

Athletic season 2023

Following Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone's decision not to defend the world title she won in her home setting of Oregon last year, when she left her Dutch rival halfway down the finishing straight as she improved her world record to a staggering 50.68, Bol's pathway has been clear.

The Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist prepared for the 400m hurdles in spectacular fashion during the indoor season as she worked on her speed over 400m flat. To such effect that on 19 February she broke the longest standing athletics track record in the book as she clocked 49.26 to win the Dutch indoor title, eclipsing the mark of 49.59 set in 1982.

The high point of her season so far occurred in front of a sell-out 50,000 crowd at the London Stadium on 23 July as she ran a European and Diamond League record of 51.45.

"I've been wanting to run a 51 ever since Tokyo," said the 23-year-old. "I had a feeling I could do it but I still can't believe I've done it."

Her time was one hundredth of a second faster than McLaughlin-Levrone ran to win the Tokyo Olympic title in a race where Bol finished third behind the defending champion Dalilah Muhammad.

It was only four hundredths of a second slower than the world record McLaughlin-Levrone set at last year's US trials in Oregon.

But it was the best part of a second slower than the current world mark of 50.68 run by her rival at last year's World Athletics Championships. Such is the measure of the challenge for this amiable Dutch athlete.

While McLaughlin-Levrone will be absent from the event – and indeed the championships because of a late knee issue – her predecessor as world and Olympic champion, Muhammad, will be present, albeit that the 33-year-old's season's best of 53.53 only has her at fifth place in this season's world list.

Muhammad's US colleague Shamier Little, whose 2021 personal best of 52.39 has her at fifth place in the all-time list, will also be a medal contender, as will the Jamaican trio of Andrenette Knight, who has clocked 53.26 this season; Janieve Russell, with a 2023 best of 53.65; and Rushell Clayton, who has clocked 53.79.

Look out too for Britain's Jessie Knight, who has run a personal best of 54.09 this season, and Viktoriya Tkachuk of Ukraine, who has a best of 53.76.

Medal winners				Relevant records			
<b>2009 World</b>				WR	50.68	Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone	USA Eugene OR 22 Jul 2022
1	Melaine Walker	JAM	52.42	WJR	52.75	Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone	USA Knoxville 13 May 2018
2	Lashinda Demus	USA	52.96	Eur	51.45	Femke Bol	NED London 23 Jul 2023
3	Josanne Lucas	TTO	53.20	Ame	50.68	Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone	USA Eugene OR 22 Jul 2022
<b>2010 Europe</b>				CZE	52.83	Zuzana Hejnová	CZE Moskva 15 Aug 2013
1	Natalya Antyukh	RUS	52.92	<b>All-time list</b>			
2	Vania Stambolova	BUL	53.82	1	50.68	Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone	USA Eugene OR 22 Jul 2022
3	Perri Shakes-Drayton	GBR	54.18	2	51.45	Femke Bol	NED London 23 Jul 2023
<b>2011 World</b>				3	51.58	Dalilah Muhammad	USA Tokyo 4 Aug 2021
1	Lashinda Demus	USA	52.47	4	52.34	Yuliya Pechonkina	RUS Tula 8 Aug 2003
2	Melaine Walker	JAM	52.73	5	52.39	Shamier Little	USA Stockholm/S 4 Jul 2021
3	Natalya Antyukh	RUS	53.85	6	52.42	Melaine Walker	JAM Berlin 20 Aug 2009
<b>2012 Europe 2x DQ Davydova, Churakova</b>				7	52.47	Lashinda Demus	USA Daegu 1 Sep 2011
1	Denisa Rosolová	CZE	54.24	8	52.61	Kim Batten	USA Göteborg/U 11 Aug 1995
2	Anna Yaroshchuk	UKR	54.35	9	52.62	Tonja Buford-Bailey	USA Göteborg/U 11 Aug 1995
3	Zuzana Hejnová	CZE	54.49	10	52.74	Sally Gunnell	GBR Stuttgart 19 Aug 1993
<b>2012 Olympic DQ Antyukh</b>				11	52.77	Fani Halkiá	GRE Athina 22 Aug 2004
1	Lashinda Demus	USA	52.77	<b>World season list</b>			
2	Zuzana Hejnová	CZE	53.38	1	51.45	Femke Bol	NED London 23 Jul
3	Kaliese Spencer	JAM	53.66	2	53.23	Britton Wilson	USA Gainesville FL 14 Apr
<b>2013 World</b>				3	53.26	Andrenette Knight	JAM Székesfehérvár 18 Jul
1	Zuzana Hejnová	CZE	52.83	4	53.34	Shamier Little	USA Eugene OR 9 Jul
2	Dalilah Muhammad	USA	54.09	5	53.53	Dalilah Muhammad	USA Eugene OR 9 Jul
3	Lashinda Demus	USA	54.27	6	53.65	Janieve Russell	JAM Luzern 20 Jul
<b>2014 Europe DQ Davydova</b>				7	53.79	Rushell Clayton	JAM Székesfehérvár 18 Jul
1	Eilidh Child	GBR	54.48	8	53.79	Anna Cockrell	USA Madrid 22 Jul
2	Anna Titimets	UKR	54.56	9	53.97	Shiann Salmon	JAM Kingston 7 Jul
3	Denisa Rosolová	CZE	54.70	10	54.09	Jessie Knight	GBR London 23 Jul
<b>2015 World</b>				11	54.22	Ayomide Folorunso	ITA Molfetta 30 Jul
1	Zuzana Hejnová	CZE	53.50	<b>Europe</b>			
2	Shamier Little	USA	53.94	1	51.45	Femke Bol	NED London 23 Jul
3	Cassandra Tate	USA	54.02	2	54.09	Jessie Knight	GBR London 23 Jul
<b>2016 Europe</b>				3	54.22	Ayomide Folorunso	ITA Molfetta 30 Jul
1	Sara Slott Petersen	DEN	55.12	4	54.25	Viktoriya Tkachuk	UKR London 23 Jul
2	Joanna Linkiewicz	POL	55.33	5	54.33	Hanne Claes	BEL La Chaux-de-Fonds 2 Jul
3	Léa Sprunger	SUI	55.41	6	54.40	Viivi Lehikoinen	FIN Huelva 6 Jun
<b>2016 Olympic</b>				7	54.47	Carolina Krafzik	GER Chorzów 24 Jun
1	Dalilah Muhammad	USA	53.13	8	54.53	Anna Ryzhykova	UKR London 23 Jul
2	Sara Slott Petersen	DEN	53.55	9	54.56	Cathelijjn Peeters	NED Madrid 22 Jul
3	Ashley Spencer	USA	53.72	10	54.57	Line Kloster	NOR La Chaux-de-Fonds 2 Jul
<b>2017 World</b>				11	54.88	Nikoleta Jíchová	CZE Tábor 30 Jul
1	Kori Carter	USA	53.07	<b>Czech</b>			
2	Dalilah Muhammad	USA	53.50	1	54.88	Nikoleta Jíchová	CZE Tábor 30 Jul
3	Ristananna Tracey	JAM	53.74	55.17	Nikoleta Jíchová	Ostrava 27 Jun	
<b>2018 Europe</b>				55.44	Nikoleta Jíchová	Chorzów 24 Jun	
1	Léa Sprunger	SUI	54.33	55.52	Nikoleta Jíchová	Tábor 29 Jul	
2	Anna Ryzhykova	UKR	54.51	55.74	Nikoleta Jíchová	Praha 21 May	
3	Meghan Beesley	GBR	55.31	55.77	Nikoleta Jíchová	Praha 5 Jun	
<b>2019 World</b>				55.80	Nikoleta Jíchová	Poznań 18 Jun	
1	Dalilah Muhammad	USA	52.16	55.92	Nikoleta Jíchová	Haniá 28 May	
2	Sydney McLaughlin	USA	52.23	2	56.83	Ester Bendová	CZE Tábor 30 Jul
3	Rushell Clayton	JAM	53.74	57.77	Ester Bendová	Ostrava 27 Jun	
<b>2021 Olympic</b>				57.82	Ester Bendová	Espoo 15 Jul	
1	Sydney McLaughlin	USA	51.46				
2	Dalilah Muhammad	USA	51.58				
3	Femke Bol	NED	52.03				
<b>2022 World</b>							
1	Sydney McLaughlin	USA	50.68				
2	Femke Bol	NED	52.27				
3	Dalilah Muhammad	USA	53.13				
<b>2022 Europe</b>							
1	Femke Bol	NED	52.67				
2	Viktoriya Tkachuk	UKR	54.30				
3	Anna Ryzhykova	UKR	54.86				
<b>2023 World</b>							
1							
2							
3							

