

Athletic season 2023

To date, Jakub Vadlejch has competed at 13 major championships at global and continental level. At the 14th time of asking, could it finally be his moment to hit the bullseye? The 2023 form book would suggest that there is a pretty good chance.

The 32-year-old pride of the Dukla Prague club that once boasted the imperious Czech king of distance running, Emil Zatopek, is the world leader thanks to a 89.51m throw at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku on 13 June. He also boasts the year's fourth and fifth best throws, 88.63m and 88.38m, and finished his preparations for his sixth World Championships with a victory in the Monaco Diamond League meeting on 21 July.

Vadlejch won with 85.95m in Monte Carlo ahead of Julian Weber's 84.23m, his third victory in four head-to-heads this year against the German who snatched the European title from his grasp in Munich twelve months ago. He also got the better of Anderson Peters, the Grenadian who retained the world title in Oregon last year, for the fourth time in four encounters in 2023.

It is six years now since Vadlejch came close to claiming the world title that his long-time coach and mentor Jan Zelezny captured in 1993, 1995 and 2001. In London in 2017 he was beaten by 16cm by Weber's former German teammate Johannes Vetter. He also took Olympic silver in Tokyo behind India's Neeraj Chopra, and world bronze in Oregon in 2022, behind Peters and Chopra.

Peters headed to Oregon last year as the clear favourite and was a class apart in the final, landing three 90m-plus throws. In 2023 his form has been fitful as he seeks to emulate Zelezny as a three-time world champion.

He stands sixth on the world list with 85.88m, which he threw for third place behind Chopra (88.67m) and Vadlejch (88.63) in the opening Diamond League meeting in Doha on 5 May. Fifth in Ostrava and Lausanne and fourth in Monaco, he has only won once on the European circuit, in Dessau in June.

On form, Weber and Chopra look to be the biggest threats to Vadlejch.

Weber stands second on the world list with the 88.72m throw that won him the German title in Kassel on 8 July and beat Vadlejch in Lausanne, finishing runner up to Chopra. Having filled fourth place in Oregon last year and at the Tokyo Olympics, the man from Mainz will be on a global medal mission in Budapest.

Chopra's winning throw in Lausanne, 88.67m, puts him third on the world list. In fact, the Olympic champion heads to Hungary with an unbeaten record, the Diamond League in Doha having been his only other competition in 2023.

Aside from Vadlejch, Weber, Chopra and Peters, three other potential podium contenders have ventured beyond 85 metres.

Nine-time Belgian champion Timothy Herman threw 88.67m at the Kip Keino Classic in Nairobi back on 13 May but has managed a best of only 81.67m since then. The Finn Oliver Helander, eighth in Oregon last year, threw 87.32m as runner-up to Vadlejch in Turku.

Keshorn Walcott, the 2012 Olympic champion from Trinidad and Tobago, threw 85.85m at Kuortane on 17 June and took third place behind Vadlejch and Weber in Monaco. Hungary has yet to produce a medal winner in the event but the home crowd in the magnificent new National Athletics Centre will get the chance to see a potential podium contender, of the near future if not quite the present, in György Herczeg.

On 9 August, the day after his 19th birthday, the dynamic teenager claimed the European U20 title in Jerusalem. His winning throw was 79.45m – modest in comparison with the monster effort of 84.98m that he unleashed in the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze meeting at Eisenstadt in Austria on 26 July.

It eclipsed the European U20 record of 84.69m held since 2011 by Latvia's Zigismunds Sirmajs that had stood since 2011. It was also a Hungarian record and the second farthest ever by an U20 athlete, bettered only by Chopra's 86.48m from the 2016 World U20 Championships.

Medal winners			Relevant records		
2008 Olympic			WR	98.48 Jan Železný	CZE Jena 25 May 1996
1	Andreas Thorkildsen	NOR 90.57	WJR	86.48 Neeraj Chopra	IND Bydgoszcz 23 Jun 2016
2	Ainars Kovals	LAT 86.64	Eur	98.48 Jan Železný	CZE Jena 25 May 1996
3	Tero Pitkämäki	FIN 86.16	USA	91.29 Breaux Greer	USA Indianapolis 21 Jun 2007
2009 World			Ame	93.07 Anderson Peters	GRN Doha 13 May 2022
1	Andreas Thorkildsen	NOR 89.59	Asi	91.36 Cheng Chao-Tsun	TPE Taipei 26 Aug 2017
2	Guillermo Martínez	CUB 86.41	Afr	92.72 Julius Yego	KEN Beijing 26 Aug 2015
3	Yukifumi Murakami	JPN 82.97	CZE	98.48 Jan Železný	CZE Jena 25 May 1996
2010 Europe			zatím 22 oštěpařů přes 90m		
1	Andreas Thorkildsen	NOR 88.37	All-time list		
2	Matthias De Zordo	GER 87.81	1	98.48 Jan Železný	CZE Jena 25 May 1996
3	Tero Pitkämäki	FIN 86.67	2	97.76 Johannes Vetter	GER Chorzów 6 Sep 2020
2011 World			3	93.90 Thomas Röhler	GER Doha 5 May 2017
1	Matthias de Zordo	GER 86.27	4	93.09 Aki Parviainen	FIN Kuortane 26 Jun 1999
2	Andreas Thorkildsen	NOR 84.78	5	93.07 Anderson Peters	GRN Doha 13 May 2022
3	Guillermo Martínez	CUB 84.30	6	92.72 Julius Yego	KEN Beijing 26 Aug 2015
2012 Europe			7	92.61 Sergey Makarov	RUS Sheffield 30 Jun 2002
1	Vítězslav Veselý	CZE 83.72	8	92.60 Raymond Hecht	GER Oslo 21 Jul 1995
2	Valeriy Iordan	RUS 83.23	9	92.06 Andreas Hofmann	GER Offenburg 2 Jun 2018
3	Ari Mannio	FIN 82.63	10	91.69 Konstandínos Gatsiódís	GRE Kuortane 24 Jun 2000
2012 Olympic			11	91.59 Andreas Thorkildsen	NOR Oslo 2 Jun 2006
1	Keshorn Walcott	TTO 84.58	World season list		
2	Antti Ruuskanen	FIN 84.12	1	89.51 Jakub Vadlejch	CZE Turku 13 Jun
3	Vítězslav Veselý	CZE 83.34	2	88.72 Julian Weber	GER Kassel 8 Jul
2013 World			3	88.67 Neeraj Chopra	IND Doha 5 May
1	Vítězslav Veselý	CZE 87.17	4	87.35A Timothy Herman	BEL Nairobi 13 May
2	Tero Pitkämäki	FIN 87.07	5	87.32 Oliver Helander	FIN Turku 13 Jun
3	Dmitriy Tarabin	RUS 86.23	6	85.88 Anderson Peters	GRN Doha 5 May
2014 Europe			7	85.85 Keshorn Walcott	TTO Kuortane 17 Jun
1	Antti Ruuskanen	FIN 88.01	8	85.60 Aliaksei Katkavets	BLR Brest 1 Jul
2	Vítězslav Veselý	CZE 84.79	9	84.98 György Herczeg	HUN Eisenstadt 26 Jul
3	Tero Pitkämäki	FIN 84.40	10	84.75 Alexandru Novac	ROU Kinshasa 4 Aug
2015 World			11	84.38 Kishore Kumar Jena	IND Diyaqama 28 Jul
1	Julius Yego	KEN 92.72	European season list		
2	Ihab Abdelrahman	EGY 88.99	1	89.51 Jakub Vadlejch	CZE Turku 13 Jun
3	Tero Pitkämäki	FIN 87.64	2	88.72 Julian Weber	GER Kassel 8 Jul
2016 Europe			3	87.35A Timothy Herman	BEL Nairobi 13 May
1	Zigismunds Sirmajs	LAT 86.66	4	87.32 Oliver Helander	FIN Turku 13 Jun
2	Vítězslav Veselý	CZE 83.59	5	85.60 Aliaksei Katkavets	BLR Brest 1 Jul
3	Antti Ruuskanen	FIN 82.44	6	84.98 György Herczeg	HUN Eisenstadt 26 Jul
2016 Olympic			7	84.75 Alexandru Novac	ROU Kinshasa 4 Aug
1	Thomas Röhler	GER 90.30	8	84.37 Toni Kuusela	FIN Pihtipudas 2 Jul
2	Julius Yego	KEN 88.24	9	84.22 Edis Matusevičius	LTU Chorzów 22 Jun
3	Keshorn Walcott	TTO 85.38	10	84.06 Boris Bezdolny	RUS Chelyabinsk 5 Aug
2017 World			11	84.05 Patriks Gailums	LAT Bergamo 10 Jun
1	Johannes Vetter	GER 89.89	Czech season list		
2	Jakub Vadlejch	CZE 89.73	1	89.51 Jakub Vadlejch	CZE Turku 13 Jun
3	Petr Frydrych	CZE 88.32		88.63 Jakub Vadlejch	Doha 5 May
2018 Europe				88.38A Jakub Vadlejch	Potchefstroom 18 Apr
1	Thomas Röhler	GER 89.47		86.83 Jakub Vadlejch	Kuortane 17 Jun
2	Andreas Hofmann	GER 87.60		86.13 Jakub Vadlejch	Lausanne 30 Jun
3	Magnus Kirt	EST 85.96		85.95 Jakub Vadlejch	Monaco 21 Jul
2019 World				84.68 Jakub Vadlejch	Tábor 30 Jul
1	Anderson Peters	GRN 86.89		82.55 Jakub Vadlejch	Praha 5 Jun
2	Magnus Kirt	EST 86.21		81.93 Jakub Vadlejch	Ostrava 27 Jun
3	Johannes Vetter	GER 85.37	2	80.06 Martin Konečný	CZE Olomouc 8 May
2021 Olympic				76.80 Martin Konečný	Ostrava 27 Jun
1	Neeraj Chopra	IND 87.58			
2	Jakub Vadlejch	CZE 86.67			
3	Vítězslav Veselý	CZE 85.44			
2022 World					
1	Anderson Peters	GRN 90.54			
2	Neeraj Chopra	IND 88.13			
3	Jakub Vadlejch	CZE 88.09			
2022 Europe					
1	Julian Weber	GER 87.66			
2	Jakub Vadlejch	CZE 87.28			
3	Lassi Etelätalo	FIN 86.44			

