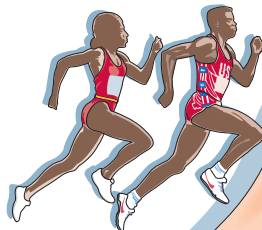




THE GENDER GAP

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 Pede-Erdkamp (FRG)



Difference in world best performances between male and female runners

1 hour 11mins



58mins

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

1980 Women – 2:25:41.3 G Waitz (NOR)



17mins



1988 Men – 2:06:50 B Densimo (ETH)

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



14mins

