

Myer Prinstein

1878 - 1925



World Record progression

Long Jump World Record progression prior to 1900 Olympics:

- 7.17 Charles Reber, USA, 04 Jul 1891, Detroit
- 7.17 Charles Fry, GBR, 05 Mar 1893, Oxford
- 7.21 John Mooney, IRL, 05 Sep 1894, Mitchelstown
- 7.235 Meyer Prinstein, USA, 11 Jun 1898, New York
- 7.25 William Newburn, IRL, 18 Jul 1898, Dublin
- 7.33 William Newburn, IRL, 16 Jul 1898, Dublin
- 7.48? William Newburn, IRL, 19 Jul 1898, Mullingate
- 7.40 Alvin Kraenzlein, USA, 29 Apr 1899, Philadelphia
- 7.42 Alvin Kraenzlein, USA, 26 May 1899, New York
- 7.43 Alvin Kraenzlein, USA, 26 May 1899, New York
- 7.50 Meyer Prinstein, USA, 28 Apr 1900, Philadelphia

Chionis of Sparta 656 BCE: 23 ' 1½ ”

CB Fry 1893: 23 ' 6½ ”

Prinstein 1898: 23' 8⁷/₈“

Prinstein 1900: 24 ' 7¼”

Beginnings



- Born Mejer Prinsztejn, December 22, 1878
 - in Szczuczyn, Poland
 - third of nine children
 - parents emigrated to New York in 1883
 - Meyer was raised in Syracuse, NY
 - captain of the Syracuse University track team

The great rivalry



Prinstein



Kraenzlein

Prinstein and Kraenzlein met three times in 1900:

- Prinstein opened with a world record of 24-7¼ (7.50) at the Penn Relays
- then Kraenzlein took the Inter-Collegiate title
- setting the stage for the Olympic clash

1900 Olympic Competition

14 July: Long Jump Qualifying 15 July: Final

- After the qualifying round, Prinstein held a narrow lead - 23' 6½" (on a poor-quality grass field)
- He joined many team-mates in not competing the following day, Sunday. He claimed he had an agreement with Kraenzlein that neither would compete in the final
- Kraenzlein returned for the final and beat Prinstein's earlier mark by ¼"
- Prinstein punched Kraenzlein, but the two were pulled apart before a fight developed
- 16 July: Hop, Step and Jump
- Prinstein took gold medal with 47' 5¾"



Prinstein in 1900

Remaining Olympic Competition



Prinstein competing in
1904 Olympic long jump

- At the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis, he won the long jump and the hop, step and jump on the same day
 - the only athlete ever to win both events in the same games.
 - also came 5th in both the 60 m and 400 m dash
- In Athens 1906 he again won the long jump
 - beating world record holder Peter O'Connor
 - though O'Connor protested that the only event judge was the American team manager

Finale

- Prinstein won the AAU long jump title four times between 1898 and 1906
- Prinstein retired from athletics after 1906. He practiced law in New York
- He died in of heart disease in 1925



MYER PRINSTEIN, OF THE AMERICAN TEAM, WINNER OF THE
RUNNING BROAD JUMP.
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Competing in 1906 Olympics