

*Athletic season 2023*

Heading into last year's World Championships, Kelsey-Lee Barber looked an outside shot to retain her title, standing 25th on the 2022 world list with a season's best of 61.40m. The Australian proceeded to rip up the form book and become the first back-to-back winner in the women's javelin, nailing gold with 66.91m.

For good measure, she then won the Commonwealth title in Birmingham, edging out her teammate Mackenzie Little with a throw of 64.43m. This year, the double golden girl has been shy of a Midas touch, finishing outside the top spot in six outings.

The 31-year-old was beaten by Little at the Australian Championships in Brisbane in April and on the Diamond League circuit she has finished sixth in Lausanne and seventh in Silesia. A flash of encouraging form came in Paris in June when she finished runner-up to Japan's Haruka Kitaguchi (65.09m) with 62.54m.

That is 1.14m farther than her best before Oregon and good enough for No.10 on the 2023 list, 15 places higher than a year ago, so perhaps it would be ill-advised to bank on Barber failing to rise to the big occasion again and becoming the first three-time winner of the women's javelin.

On form, Kitaguchi is the marginal favourite. In Oregon last year she earned bronze, Japan's first medal in a women's throwing event, behind Barber and the US veteran Kara Winger, who has since retired. The 2015 world U18 champion moved from third to first on the 2023 world list when she uncorked a national record of 67.04m in the final round at the Silesia Diamond League meeting on 16 July. With four of the best eight throws of the year, the 25-year-old has shown the most consistency, too.

Sigrid Borge stands second on the 2023 list but the four-time Norwegian champion has been unable to get anywhere close to the 66.50m she threw in Halle in May, her next best of 60.31m only good enough for sixth in the Silesia Diamond League meeting. She placed 11th in Paris and eighth in Lausanne.

Little is next on the list, having added almost a metre and a half to her PB to win ahead of Kitaguchi in Lausanne with 65.70m. With three of the top nine throws, the Commonwealth silver medallist has also found a high level of consistency.

Third in Lausanne was Lina Muze-Sirmá, silver medallist at the World U20 Championships in Moncton back in 2010. Sixth in the final in Oregon last year, the 30-year-old is fourth on the 2023 world list, having thrown 64.78m in winning the Latvian title on 29 July.

Austrian champion Victoria Hudson threw 64.05m at Eisenstadt in May and placed fifth in her one Diamond League appearance of the year, in Lausanne.

Of the young guns of the event, Greece's European champion and 2021 world U20 silver medallist Elina Tzenggo has thrown 63.65m, and her fellow 20-year-old Anni-Linnea Alanen of Finland 62.47m. In between them on the world list lie New Zealander Tori Peeters (63.26m) and Latvia's Anete Kociņa (62.75m), while China's three-time medal winner Lyu Huihui, now 34, has a season's best of 62.35m.

Serbia's 19-year-old Adriana Vilagos threw a 63.52m PB to retain the world U20 title last year in Cali and has a season's best of 61.87m from her fourth-place finish in Lausanne.

Barber and Little are backed up on the Australian team by 41-year-old Kathryn Mitchell, sixth in the last three Olympic finals, who threw 61.84m at Eisenstadt in Austria on 26 July.

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Medal winners				Relevant records				
<b>2006 Europe</b>				WR	72.28	Barbora Špotáková	CZE Stuttgart	13 Sep 2008
1	NERIUS Steffi	GER	65.82	WJR	63.96	Elina Tzenggo	GRE Ioannina	1 Aug 2020
2	ŠPOTÁKOVÁ Barbora	CZE	65.64	Eur	72.28	Barbora Špotáková	CZE Stuttgart	13 Sep 2008
3	CHILLA Mercedes	ESP	61.98	CZE	72.28	Barbora Špotáková	CZE Stuttgart	13 Sep 2008
<b>2007 World</b>				Afr	69.35	Sunette Viljoen	RSA New York NY	9 Jun 2012
1	Barbora Špotáková	CZE	67.07	Asi	67.98	Lu Huihui	CHN Shenyang	2 Aug 2019
2	Christina Obergföll	GER	66.46	Oce	68.92	Kathryn Mitchell	AUS Gold Coast	11 Apr 2018
3	Steffi Nerius	GER	64.42	Ame	71.70	Osleidis Menéndez	CUB Helsinki	14 Aug 2005
4	Nikola Brejchová	CZE	63.73					
<b>2008 Olympic</b>				<b>All-time list</b>				
1	Barbora Špotáková	CZE	71.42	1	72.28	Barbora Špotáková	CZE Stuttgart	13 Sep 2008
2	Mariya Abakumova	RUS	70.78	2	71.70	Osleidis Menéndez	CUB Helsinki	14 Aug 2005
3	Christina Obergföll	GER	66.13	3	71.40	Maria Andrejczyk	POL Split	9 May 2021
<b>2009 World</b>				4	70.53	Mariya Abakumova	RUS Berlin	1 Sep 2013
1	Steffi Nerius	GER	67.30	5	70.20	Christina Obergföll	GER München	23 Jun 2007
2	Barbora Špotáková	CZE	66.42	6	69.48	Trine Hattestad	NOR Oslo	28 Jul 2000
3	Maria Abakumova	RUS	66.06	7	69.35	Sunette Viljoen	RSA New York NY	9 Jun 2012
<b>2010 Europe</b>				8	69.19	Christin Hussong	GER Chorzów	30 May 2021
1	Linda Stahl	GER	66.81	9	68.92	Kathryn Mitchell	AUS Gold Coast	11 Apr 2018
2	Christina Obergföll	GER	65.58	10	68.43	Sara Kolak	CRO Lausanne	6 Jul 2017
3	Barbora Špotáková	CZE	65.36	11	68.34	Steffi Nerius	GER Elstal	31 Aug 2008
<b>2011 World</b>				<b>World season list</b>				
<b>DSQ</b>	Maria Abakumova	RUS	71.99	1	67.04	Haruka Kitaguchi	JPN Chorzów	16 Jul
1	Barbora Špotáková	CZE	71.58	2	66.50	Sigrid Borge	NOR Halle	20 May
2	Sunette Viljoen	RSA	68.38	3	65.70	Mackenzie Little	AUS Lausanne	30 Jun
<b>2012 Europe</b>				4	64.78	Lina Müze-Sirmá	LAT Valmiera	29 Jul
1	Vira Rebryk	UKR	66.86	5	64.05	Victoria Hudson	AUT Eisenstadt	16 May
2	Christina Obergföll	GER	65.12	6	63.84	Tatsiana Khaladovich	BLR Minsk	26 Feb
3	Linda Stahl	GER	63.69	7	63.65	Elina Tzenggo	GRE Leiria	11 Mar
<b>2012 Olympic</b>				8	63.26	Tori Peeters	NZL Yokohama	21 May
1	Barbora Špotáková	CZE	69.55	9	62.75	Anete Kociņa	LAT Pärnu	2 Jul
2	Christina Obergföll	GER	65.16	10	62.54	Kelsey-Lee Barber	AUS Paris	9 Jun
3	Linda Stahl	GER	64.91	11	62.45	Anni-Linnea Alanen	FIN Pihtipudas	2 Jul
<b>2013 World</b>				<b>Europe season list</b>				
1	Christina OBERGFÖLL	GER	69.05	1	66.50	Sigrid Borge	NOR Halle	20 May
2	Kimberley MICKLE	AUS	66.60	2	64.78	Lina Müze-Sirmá	LAT Valmiera	29 Jul
3	Maria ABAKUMOVA	RUS	65.09	3	64.05	Victoria Hudson	AUT Eisenstadt	16 May
<b>2014 Europe</b>				4	63.84	Tatsiana Khaladovich	BLR Minsk	26 Feb
1	Barbora Špotáková	CZE	64.41	5	63.65	Elina Tzenggo	GRE Leiria	11 Mar
2	Tatjana Jelača	SRB	64.21	6	62.75	Anete Kociņa	LAT Pärnu	2 Jul
3	Linda Stahl	GER	63.91	7	62.45	Anni-Linnea Alanen	FIN Pihtipudas	2 Jul
<b>2015 World</b>				8	61.87	Adriana Vilagoš	SRB Lausanne	30 Jun
1	Katharina Molitor	GER	67.69	9	61.75	Nikola Ogrodniková	CZE Chorzów	25 Jun
2	Lu Huihui	CHN	66.13	10	61.57	Liveta Jasiūnaitė	LTU Kaunas	4 Jun
3	Sunette Viljoen	RSA	65.79	11	61.09	Annabella Bogdán	HUN Szolnok	13 May
<b>2016 Europe</b>				<b>Czech season list</b>				
1	Tatsiana Khaladovich	BLR	66.34	1	61.75	Nikola Ogrodniková	CZE Chorzów	25 Jun
2	Linda Stahl	GER	65.25	2	60.83	Irena Gillarová	CZE Kuortane	17 Jun
3	Sara Kolak	CRO	63.50		60.73	Nikola Ogrodniková		Rehlingen
<b>2016 Olympic</b>					60.55	Nikola Ogrodniková		Chorzów
1	Sara Kolak	CRO	66.18	3	60.32	Barbora Špotáková	CZE Ústí Nad Orlicí	8 Aug
2	Sunette Viljoen	RSA	64.92		60.24	Nikola Ogrodniková		Luzern
3	Barbora Špotáková	CZE	64.80	4	60.05	Petra Sicaková	CZE Ostrava	2 Jul
<b>2017 World</b>					58.84	Nikola Ogrodniková		Ostrava
1	Barbora Špotáková	CZE	66.76		58.83	Nikola Ogrodniková		Praha
2	Li Lingwei	CHN	66.25		58.63	Irena Gillarová		Praha
3	Lu Huihui	CHN	65.26		58.60	Petra Sicaková		Tábor
<b>2018 Europe</b>								
1	Christin Hussong	GER	67.90					
2	Nikola Ogrodniková	CZE	61.85					
3	Liveta Jasiūnaitė	LTU	61.59					
<b>2019 World</b>								
1	Kelsey-Lee Barber	AUS	66.56					
2	Liu Shiyang	CHN	65.88					
3	Lu Huihui	CHN	65.49					
<b>2021 Olympic</b>								
1	Liu Shiyang	CHN	66.34					
2	Maria Andrejczyk	POL	64.61					
3	Kelsey-Lee Barber	AUS	64.56					
<b>2022 World</b>								
1	Kelsey-Lee Barber	AUS	66.91					
2	Kara Winger	USA	64.05					
3	Haruka Kitaguchi	JPN	63.27					
<b>2022 Europe</b>								
1	Elina Tzenggo	GRE	65.81					
2	Adriana Vilagoš	SRB	62.01					
3	Barbora Špotáková	CZE	60.68					

