

Athletic season 2023

As the reigning world and Olympic champions – and, quite simply, the most dominant 400m nation in the world – it's difficult to look past the USA in the men's 4x400m. They have won eight of the past nine world titles in this event, and they could well add to that tally in Budapest, provided they don't have any mishaps. Even if they spread some of their 400m talent pool to the mixed 4x400m, they will likely still have better depth in the men's 4x400m than any other nation in the world. But sometimes relays can bring out the unexpected best in people, and smaller nations challenge the athletics superpowers. Jamaica has earned silver in this event at the past two World Championships, both times finishing just ahead of Belgium. The current standard of Jamaican 400m running certainly suggests the Caribbean nation could once again challenge for a medal in Budapest. Belgium, meanwhile, hasn't had its best year of 400m running, but experience can count for a lot in relays, so they can't be discounted. The Netherlands and Botswana took silver and bronze at the Olympic Games in 2021, and both teams should also be a factor in Budapest. Botswana boasts four sub-45-second performers this year, so they have the potential to break 3:00. No Dutch 400m runner has bettered 45 seconds this season – but, then again, Terrence Agard had a season's best of 46.01 in 2021, yet went on to run a 43.7-second split at the Tokyo Olympics. Several area champions will also be in action in Budapest. Great Britain won the European title in Munich last year, finishing ahead of Belgium and France in a close race. They'll also be keen to make amends in Budapest, after not qualifying in this discipline at the last World Championships. Trinidad & Tobago, the world 4x400m champions in 2017, won gold at the recent Central American & Caribbean Games with a squad that was anchored by world indoor champion Jereem Richards. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, took a surprise gold at the recent Asian Championships in a national record of 3:01.56, making them the second-fastest team heading to Budapest. Japan finished fourth in Oregon last year, setting an Asian record of 2:59.51 and finishing ahead of Trinidad & Tobago and Botswana. Individually, Japan's 400m depth this year is significantly better than it was in 2022, so they could contend for a place on the podium. Italy, France and Poland have all made global finals in recent years, so they'll be among the teams to watch in the final. India, who narrowly missed the Olympic final in Tokyo but recently claimed silver at the Asian Championships, could also be among the contenders.

Medal winners				Relevant records			
<b>2015 World</b>				WR	2:54.29	United States	USA Stuttgart 22/8/93
1 United States				(Valmon Andrew, Watts Quincy, Reynolds Harry, Johnson Michael)			
David Verburg, Tony McQuay, Bryshon Nellum, LaShawn Merritt				Eur	2:56.60	Great Britain & N.I.	GBR Atlanta, GA 03 08 1996
2 Trinidad and Tobago				(Thomas Iwan, Baulch Jamie, Richardson Mark, Black Roger)			
Rennie Quow, Lalonde Gordon, Deon Lendore, Machel Cedenio				Ame	2:54.29	United States	USA Stuttgart 22/8/93
3 Great Britain				(Valmon Andrew, Watts Quincy, Reynolds Harry, Johnson Michael)			
Rabah Yousif, Delano Williams, Jarryd Dunn, Martyn Rooney				***	2:54.20	United States	USA Uniondale 22 07 1998
2016 World indoor				(Young Jerome, Pettigrew Antonio, Washington Tyree, Johnson Michael)			
1 United States				<b>All-time list</b>			
Kyle Clemons, Calvin Smith, Chris Giesting, Vernon Norwood				1	2:54.29	United States	1 Stuttgart (GER) 22 AUG 1993
2 Bahamas				Andrew Valmon, Quincy Watts, Butch Reynolds, Michael Johnson			
Michael Mathieu, Alonzo Russell, Shavez Hart, Chris Brown				2	2:56.60	Great Britain & NI	2 Atlanta, GA (USA) 03 AUG 1996
3 Trinidad and Tobago				Iwan Thomas, Jamie Baulch, Mark Richardson, Roger Black			
Jarrin Solomon, Lalonde Gordon, Ade Alleyne-Forde, Deon Lendore				3	2:56.72	Bahamas	1 London (GBR) 10 AUG 2012
2016 Europe				Chris Brown, Demetrius Pinder, Michael Mathieu, Ramon Miller			
1 Belgium				4	2:56.75	Jamaica	2 Athina (GRE) 10 AUG 1997
Julien Watrin, Jonathan Borlée, Dylan Borlée, Kevin Borlée				Michael McDonald, Greg Houghton, Danny McFarlane, Davian Clarke			
2 Poland				5	2:57.18	Netherlands	2 Tokyo (JPN) 07 AUG 2021
Lukasz Krawczuk, Kacper Kozłowski, Jakub Krzewina, Rafał Omelko				Liemarvin Bonevacia, Terrence Agard, Tony van Diepen, Ramsey Angela			
3 Great Britain				6	2:57.27	Botswana	3 Tokyo (JPN) 07 AUG 2021
Rabah Yousif, Delano Williams, Jack Green, Matthew Hudson-Smith				Isaac Makwala, Baboloki Thebe, Zibani Ngozi, Bayapo Ndori			
2016 Olympic				7	2:57.72	Adidas	1f1 Gainesville, FL (US) 16 APR 2022
1 United States				Steven Gardiner, Quincy Hall, Erriyon Knighton, Grant Holloway			
Arman Hall, Tony McQuay, Gil Roberts, LaShawn Merritt				8	2:57.74	Florida	1 Austin, TX (USA) 09 JUN 2023
2 Jamaica				Emmanuel Bamidele, Jacory Patterson, Jevaughn Powell, Ryan Willie			
Peter Matthews, Nathon Allen, Fitzroy Dunkley, Javon Francis				9	2:57.78	Arizona State	2 Austin, TX (USA) 09 JUN 2023
3 Bahamas				Dubem Nwachukwu, Jeremiah Curry, Jalen Drayden, Justin Robinson			
Alonzo Russell, Michael Mathieu, Steven Gardiner, Chris Brown				10	2:57.88	Belgium	4 Tokyo (JPN) 07 AUG 2021
2017 Europe indoor				Alexander Doom, Jonathan Sacoor, Dylan Borlée, Kevin Borlée			
1 Poland				11	2:58.00	Poland	GWG Uniondale NY 22 Jul 1998
Kacper Kozłowski, Lukasz Krawczuk, Przemysław Waściński, Rafał Omelko				Piotr Ryszkiewicz, Tomasz Czubak, Piotr Haczek, Robert Maćkowiak			
2 Belgium				<b>World season list</b>			
Robin Vanderbenden, Julien Watrin, Kevin Borlée, Dylan Borlée				1	2:57.74	Florida	MIX Austin TX 9 Jun
Czech Republic				Emmanuel Bamidele NGR, Jacory Patterson USA, Jevaughn Powell JAM, Ryan Willie USA			
Patrik Šorm, Jan Tesářík, Jan Kubista, Pavel Maslák				2	2:57.78	Arizona State	USA Austin TX 9 Jun
2017 World				Dubem Nwachukwu, Jeremiah Curry, Jalen Drayden, Justin Robinson			
1 Trinidad and Tobago				3	2:58.01	Alabama	MIX Baton Rouge LA 13 May
Jarrin Solomon, Jereem Richards, Machel Cedenio, Lalonde Gordon				Chris Robinson USA, Khaleb McRae USA, Tarsis Orogot UGA, Corde Long USA			
2 United States				4	2:58.82	Georgia	USA Austin TX 1 Apr
Will London, Gil Roberts, Michael Cherry, Fred Kerley				Elija Godwin, Matthew Belling, Caleb Cavanaugh, Will Sumner			
3 Great Britain				5	2:59.25	UCLA	MIX Austin TX 1 Apr
Matthew Hudson-Smith, Dwayne Cowan, Rabah Yousif, Martyn Rooney				Matt Nortje RSA, Willington Wright USA, Ismail Turner USA, Cameron Reynolds USA			
2018 World indoor				6	2:59.78	Clemson	MIX Austin TX 7 Jun
1 Poland				Wanya McCoy BAH, D'Andre Anderson JAM, Aman Thornton USA, Tarees Rhoden JAM			
Karol Zaleski, Rafał Omelko, Lukasz Krawczuk, Jakub Krzewina				7	3:00.58	Baylor	MIX Austin TX 7 Jun
2 United States				Demar Francis JAM, Nathaniel Ezekiel NGR, Hasani Barr USA, Dillon Bedell USA			
Fred Kerley, Michael Cherry, Aldrich Bailey, Vernon Norwood				8	3:00.88	Texas A&M	USA Austin TX 7 Jun
3 Belgium				Eric Hemphill, Omajuwa Etiwe, DeMarco Escobar, Auhmad Robinson			
Dylan Borlée, Jonathan Borlée, Jonathan Sacoor, Kevin Borlée				9	3:00.97	Arkansas	USA Austin TX 7 Jun
2018 Europe				Lance Lang, James Benson II, Connor Washington, Chris Bailey			
1 Belgium				10	3:01.56	Sri Lanka	SRI Bangkok 16 Jul
Dylan Borlée, Jonathan Borlée, Jonathan Sacoor, Kevin Borlée				S.P.Aruna Darshana, Rajitha Niranjan Rajakaruna, Pabasara Niku, H.K. Kalinga Kumarage			
2 Great Britain				11	3:01.62	Italy	ITA Annecy 11 Jun
Rabah Yousif, Dwayne Cowan, Matthew Hudson-Smith, Martyn Rooney				Lorenzo Benati, Edoardo Scotti, Brayán Lopez, Alessandro Sibillo			
3 Spain				<b>Results:</b>			
Óscar Husillos, Lucas Búa, Samuel García, Bruno Hortelano				400m	6 March		Indoor
2019 Europe indoor						1	
1 Belgium						2	
Julien Watrin, Dylan Borlée, Jonathan Borlée, Kevin Borlée						3	
2 Spain						4	
Óscar Husillos, Manuel Guíjarro, Lucas Bua, Bernat Erta						5	
3 France						6	
Mame-Ibra Anne, Thomas Jordier, Nicolas Courbiere, Fabrisio Saldy							
2019 World							
1 United States				USA	2:56.69		
Fred Kerley, Michael Cherry, Will London, Rai Benjamin						1	
2 Jamaica				JAM	2:57.90		
Akeem Bloomfield, Nathon Allen, Terry Thomas, Demish Gaye						2	
3 Belgium				BEL	2:58.78		
Jonathan Sacoor, Robin Vanderbenden, Dylan Borlée, Kevin Borlée						3	
2021 Europe indoor						4	
1 Nederland				NED	3:06.06		
Jochem Dobber 46.68, Liemarvin Bonevacia 46.64, Ramsey Angela 46.49, Tony van Diepen 46.25						5	
2 Czechia				CZE	3:06.54		
Vit Müller 47.08, Pavel Maslák 46.24, Michal Dešenský 46.93, Patrik Šorm 46.29						6	
3 Great Britain				GBR	3:06.70		
Joe Brier 47.43, Owen Smith 47.05, James Williams 46.09, Lee Thompson 46.13							
2021 Olympic							
1 United States				USA	2:55.70		
Michael Cherry, Michael Norman, Bryce Deadmon, Rai Benjamin						1	
2 Nederland				NED	2:57.18		
Liemarvin Bonevacia, Terrence Agard, Tony van Diepen, Ramsey Angela						2	
3 Botswana				BOT	2:57.27		
Isaac Makwala, Baboloki Thebe, Zibani Ngozi, Bayapo Ndori						3	
2022 World indoor						4	
1 Belgium				BEL	3:06.52		
Julien Watrin, Alexander Doom, Jonathan Sacoor, Kevin Borlée						5	
2 Spain				ESP	3:06.82		
Bruno Hortelano, Iñaki Cañal, Manuel Guíjarro, Bernat Erta						6	
3 Nederland				NED	3:06.90		
Taymir Burnet, Nick Smidt, Terrence Agard, Tony van Diepen							
2022 World							
1 United States				USA	2:56.17		
Elija Godwin, Michael Norman, Bryce Deadmon, Champion Allison							
2 Jamaica				JAM	2:58.58		
Akeem Bloomfield, Nathon Allen, Jevaughn Powell, Christopher Taylor							
3 Belgium				BEL	2:58.72		
Dylan Borlée, Julien Watrin, Alexander Doom, Kevin Borlée							
2022 Europe							
1 Great Britain				GBR	2:59.35		
Matthew Hudson-Smith, Charlie Dobson, Lewis Davey, Alex Haydock-Wilson							
2 Belgium				BEL	2:59.49		
Alexander Doom, Julien Watrin, Kevin Borlée, Dylan Borlée							
3 France				FRA	2:59.64		
Gilles Biron, Loïc Prévôt, Teo Andant, Thomas Jordier							
2023 Europe indoor							
1 Belgium				BEL	3:05.83		
Dylan Borlée, Alexander Doom, Kevin Borlée, Julien Watrin							
2 France				FRA	3:06.52		
Gilles Biron, Teo Andant, Victor Coroller, Muhammad Abdalla Kounta							
3 Nederland				NED	3:06.59		
Isayah Boers, Isaya Klein Ikkink, Ramsey Angela, Liemarvin Bonevacia							

