

GONE WITH THE WIND ...

**WORLD ATHLETICS AND THE
ATHLETICS WORLDS**



**RAMONA ,
the larger picture !**

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Sport being a social event , it has always been reflecting (sometimes caricaturing) the specificity of the human societies around the world and along the history.

In the Ancient times , it was praising the concept of the perfect human in relation to the image of Gods. The competition was to become an Olympic champion and Olympic champions were treated like Gods , having their statues and the recognition of their fellow citizens.



500 B.C. Discus Throw

But the Antique societies became decadent and corrupt and disappeared...

And so did the ancient concept of sport when the rules and officials were not anymore strict and left the door open to all sorts of cheatings .

Since the “Modern renovation” of the Olympics , the same story started again. New society , new philosophy , new rules , new sport ...OK...

...But the same causes have produced the same effects. ...

In a society of excesses ; excesses of production , of consumption , of religions , of nationalisms , or behaviours , of bureaucracy , of inequalities , of money power , of results at all costs, of multi culturalism and globalisation ...

Athletics, a sport of excesses if there is one, is the disturbing mirror of the modern world.

Athletics philosophy is now not anymore only about winning competitions, but about achieving extreme performances with extreme means. Performances that are called “records” and are supposed to be the proudness of human kind .

As if a performance achieved one time by one individual was really reflecting the merits of millions of people !!!



So, a sport of excesses needs records and performances to justify its existence at the major competitions which are the marketing storefront of its activity and reason of being.

**Sports are now a part of the world of business
And this explains (or excuses ?) a lot of excesses :
excesses of training , excesses of nationalisms , excesses of ephemeral glories , excesses of prize money , excesses of recruitment and use of talents , excesses of enhancing drugs , excesses of technological “assistance” , excesses of mediatisation , excesses of political interferences , excesses of premature exploitation of the youth
...etc...etc...**

To tell the truth , there is an Excess of excesses !!!

And as a result , gaps have been building between the different levels and philosophies of practice . These gaps have split the sporting world into pieces.

There are now several worlds of athletics , clearly identified , completely different , and with less and less interrelations between them.

At the top of that is a structure called “World Athletics” with is supposed to rule over all these worlds with “equity” and care.

Obviously it does not...or not as well as could be expected !

The new World athletics priority is the “God Dollar” , which is the ruling God of the modern society. But , one cannot blame WA strategy as it has to live with the times . If you don’t make money , you are not going to survive in the competition between sports .

So you have to sell yourself and deal with sponsors , television rights , managers, sport equipment industry etc...

But do you have to sell your soul in the process ?



In fact , the society is not only a world of excesses ...but also , in the same time , a world of laxity . “The unjust force of the law ” was saying the former French president François MITTERRAND.

And this "philosophy" is just likely to allow to more excesses, more frustrations, more excuses for more asocial behaviours , more cheating ...



This is unfortunately also the trend in the sporting worlds, and especially track and field where, rules are now constantly going in the same permissive direction. One prefers to allow for changing the rules instead of applying them seriously , allow for more invasive technological doping , for outside help , for abnormal practices , for “fake” competitions etc...

What many people consider as a succession of “progresses” In performances is too often a succession of renunciation .The apparent brilliant results and records hide in fact the stagnation and even an irremediable decline .

***Like in the ancient circus games ,
You need always more to satisfy the crowd !***

Everybody knows about the last very arguable “reforms” accepted by World Athletics : the “foul” rule in the rotational throws , the use of “trampoline” shoes , the use of electronic pace makers, the use of more and more “rebounding synthetic surfaces ...etc...

And, be patient, there will be more to come !

What is happening in Ramona , in this very little specific world , fits in the general picture and the general trend of something a lot bigger that exceed our powers to change anything.

In Ramona , it's a flight forward for the discusses but it may be a flight backward for the discus throw ! Every time a record is broken by a member of a little privileged elite , all the performances of all the other throwers of all the times of the discus throw history are devaluated ?

Devaluated ! Why ?

An example : not so long ago a 60m throw , let alone a 65m , was considered a bloody good throw , world class ! (*Normally to achieve such a throw you had to be able to produce a release velocity between 24 and 26m/sec, plus, of course, the proper release angle , tilting angle and rotation spin*) .



Notes: There are records of higher release velocities (Lars Riedel 30m+ /sec – probably a few others)) - Alekna release velocities in his 2025 74.35m world record throws series were between 25.4m/sec and 26.9m/sec . We could not find the data of his 75,56m in 2025

Now these distances have lost some of their brilliance and consideration....and a former 60m or 65m thrower can suddenly become a 70m thrower (if not more) in a matter of a few days with “competitions” and throws attempts at will !

In history , discus throwers have always been looking for wind spots. The question is not new. But yesterdays winds were the same like to days winds.

So why are the performances rocketing ?

The normal reason for better performances should be an increase of his throwing specific power and delivery speed. An improvement of the athletes.

But ,obviously it is NOT ! These data are relatively constant and similar



SO, YES, THE WIND DO THE JOB ,or a better combination of factors to use this wind

Is that what we really want : to be more and more depending on the wind ?


We cannot deny the performances in RAMONA . Big distances have been “really” achieved, They are remarkable. They are even “exceptional” or all significations of the term.

BUT : Will too many too good performance kill the performances ?

Or will the records have to be reserved for some artificial opportunities restricted to a limited elite, at some places and some periods of the year ?

The real problem is what will come next !!!





The discus throw is a marvellous cultural event whose history can be traced thousand of years back . It is an undisputable part of the track and field programme and maybe one of the most complex and the most aesthetic events in the Olympic stadium

(Of ALL stadiums over the world , of course).

We cannot stop the race toward always more extreme performances, but maybe we should control the excesses and set some guard “rules” when too many may becomes too much

***CAN WE KEEP THE RECORDS
AND SAVE THE SPIRIT ?***

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(Auckland 14-05-2026)