

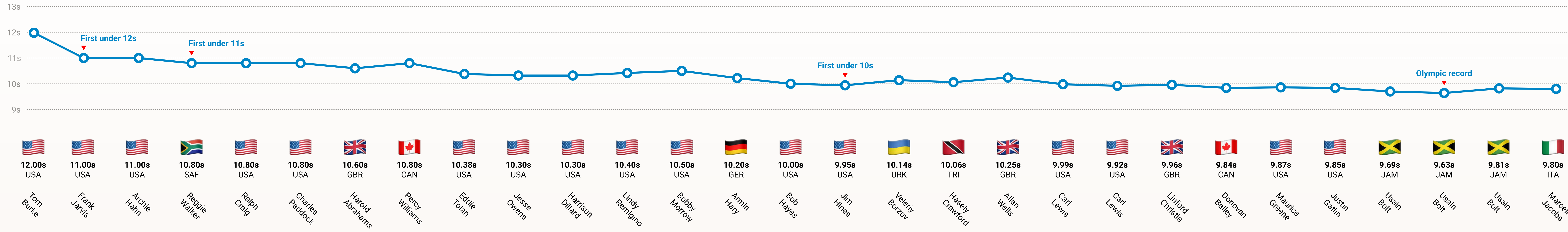
Change over time: The Olympic Games / A visualization by Nathan Smith / ADES 5450, Fall 2021

125 years of the 100 meter dash – Times have gradually decreased from 12 seconds, to the 9+ second range

Usain Bolt also holds the 100m world record of 9.58 seconds, which he set at the World Championships in 2009.



Usain Bolt has a career 8 gold Olympic medals. He is the only 100m sprinter to win gold in three Olympic games.



Discontinued: Tug-of-war & Pistol duels

Some of the earlier Summer Olympics featured tug-of-war as a team sport. Most athletes competed in other events as well. It was eventually discontinued after the final competition at the 1920 games.

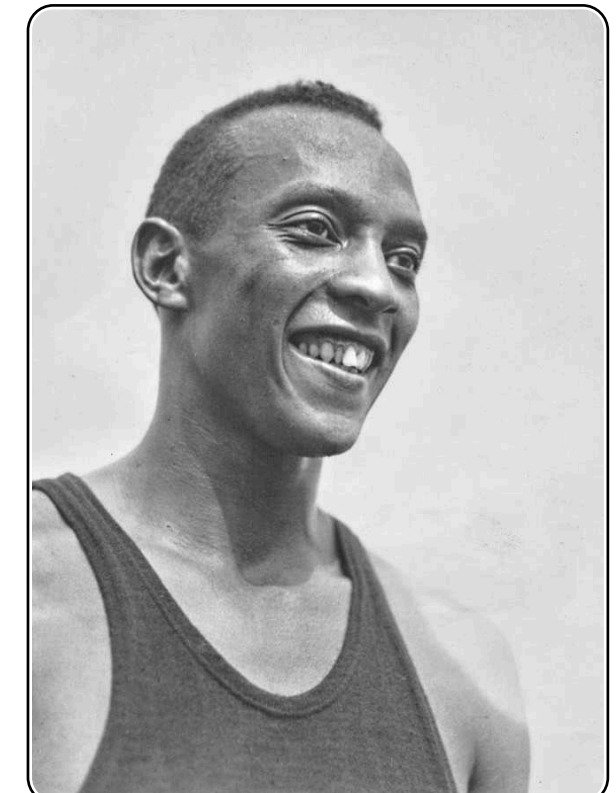
In 1908 there was also an unofficial pistol dueling event, which used wax bullets.



1916 - Games cancelled

Neither the Summer nor Winter Olympic games ever happened.

They were planned to be hosted in Berlin. Ultimately, they had to be cancelled due to the ensuing conflict during World War I.



1936 - Defying white supremacy

Admistr pressure to boycott the games due to Nazi control of Germany, American athlete Jesse Owens won 4 gold medals.

Owens would not receive formal recognition of his accomplishments by the White House until 1976. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Gerald Ford.



1952 - Women's vault added

In the early years, doing a simple cartwheel during the vault would be good enough to earn Olympic gold.

Nowadays, gymnasts like Simone Biles do nearly impossible twisting flips. She continues to push the sport forward, to the point where she has several moves named after her. Because no other competitors are able to land them.



1998 - Snowboarding added

Snowboarding was introduced in 1998. It was featured during the games hosted in Nagano.

1936 - Downhill skiing added

Alpine skiing first made its debut at the Winter Olympics in 1936 and has continued to be a staple sport.



Lindsey Vonn is the most decorated female skier in history.

In total, including her Olympic medals and other world level events, she has won:

- 85 gold medals
- 38 silver medals
- 25 bronze medals

NOTE: From 1900 to 1912, the Nordic Games were held as a precursor to the modern Winter Olympics. After an initial integration of winter sports into the overall Olympics, the two were split into separate summer and winter events. They occurred in the same year until 1992, when a 2-year stagger was introduced. The next Winter Olympics was in 1994, then 1998, 2002, etc.

