

Athletic season 2023

World leader and defending champion Noah Lyles will be gunning for more than the title. In the build up to the championships, the US sprinter made history at the London Diamond League in July by breaking Usain Bolt's record for the most wind-legal sub-20 races, which was pegged at 34. In Budapest, the 26-year-old will aim to take one more record from the Jamaican: the world record.

The 200m bronze medallist from the Tokyo Olympics has never hidden his desire to claim the world record of 19.19 set by Bolt at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin. Lyles' conviction is further strengthened by his position as the third fastest man in history after posting 19.31 to win gold in Oregon last year, breaking Michael Johnson's US record in the process. Only Bolt and his compatriot Yohan Blake (19.26) are higher on the all-time list.

The 2016 world U20 100m gold medallist posted an image on one of his social media accounts, revealing his intent to run 9.65 in the 100m and 19.10 in the 200m, indicating that he's also eyeing a medal in the 100m. If Lyles retains his title from Oregon, he will become the second man, after Bolt, to claim three or more successive gold medals in the 200m at the World Championships.

However, Lyles is not the only one looking to produce a slice of history in Budapest. Botswana's new poster boy and the world U20 100m champion Letsile Tebogo could deny a US medal sweep after an incredible run in London where he followed hard after Lyles who set a world lead of 19.47. The 20-year-old was rewarded with 19.50, smashing Frankie Fredericks' 26-year-old African record of 19.68 set at the Atlanta 1996 Olympics. Ironically, Fredericks is the only African man in World Championships history with medals in the 200m, having claimed four of such – one gold and three silvers.

With Nigeria's Udodi Onwuzurike, the NCAA champion and fifth fastest man over the event this season, ruled out of the championships due to a hamstring injury, Tebogo is Africa's brightest chance for a medal in this event. Also bearing the continent's hopes is Ghana's James Dadzie, who shot up to sixth place on the global standings with a national record of 19.79 set at the Corky/Crofoot Shootout in Texas, becoming the first Ghanaian to break the 20-second mark.

Erriyon Knighton has demonstrated that he has indeed come of age, having garnered significant experience at senior level, with a fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics and a bronze in Oregon last year as part of a US medal sweep. The 19-year-old will be coming with renewed confidence after winning the US Championships in 19.72.

In that race, he finished ahead of Kenny Bednarek, who clocked a season's best of 19.82. With silver medals from both the Tokyo Olympics and last year's World Championships in Oregon, Bednarek, who is beginning to get impatient with the 'almost' tag, will aspire to upgrade to gold and will be hoping for third time lucky as he gets set to take to the track at his third World Championships.

In spite of a tremendously busy season which commenced in February, NCAA 100m champion and silver medallist in the 200m, Courtney Lindsey, upset the apple cart at the US Trials to snatch third place with his time of 19.85, 0.01 better than his previous PB, to deny the likes of Fred Kerley and Christian Coleman spots in the 200m in Budapest.

Another strong contender for a podium place, who has demonstrated his ability to rise to the occasion though is yet to claim an individual global medal, is Great Britain's Zharnel Hughes. The world leader over the 100m (9.83) heads to Budapest as the fourth fastest man in the 200m after securing third place in London with the first sub-20 of his career, a national record of 19.73.

MS: 20.16 (20.60)

OH: 20.16

Medal winners				Relevant records			
2007 World				WR	19.19	Usain Bolt	JAM Berlin 20/8/09
1	Tyson Gay	USA	19.76	WJR	19.49	Erriyon Knighton	USA Baton Rouge LA 30 Apr 2022
2	Usain Bolt	JAM	19.91	Eur	19.72	Pietro Mennea	ITA Ciudad de Mexico 12/9/79
3	Wallace Spearmon	USA	20.05	Afr	19.50	Letsile Tebogo	BOT London 23 Jul 2023
2008 Olympic				Ame	19.32	Michael Johnson	USA Atlanta 1/8/96
1	Usain Bolt	JAM	19.30	CZE	20.39	Ondřej Macík	CZE Tábor 30 Jul 2023
2	Shawn Crawford	USA	19.96				
3	Walter Dix	USA	19.98				
2009 World				All-time list			
1	Usain Bolt	JAM	19.19	1	19.19	Usain Bolt	JAM Berlin 20 Aug 2009
2	Alonso Edward	PAN	19.81	2	19.26	Yohan Blake	JAM Bruxelles 16 Sep 2011
3	Wallace Spearmon	USA	19.85	3	19.31	Noah Lyles	USA Eugene OR 21 Jul 2022
2010 Europe				4	19.32	Michael Johnson	USA Atlanta GA 1 Aug 1996
1	Christophe Lemaitre	FRA	20.37	5	19.49	Erriyon Knighton	USA Baton Rouge LA 30 Apr 2022
2	Christian Malcolm	GBR	20.38	6	19.50	Letsile Tebogo	BOT London 23 Jul 2023
3	Martial Mbandjock	FRA	20.42	7	19.53	Walter Dix	USA Bruxelles 16 Sep 2011
2011 World				8	19.57	Justin Gatlin	USA Eugene OR 28 Jun 2015
1	Usain Bolt	JAM	19.40	9	19.58	Tyson Gay	USA New York NY 30 May 2009
2	Walter Dix	USA	19.70	10	19.62	Andre De Grasse	CAN Tokyo 4 Aug 2021
3	Christophe Lemaitre	FRA	19.80	11	19.63	Xavier Carter	USA Lausanne 11 Jul 2006
2012 Europe				World season list			
1	Churandy Martina	NED	20.42	1	19.47	Noah Lyles	USA London 23 Jul
2	Patrick van Luijk	NED	20.87	2	19.50	Letsile Tebogo	BOT London 23 Jul
3	Daniel Talbot	GBR	20.95	3	19.72	Erriyon Knighton	USA Eugene OR 9 Jul
2012 Olympic				4	19.73	Zharnel Hughes	GBR London 23 Jul
1	Usain Bolt	JAM	19.32	5	19.76	Udodi Onwuzurike	NGR Austin TX 7 Jun
2	Yohan Blake	JAM	19.44	6	19.79	James Dadzie	GHA Lubbock TX 29 Apr
3	Warren Weir	JAM	19.84	7	19.82	Kenny Bednarek	USA Eugene OR 9 Jul
2013 World				8	19.85	Courtney Lindsey	USA Eugene OR 9 Jul
1	Usain BOLT	JAM	19.66	9	19.86	Fred Kerley	USA Eugene OR 9 Jul
2	Warren WEIR	JAM	19.79	10	19.87	Terrence Jones Jr.	BAH Austin TX 9 Jun
3	Curtis MITCHELL	USA	20.04	11	19.89	Robert Gregory	USA Austin TX 9 Jun
2014 Europe				European season list			
1	Adam Gemili	GBR	19.98	1	19.73	Zharnel Hughes	GBR London 23 Jul
2	Christophe Lemaitre	FRA	20.15	2	20.02	Joshua Hartmann	GER Kassel 9 Jul
3	Serhiy Smelyk	UKR	20.30	3	20.14	Filippo Tortu	ITA Molfetta 30 Jul
2015 World				4	20.16A	Mouhamadou Fall	FRA Albuquerque NM 6 Apr
1	Usain BOLT	JAM	19.55	5	20.19	Charlie Dobson	GBR Genève 10 Jun
2	Justin GATLIN	USA	19.74	6	20.23	Ryan Zeze	FRA La Chaux-de-Fonds 2 Jul
3	Anaso JOBODWANA	RSA	19.87	7	20.35	Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake	GBR Baton Rouge LA 22 Apr
2016 Europe				8	20.36	Taymir Burnet	NED Genève 10 Jun
1	Bruno Hortelano	ESP	20.45	9	20.38	William Reais	SUI Bern 4 Aug
2	Ramil Guliyev	TUR	20.51	10	20.39	Ondřej Macík	CZE Tábor 30 Jul
3	Danny Talbot	GBR	20.56	11	20.40	Pol Retamal	ESP Torrent 30 Jul
2016 Olympic				Czech season list			
1	Usain Bolt	JAM	19.78	1	20.39	Ondřej Macík	CZE Tábor 30 Jul
2	Andre De Grasse	CAN	20.02	2	20.51	Eduard Kubelík	CZE Tábor 30 Jul
3	Christophe Lemaitre	FRA	20.12	3	20.59	Jan Jirka	CZE Plzeň 27 May
2017 World				20.64	Ondřej Macík	Ostrava 2 Jul	
1	Ramil Guliyev	TUR	20.09	20.71	Ondřej Macík	Ostrava 27 Jun	
2	Wayde van Niekerk	RSA	20.11	20.75	Eduard Kubelík	Ostrava 2 Jul	
3	Jerreem Richards	TTO	20.11	20.82	Jan Jirka	Kladno 13 Jun	
2018 Europe				4	20.82	Tomáš Němejč	CZE Tábor 30 Jul
1	Ramil Guliyev	TUR	19.76	20.85	Ondřej Macík	Banská Bystrica 20 Jul	
2	Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake	GBR	20.04	20.95	Tomáš Němejč	Marsa 8 Jul	
3	Alex Wilson	SUI	20.04	5	20.95	Pavel Maslák	CZE Tábor 30 Jul
2019 World							
1	Noah Lyles	USA	19.83				
2	Andre De Grasse	CAN	19.95				
3	Alex Quiñónez	ECU	19.98				
2021 Olympic							
1	Andre De Grasse	CAN	19.62				
2	Kenny Bednarek	USA	19.68				
3	Noah Lyles	USA	19.74				
2022 World				Europe All Time			
1	Noah Lyles	USA	19.31	1	19,72A	Pietro Mennea	ITA Ciudad de México 12 Sep 1979
2	Kenny Bednarek	USA	19.77	2	19.73	Zharnel Hughes	GBR London 23 Jul 2023
3	Erriyon Knighton	USA	19.80	3	19.76	Ramil Guliyev	TUR Berlin 9 Aug 2018
2022 Europe				4	19.80	Christophe Lemaitre	FRA Daegu 3 Sep 2011
1	Zharnel Hughes	GBR	20.07	5	19.81	Churandy Martina	NED Lausanne 25 Aug 2016
2	Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake	GBR	20.17	6	19.85	Konstadínos Kedéris	GRE München 9 Aug 2002
3	Filippo Tortu	ITA	20.27				

