

T&FN's WOMEN'S ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Track & Field News began formally choosing an Athlete Of The Year on the men's side in 1959. Our World Rankings began with the 1947 season, but for that year through the '58 campaign, the concept of an AOY didn't exist. The Women's AOY was added to the mix in 1974.

The all-time No. 1s, with the event(s) in which they made the World Rankings that year (if the events are out of order, it reflects the existence of a "primary" event):

1970s

1974.....	Irena Szewińska (Poland)	.....	100, 200, 400
1975.....	Faina Melnik (Soviet Union)	.....	Shot, Discus
1976.....	Tatyana Kazankina (Soviet Union)	.....	800, 1500/Mile
1977.....	Rosie Ackermann (East Germany)	High Jump
1978.....	Marita Koch (East Germany)	100, 200, 400
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1980s

1980.....	Ilona Briesenick (East Germany)	Shot
1981.....	Evelyn Ashford (USA)	100, 200
1982.....	Marita Koch (East Germany)	.....	100, 200, 400
1983.....	Jarmila Kratochvílová (Czechoslovakia)	.....	200, 400, 800
1984.....	Evelyn Ashford (USA)	.....	100
1985.....	Marita Koch (East Germany)	.....	100, 200, 400
1986.....	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	.....	Heptathlon, Long Jump
1987.....	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	..	Heptathlon, 100 Hurdles, LJ
1988.....	Florence Griffith Joyner (USA)	.....	100, 200
1989.....	Ana Quirot (Cuba)	.....	400, 800

1990s

1990.....	Merlene Ottey (Jamaica)	.....	100, 200
1991.....	Heike Henkel (Germany)	.....	High Jump
1992.....	Heike Drechsler (Germany)	.....	Long Jump
1993.....	Junxia Wang (China)	.....	1500/Mile, 10,000, Marathon
1994.....	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	.....	Hept, 100H, Long Jump
1995.....	Sonia O'Sullivan (Ireland)	.....	1500/Mile, 5000
1996.....	Svetlana Masterkova (Russia)	.....	800, 1500/Mile

1997.....Marion Jones (USA)100, 200
 1998.....Marion Jones (USA) 100, 200, Long Jump
 1999.....Gabriela Szabo (Romania).....1500/Mile, 5000

2000s

2000*Stacy Dragila (USA).....Pole Vault
 2001.....Stacy Dragila (USA).....Pole Vault
 2002.....Paula Radcliffe (Great Britain)..... 5000, 10,000, Marathon
 2003.....Maria Mutola (Mozambique)800
 2004.....Yelena Isinbayeva (Russia).....Pole Vault
 2005.....Yelena Isinbayeva (Russia).....Pole Vault
 2006.....Sanya Richards (USA).....200, 400
 2007.....Meseret Defar (Ethiopia)5000, 10,000
 2008.....to be announced, December

** = Jones also led the voting in 2000, but was retroactively stripped of the AOY honor after her drug-use testimony; many believe—even though there’s unfortunately no hard evidence—that she was also using in her AOY seasons of ’97 & ’98, something she has not admitted.*

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