

Athletic season 2023

Last year, the predictions for the women's 800m in Oregon were quite forthright. Having struck gold at the Tokyo Olympics, USA's Athing Mu had extended her dominance to 2022 and maintained an unbeaten streak in all of her races, culminating in her clinching the world title on home soil in Oregon – the perfect climax to her fairytale. However, as the countdown to the World Championships continues, it seems that the spotlight is going to be shared by a number of athletes, seeing as the defending champion has only competed in one 800m this season, which she won in a season's best of 1:58.73. Mu's only other two races this year were over 1500m at the US Trials, where she finished second to Nikki Hiltz, and though she's been listed for the 800m in Budapest, if she decides to compete it's not going to be a walk in the park for the US record-holder, going by the quality of the field. Great Britain's Keely Hodgkinson has been in brilliant form and is the world's fastest woman this season. The 21-year-old, who has only competed in two Diamond League meetings besides the UK Championships, made the most of her chances by storming to a national record of 1:55.77 to win the Paris Diamond League, finishing ahead of Ajee Wilson (1:58.16) and Natoya Goule-Toppin (1:58.23). Two-time World Championships bronze medalist Wilson finished a distant eighth at the US Championships and is ruled out of being in Budapest. Instead, USA's flag will be flown by Nia Akins, the new US champion, along with Raevyn Rogers, the silver medalist from Doha who boasts a season's best of 1:58.98, and Kaela Edwards (2:00.02). Hodgkinson, the 2022 world silver medalist, and Kenya's Mary Moraa, who took the bronze, will be engaged in a battle for superiority, which is an offshoot from last year's championships as the pair faced off at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham less than two weeks after the showpiece in Oregon. That time around, they switched places, as Moraa won gold ahead of her British counterpart who settled for silver. This year, the duo have clashed only once – in Lausanne – and it was Moraa who triumphed in 1:57.43, ending Hodgkinson's unbeaten streak over 10 races as she clocked 1:58.37. Moraa, who is unbeaten in all of her seven races over 800m this season, including three Diamond League victories, is currently ranked number one in the world, followed by nine-time Jamaican champion Goule-Toppin and then Hodgkinson. One athlete who has caused quite a splash is Scottish middle-distance runner Jemma Reekie. While competing at the London Diamond League, Reekie, who narrowly missed out on a medal at the Tokyo Olympics in fourth, raced to an impressive season's best of 1:57.30 – the third fastest time in the world this year – inspiring 2019 world champion, Halima Nakaayi to a national record of 1:57.62 in third, just behind Goule-Toppin who set a season's best of 1:57.61. Australia's Catriona Bisset, who was fourth in that race, broke the Oceanian record with her time of 1:57.78 – the sixth fastest time in the world in 2023. Reekie, who has a PB of 1:56.90 set in Tokyo, admitted that her performance in London has boosted her confidence ahead of the World Championships, especially as she exited the competition in Oregon in the semifinals. "You can train as well as you like but it's all about performing on the stage," she said. "I've been building up my confidence and I'm ready for the World Championships." Having made the finals of two World Championships, Jamaican record-holder Goule-Toppin will aim to secure a better position after her sixth-place finish in Doha and fifth position in Oregon.

Medal winners			Relevant records		
<b>2011 World</b>			WR 1:53.28	Jarmila Kratochvílová	CZE Munich 26/7/83
1	Mariya Savinova	RUS 1:55.87	WJR 1:54.01	Pamela Jelimo	KEN Zürich 29/8/08
2	Caster Semenya	RSA 1:56.35	Eur 1:53.28	Jarmila Kratochvílová	CZE Munich 26/7/83
3	Janeth Jepkosgei Busienei	KEN 1:57.42	Afr 1:54.01	Pamela Jelimo	KEN Zürich 29/8/08
<b>2012 Europe</b>			CZE 1:53.28	Jarmila Kratochvílová	Munich 26/7/83
1	Lyney Sharp	GBR 2:00.52	<b>WR Pace:</b>		
2	Irina Maracheva	RUS 2:00.66	400m:56.1	600m: 1:25.0	
3	Maryna Arzamasava	BLR 2:01.02	WIR 1:55.82	Jolanda Ceplak	SLO Wien 03 03 2002
<b>2012 Olympic</b>			400m: 57.34	600m: 1:26.68	
1	Mariya Savinova	RUS 1:56.19	<b>All-time list</b>		
2	Caster Semenya	RSA 1:57.23	1 1:53.28	Jarmila Kratochvílová	CZE München 26 Jul 1983
3	Ekaterina Poistogova	RUS 1:57.53	2 1:53.43	Nadezhda Olizarenko	UKR Moskva 27 Jul 1980
<b>2013 World</b>			3 1:54.01	Pamela Jelimo	KEN Zürich 29 Aug 2008
1	Eunice Sum	KEN 1:57.38	4 1:54.25	Caster Semenya	RSA Paris 30 Jun 2018
2	Brenda Martinez	USA 1:57.91	5 1:54.44	Ana Fidelia Quirot	CUB Barcelona 9 Sep 1989
3	Alysia Montaño	USA 1:57.95	6 1:54.81	Olga Mineyeva	RUS Moskva 27 Jul 1980
<b>2014 World indoor</b>			7 1:54.94	Tatyana Kazankina	RUS Montréal 26 Jul 1976
1	Chanelle Price	USA 2:00.09	8 1:55.04	Athing Mu	USA Eugene OR 21 Aug 2021
2	Angelika Cichocka	POL 2:00.45	9 1:55.05	Doina Melinte	ROU Bucureşti 1 Aug 1982
3	Maryna Arzamasova	BLR 2:00.79	10 1:55.19	Maria Mutola	MOZ Zürich 17 Aug 1994
<b>2014 Europe</b>			10 1:55.19	Jolanda Batagelj	SLO Heusden 20 Jul 2002
1	Maryna Arzamasova	BLR 1:58.15	<b>World season list</b>		
2	Lyney Sharp	GBR 1:58.80	1 1:55.77	Keely Hodgkinson	GBR Paris 9 Jun
3	Joanna Jóźwik	POL 1:59.63	2 1:56.85	Mary Moraa	KEN Chorzów 16 Jul
<b>2015 Europe indoor</b>			3 1:57.30	Jemma Reekie	GBR London 23 Jul
1	Selina Büchel	SUI 2:01.95	4 1:57.61	Natoya Goule-Toppin	JAM London 23 Jul
2	Nataliya Lupu	UKR 2:02.25	5 1:57.62	Halimah Nakaayi	UGA London 23 Jul
3	Joanna Jóźwik	POL 2:02.45	6 1:57.78	Catriona Bisset	AUS London 23 Jul
<b>2015 World</b>			7 1:58.00	Katie Snowden	GBR London 23 Jul
1	Maryna Arzamasova	BLR 1:58.03	8 1:58.09	Sage Hurta-Kleckler	USA Chorzów 16 Jul
2	Melissa Bishop	CAN 1:58.12	9 1:58.16	Ajee' Wilson	USA Paris 9 Jun
3	Eunice Sum	KEN 1:58.18	10 1:58.23	Nelly Chepchirchir	KEN Grosseto 27 May
<b>2016 World indoor</b>			11 1:58.48	Abbey Caldwell	AUS Chorzów 16 Jul
1	Francine Niyonsaba	BDI 2:00.01	<b>Europe season list</b>		
2	Ajee' Wilson	USA 2:00.27	1 1:55.77	Keely Hodgkinson	GBR Paris 9 Jun
3	Margaret Wambui	KEN 2:00.44	2 1:57.30	Jemma Reekie	GBR London 23 Jul
<b>2016 Europe</b>			3 1:58.00	Katie Snowden	GBR London 23 Jul
1	Nataliia Pryshchepa	UKR 1:59.70	4 1:58.64	Renelle Lamote	FRA London 23 Jul
2	Renelle Lamote	FRA 2:00.19	5 1:58.73	Anita Horvat	SLO Turku 13 Jun
3	Lovisa Lindh	SWE 2:00.37	6 1:59.27	Ciara Mageean	IRL Manchester 27 May
<b>2016 Olympic</b>			7 1:59.28	Alexandra Bell	GBR Birmingham 29 Jul
1	Caster Semenya	RSA 1:55.28	8 1:59.30	Isabelle Boffey	GBR Madrid 22 Jul
2	Francine Niyonsaba	BDI 1:56.49	9 1:59.53	Louise Shanahan	IRL Belfast 13 May
3	Margaret Wambui	KEN 1:56.89	10 1:59.65	Lena Kandissounon	FRA Paris 9 Jun
<b>2017 European indoor</b>			11 1:59.67	Audrey Werro	SUI Rehlingen 28 May
1	Selina Büchel	SUI 2:00.38	<b>Czech season list</b>		
2	Shelayna Oskan-Clarke	GBR 2:00.39	1 2:02.58	Kimberley Ficenec	CZE Banská Bystrica 20 Jul
3	Anita Hinriksdóttir	ISL 2:01.25	2:03.70	Kimberley Ficenec	Kladno 13 Jun
<b>2017 World</b>			2:03.99	Kimberley Ficenec	Tábor 30 Jul
1	Caster Semenya	RSA 1:55.16	2 2:04.06	Pavla Štoudková	CZE Tábor 30 Jul
2	Francine Niyonsaba	BDI 1:55.92	3 2:04.24	Tereza Petržilková	CZE Brno 14 May
3	Ajee' Wilson	USA 1:56.65	2:04.37	Kimberley Ficenec	Praha 5 Jun
<b>2018 World indoor</b>			4 2:04.37	Natálie Millerová	CZE Tábor 30 Jul
1	Francine Niyonsaba	BDI 1:58.31	5 2:04.63	Lada Vondrová	CZE Brno 14 May
2	Ajee' Wilson	USA 1:58.99	2:04.68	Kimberley Ficenec	Chorzów 24 Jun
3	Shelayna Oskan-Clarke	GBR 1:59.81	2:04.77	Kimberley Ficenec	Graz 16 Jun
<b>2018 Europe</b>			6 2:04.97	Adéla Holubová	CZE Ostrava 2 Jul
1	Nataliia Pryshchepa	UKR 2:00.38			
2	Renelle Lamote	FRA 2:00.62			
3	Olha Lyakhova	UKR 2:00.79			
<b>2019 Europe indoor</b>					
1	Shelayna Oskan-Clarke	GBR 2:02.58			
2	Renelle Lamote	FRA 2:03.00			
3	Olha Lyakhova	UKR 2:03.24			
<b>2019 World</b>					
1	Halimah Nakaayi	UGA 1:58.04			
2	Raevyn Rogers	USA 1:58.18			
3	Ajee' Wilson	USA 1:58.84			
<b>2021 Europe indoor</b>					
1	Keely Hodgkinson	GBR 2:03.88			
2	Joanna Jóźwik	POL 2:04.00			
3	Angelika Cichocka	POL 2:04.15			
<b>2021 Olympic</b>					
1	Athing Mu	USA 1:55.21			
2	Keely Hodgkinson	GBR 1:55.88			
3	Raevyn Rogers	USA 1:56.81			
<b>2022 World indoor</b>					
1	Ajee' Wilson	USA 1:59.09			
2	Frewyni Hailu	ETH 2:00.54			
3	Halimah Nakaayi	UGA 2:00.66			
<b>2022 World</b>					
1	Athing Mu	USA 1:56.30			
2	Keely Hodgkinson	GBR 1:56.38			
3	Mary Moraa	KEN 1:56.71			
<b>2022 Europe</b>					
1	Keely Hodgkinson	GBR 1:59.04			
2	Renelle Lamote	FRA 1:59.49			
3	Anna Wielgosz	POL 1:59.87			
<b>2023 Europe indoor</b>					
1	Keely Hodgkinson	GBR 1:58.66			
2	Anita Horvat	SLO 2:00.54			
3	Agnes Raharolahy	FRA 2:00.85			

