissenberg and Vanessa Grimm. European bronze medalist Annik Kalin has competed sparingly outdoors this year, but the Swiss record-holder is a 6515 performer at her best and cannot be discounted. Also keep an eye on rising talent Saga Vanninen, the two-time world U20 champion. The 20-year-old will be the youngest athlete in the field, but she is on a roll so far this year, setting a PB of 6391 in Götzis and taking European U23 gold in Espoo.

Medal winners		Relevant records	
2012 Olympic		WR 7291 Jackie Joyner-Kersey USA Seoul 24 09 1988 (12.69/+0.5 - 1.86 - 15.80 - 22.56/1.6 / 7.27/0.7 - 45.66 - 2:08.51)	
1 Jessica Ennis GBR 6955		EUR 7032 Carolina Klüft SWE Osaka (JPN) 26 AUG 2007 (13.15/+0.1 - 1.95 - 14.81 - 23.38/+0.3 / 6.85/+1.0 - 47.98 - 2:12.56)	
2 Lilli Schwarzkopf GER 6649		WJR 6542 Carolina Klüft SWE München 10 08 2002	
3 Austra Skujytė LTU 6599		CZE 6460 Eliška Klučinová Kladno 15 Jun 2014 (13.81/+1.8 - 1.90 - 14.10 - 24.67/+0.8 / 6.43/+1.5 - 45.53 - 2:16.47)	
2013 Europe indoor		WIR 5055 Nafissatou THIAM BEL Istanbul 3 Mar 2023 (8.23 - 1.92 - 15.54 - 6.59 - 2:13.60)	
1 Antoinette Nana Djimou FRA 4666		All-time list	
2 Yana Maksimava BLR 4658		1 7291 Jackie JOYNER-KERSEE USA Seoul (KOR) 24 SEP 1988 (12.69/+0.8 - 1.86 - 15.80 - 22.56/+1.6 / 7.27/+0.7 - 45.66 - 2:08.51)	
3 Hanna Melnychenko UKR 4608		7215 Jackie JOYNER-KERSEE USA Indianapolis, IN (USA) 16 JUL 1988 (12.71/-0.9 - 1.93 - 15.65 - 22.30/0.0 / 7.00/-1.3 - 50.08 - 2:20.70)	
2013 World		7158 Jackie JOYNER USA Houston, TX (USA) 02 AUG 1986 (13.18/-0.5 - 1.88 - 15.20 - 22.85/+1.2 / 7.03/+2.9 - 50.12 - 2:09.69)	
1 Hanna Melnychenko UKR 6586		7148 Jackie JOYNER USA Moskva (URS) 07 JUL 1986 (12.85/+0.2 - 1.88 - 14.76 - 23.00/+0.3 / 7.01/-0.5 - 49.86 - 2:10.02)	
2 Brianne Theisen-Eaton CAN 6530		7128 Jackie JOYNER-KERSEE USA Roma (ITA) 01 SEP 1987 (12.9h/+0.2 - 1.90 - 16.00 - 22.95/+1.2 / 7.14/+0.9 - 45.68 - 2:16.29)	
3 Dafne Schippers NED 6477		7044 Jackie JOYNER-KERSEE USA Barcelona (ESP) 02 AUG 1992 (12.85/- 1.91 - 14.13 - 23.12 / 7.10/+1.3 - 44.98 - 2:11.78)	
2014 World indoor		2 7032 Carolina Klüft SWE Osaka (JPN) 26 AUG 2007 (13.15/+0.1 - 1.95 - 14.81 - 23.38/+0.3 / 6.85/+1.0 - 47.98 - 2:12.56)	
1 Nadine Broersen NED 4830		3 7013 Nafissatou THIAM BEL Götzis (AUT) 28 MAY 2017 (13.34/-0.7 - 1.98 - 14.51 - 24.40/-1.6 / 6.56/+0.8 - 59.32 - 2:15.24)	
2 Brianne Theisen-Eaton CAN 4768		4 7007 Larisa NIKITINA URS Bryansk (URS) 11 JUN 1989 (13.40/+1.4 - 1.89 - 16.45 - 23.97/+1.1 / 6.73/+4.0 - 53.94 - 2:15.31)	
3 Alina Fodorova UKR 4724		7001 Carolina Klüft SWE Paris-St-Denis (FRA) 24 AUG 2003 (13.18/-0.4 - 1.94 - 14.19 - 22.98/+1.1 / 6.68/+1.0 - 49.90 - 2:12.12)	
2014 Europe		World season list	
1 Antoinette Nana Djimou FRA 6551		1 6988 Anna Hall USA Götzis 28 May 12.75/+0.7 1.92 13.90 22.88/+0.1 6.54/+1.2 43.08 2:02.97	
2 Nadine Broersen NED 6498		2 6556 Katarina Johnson-Thomp GBR Götzis 28 May 13.88/+0.7 1.89 13.92 23.26/+0.1 6.32/+0.5 44.14 2:12.40	
3 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 6423		3 6480 Adrianna Sulek POL Götzis 28 May 13.18/+0.7 1.83 14.44 23.80/+1.9 6.29/-0.1 41.83 2:14.33	
2015 Europe indoor		4 6391 Saga Vanninen FIN Götzis 28 May 13.48/+0.7 1.80 14.98 24.35/+0.9 6.43/+1.5 42.53 2:17.91	
1 Katarina Johnson-Thompson GBR 5000		5 6375 Sophie Weissenberg GER Götzis 28 May 13.46/+0.4 1.83 13.25 23.49/+0.1 6.05/-0.7 47.73 2:18.22	
2 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 4696		6 6369 Carolin Schäfer GER Ratingen 18 Jun 13.43/-0.8 1.75 14.75 23.88/-0.1 5.83/-0.1 50.23 2:14.94	
3 Eliška Klučinová CZE 4687		7 6330 Taliyah Brooks USA Desenzano del Garda 30 Apr 13.23/-0.7 1.77 13.01 24.06/-0.9 6.65/+0.9 39.00 2:15.02	
2015 World		7 6330 Annie Kunz USA Götzis 28 May 13.19/+0.7 1.71 13.98 23.82/+1.9 6.23/-0.3 46.47 2:17.13	
1 Jessica Ennis-Hill GBR 6669		9 6321 Sofie Dokter NED Götzis 28 May 13.51/+1.2 1.80 13.38 23.68/+1.9 6.24/-0.1 43.18 2:16.12	
2 Brianne Theisen-Eaton CAN 6554		10 6293 Jana Koščak CRO Götzis 28 May 13.26/+1.2 1.92 12.42 24.13/+0.9 6.24/+1.3 41.03 2:21.20	
3 Laura Ikauniece-Admidija LAT 6516			
2016 World indoor			
1 Brianne Theisen-Eaton CAN 4881			
2 Alina Fodorova UKR 4770			
3 Barbara Nwaba USA 4661			
2016 Europe			
1 Anouk Vetter NED 6626			
2 Antoinette Nana Djimou FRA 6458			
3 Ivona Dadić AUT 6408			
2016 Olympic			
1 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 6810			
2 Jessica Ennis-Hill GBR 6775			
3 Brianne Theisen-Eaton CAN 6653			
2017 Europe indoor			
1 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 4870			
2 Ivona Dadić AUT 4767			
3 Györgyi Zsivoczky-Farkas HUN 4723			
2017 World			
1 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 6784			
2 Carolin Schäfer GER 6696			
3 Anouk Vetter NED 6636			
2018 World indoor			
1 Katarina Johnson-Thompson GBR 4750			
2 Ivona Dadić AUT 4700			
3 Yorgelis Rodríguez CUB 4637			
2018 Europe			
1 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 6816			
2 Katarina Johnson-Thompson GBR 6759			
3 Carolin Schäfer GER 6602			
2019 Europe indoor			
1 Katarina Johnson-Thompson GBR 4983			
2 Niamh Emerson GBR 4731			
3 Solène Ndama FRA 4723			
2019 World			
1 Katarina Johnson-Thompson GBR 6981			
2 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 6677			
3 Verena Preiner AUT 6560			
2021 Europe indoor			
1 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 4904			
2 Noor Vidts BEL 4791			
3 Xénia Krizsán HUN 4644			
2021 Olympic			
1 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 6791			
2 Anouk Vetter NED 6689			
3 Emma Oosterwegel NED 6590			
2022 World indoor			
1 Noor Vidts BEL 4929			
2 Adrianna Sulek POL 4851			
3 Kendell Williams USA 4680			
2022 World			
1 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 6947			
2 Anouk Vetter NED 6867			
3 Anna Hall USA 6755			
2022 Europe			
1 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 6628			
2 Adrianna Sulek POL 6532			
3 Annik Kalin SUI 6515			
2023 Europe indoor			
1 Nafissatou Thiam BEL 5055			
2 Adrianna Sulek POL 5014			
3 Noor Vidts BEL 4823			

