



## THE GENDER GAP

# Making up for lost time

Women made their debut in Olympic track and field events in 1928. Since then the gap in performance between the sexes has been closing at a startling rate, with women's times advancing at up to three times the pace of the men



### 100 metres

1928 Men – 10.8 P Williams (CAN)

1928 Women – 12.2 E Robinson (USA)

1988 Men – 9.92 C Lewis (USA)

1988 Women – 10.49 F Griffith Joyner (USA)



Difference in Olympic record times  
between male and female runners

1928 1.4secs

1988 0.57secs

### Marathon (26 miles 385 yards)

This race was not accepted as a women's Olympic event until 1984. Ingrid Kristiansen's 1985 time of 2:21:06 is nearly 80 minutes faster than the women's record of 1926 while the men's record has been improved by only 22 minutes since 1925



1925 Men – 2:29:01.8 A Michelsen (USA)

1926 Women – 3:40:22 V Piercy (GBR)



1967 Men – 2:09:36.4 D Clayton (AUS)

1967 Women – 3:07:26.2 A Pedersen (FRG)



Difference in world best performances  
between male and female runners

1 hour  
11mins



58mins



17mins



1981 Men – 2:08:18 R de Castella (AUS)

1980 Women – 2:25:41.3 G Waitz (NOR)

1988 Men – 2:06:50 B Densimo (ETH)

1985 Women – 2:21:06 I Kristiansen (NOR)



14mins

