

World Merit Rankings 2013 by Stuart Mazdon

Note that these rankings are not the opinion of the NUTS, but the personal opinion of Stuart Mazdon, a NUTS member.

Note that in the associated spreadsheets, because only the top 15 are listed, the points for athletes outside the top 10 may imply a different order. However, the full top 20 rankings were derived using at least a top 25, so athletes could score merit against a wider range of athletes.

Women

100m

1. Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (JAM). 4-1 v Okagbare, 4-0 v Ahoure.
 2. Blessing Okagbare (NGR). Only 6th at the Worlds, but she was 3-1 v Ahoure and faster than everyone except SAFF.
 3. Murielle Ahoure (CIV). Similar times to Jeter, Gardner, Stewart and Pierre, but she had more merit, had winning margins against all of them (including 3-0 v Gardner) and beat the three of them who were at the Worlds.
 4. Carmelita Jeter (USA). Very even with Gardner overall. They only met once, but that was at the year's biggest meeting, so that has to be decisive.
 5. English Gardner (USA). Her two times that look so fast were with winds of 1.8 and 1.7, so on times she was really very even with Ahoure, Jeter, Stewart and Pierre.
 6. Kerron Stewart (JAM). Very even with Pierre, but Stewart beat her 3-2 and Pierre didn't make the US team for Moscow where Stewart was 5th.
 7. Barbara Pierre (USA). 1-1 v Baptiste and 4-3 v Anderson. She was faster than those below her and had more merit than them, mainly due to her fast 2nd place in London.
 - nr? Kelly-Ann Baptiste (TRI). 1-1 with Pierre and never met Anderson. Behind Pierre due to the American's better merit and faster times. Ahead of Anderson as Baptiste had more merit from fewer meetings and better win-loss records, e.g. 2-1 v Ahoure and 2-0 v Gardner.
 8. Alexandria Anderson (USA). 3-1 v Russell and well ahead of her and others overall.
 9. Carrie Russell (JAM). Had a great end to her season, winning Zurich and being 3rd in the DL final (behind Anderson).
 10. Veronica Campbell-Brown (JAM). Although she beat Russell and other top-10 women in Kingston and Eugene, those were her only 2 races so she can rank no higher than 10th. 2-0 v Ahoure, but Ahoure had 7 races faster than those two once wind is taken into account.
 11. Octavious Freeman (USA). 8th at the Worlds and faster than the next 3 who didn't make the Worlds final.
 12. Ivet Lalova (BUL). Lots of merit between 1st Oslo and 2nd Sotteville. The next two were faster, except in the World semis.
 13. Verena Sailer (GER). Very even with Lemos by every measure. Sailer was faster in the World Champs semis.
 14. Ana Claudia Lemos Silva (BRA). She and Sailer were much faster than those ranked lower, and had as much merit, except compared to Lawson.
 - Then a big gap. Many of the rest had similar times, with the USA women getting more merit from meeting one another.
 15. Jeneba Tarmoh (USA). 4th at the US Champs, beating Pierre.
 16. Aurieyall Scott (USA). 6th at the US Champs and she beat Solomon at their only meeting, Gainesville. Won the WUG, but against limited opposition.
 17. Shalonda Solomon (USA). Similar times to Scott, Solomon's best meeting was Madrid. She missed the US Champs, so Scott's win over her proves decisive.
 18. Charonda Williams (USA). 2-0 v Lawson and 8th at the US Champs. Her best merit came from Linz, beating Anderson, Lawson and Calvert.
 19. Lekeisha Lawson (USA). Most of her merit comes from when others had bad days. She beat Jeter at the MSR, Russell in Reims, Anderson in Sotteville, Sailer in Berlin and Lalova in Zagreb. Also 4-0 v Calvert. Slower than the others in the top 20. Lost 0-2 to Tori Bowie, but Bowie was a lot slower on average, and those were two of Lawson's worst races.
 20. Schillonie Calvert (JAM). Lost to Felix in their only meeting, but Felix only had two races at 100m. She was best of the rest in the World Champs semis, 3-1 v Povh and 2-1 v Sheri-Ann Brooks.
- Franciela Das Gracias Krasucki had faster times than the last 6, but mostly in Sao Paulo. She only had one win over anyone in the top 20 (when Sailer ran 11.44 in Lucerne) and only 2 other notable wins (v Povh and Lauryn Williams). She was also behind Calvert in their WC semi.

200m

1. Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (JAM). Lost a couple, but she had the fastest non-windy times and won the Worlds.
2. Murielle Ahoure (CIV). Only lost to SAFFP, 2-0 v Felix.
The next two are close, so the ranking depends on whether you treat Felix's dnf at the Worlds as a loss.
3. Blessing Okagbare (NGR). 3rd at the Worlds, her only meeting with Felix. Other than that she only gained merit from Birmingham, so she had less merit than Felix and was slower. However, Felix only had 4 wins over the top 9, whereas Okagbare had 7.
4. Allyson Felix (USA). Injured at the Worlds, but she had a lot of merit before then and was faster than Okagbare on average.
5. Kimberlyn Duncan (USA). Faster than Okagbare, and Duncan had slightly more merit. Despite her numerous races most of her merit came from the USA Champs, as her other victories were comparatively minor, and mostly over Kamaria Brown. Close to Okagbare overall, so the Nigerian gets it by making the Worlds final - Felix, Okagbare and Duncan were 1-2-3 in their WC semi.
The next 5 are close, well behind Duncan.
6. Jeneba Tarmoh (USA). Lots of merit from 3rd at the US Champs and 5th at the World, but she had little else and no legal times under 22.70.
7. Mariya Ryemyen (UKR). 3-0 v Townsend, she never met Solomon who was faster, but Ryemyen had a much better record against their rivals, e.g. 2-0 v Duncan.
8. Tiffany Townsend (USA). Significantly faster than all but the top-5, most of her merit comes from 2nd in Monaco.
9. Shaunae Miller (BAH). No merit other than 4th at the Worlds, as she lost her NC to Strachan and only ran in minor races otherwise. Townsend has almost as much merit just from Monaco and was much faster. Miller obviously has better win loss records, but they are all 1-0, so not decisive.
10. Shalonda Solomon (USA). 2-0 v Townsend, although one of those was a dsq for Townsend. She did well against those outside the top 10 (2-0 v Strachan, 3-0 v Moore), but not well enough against the top 9.
11. Veronica Campbell-Brown (JAM). Difficult to place with only 3 races. She only lost to unranked Hastings and had 2 fast times. She was 2-0 v Townsend but those were 2 of Townsend's 3 worst times. She had 7 wins over the top 20 (including Simpson) and no losses compared to 5 wins by Brown.
12. Kamaria Brown (USA). Most of her merit comes from 4th at the US Champs, beating Solomon and Townsend, but those two have much more merit elsewhere. She had 6 times faster than Williams's best of the year but 5 of those were windy.
13. Charonda Williams (USA). Very close with Strachan overall, and they were 1-1. Strachan was faster on average, but Williams was 0.01 ahead in their WC semi and 6th in the final. 1-6 v Townsend which doesn't compare well to Campbell-Brown's record (2-0) or Solomon's record (2-0).
14. Anthonique Strachan (BAH). Very close with Moore overall, but Strachan was faster and beat her at their only meeting in London.
15. LaShauntea Moore (USA). Also lost to McLaughlin in London, but Moore was only slightly slower than her on average, had more merit and a better record against rivals.
16. Anneisha McLaughlin (JAM). Her best run was in New York, beating Solomon and Townsend. Otherwise she had little merit, being only 8th in her WC semi.
17. Aurieyall Scott (USA). She was much faster than the next few and did well indoors and on the Collegiate circuit. But she didn't make the US Champs final.
18. Ivet Lalova (BUL). Much slower than the top 17, she only had 3 times under 23 seconds. But she had plenty of good merit, particularly from Rome and Birmingham. She beat McLaughlin in their WC semi, but the Jamaican only ran 27.13 there and had 6 legal times under 23 seconds. Similarly Lalova was 1-0 v Strachan, but that was when the Bahamian was disqualified and she had even faster times.
- nr? Sherone Simpson (JAM). Although she lost her only race with Stewart, Simpson had as much merit elsewhere and was a lot faster, with 5 times under 23 seconds, to Stewart's 2.
19. Kerron Stewart (JAM). Had 5 wins over the top 20 including 1-0 v Soumare.
20. Myriam Soumare (FRA). Only 3 wins over the top 20 (2-1 v Williams), but she was 2-0 v Onuora.
Octavious Freeman and Patricia Hall were faster than the last 3 and Simpson, but Freeman only had 1 win over the top 20 (when Stachan dnf) and Hall had none.

400m

1. Amantle Montsho (BOT). Lost the Worlds to Ohuruogu, but she beat her 5-2 overall and had the faster times by quite a margin.
2. Christine Ohuruogu (GBR). 5-2 v Hastings, but only 3-4 v McCorory. 1-1 v Krivoschapka, but Ohuruogu ran faster and had much more merit.
3. Antonina Krivoschapka (RUS). Only 1-1 v Hastings, but 2-0 v McCorory. The Americans had more merit, from running the circuit, but Krivoschapka was just as fast on average and beat them well at the Worlds.

4. Natasha Hastings (USA). 4-4 v McCorory, beating her at the 3 biggest meetings - US Champs, Worlds and DL Final.
5. Francena McCorory (USA). 2-2 v McPherson and they were even on Times. However, McCorory has much more merit with 9 wins over the top 4 (to McPherson's 2).
6. Stephanie McPherson (JAM). 4th at the Worlds, but well behind the top 5 here on merit and she was only 4-3 v Williams-Mills whereas McCorory was 7-0 v Williams-Mills.
7. Novlene Williams-Mills (USA). 1-1 v Ryzhova who was marginally faster and was ahead at the Worlds. However, Williams-Mills had much more merit with 8 wins over the top 6 to Ryzhova's zero.
8. Kseniya Ryzhova (RUS). Much faster than those below her and 7th at the Worlds. Had some poor runs after the Worlds, so she ended up 1-2 v Grenot, but those two losses were with her two slowest times of the year. She had 6 times under 51 seconds to Grenot's 1 and was 0.7 sec faster than her on average.
9. Ashley Spencer (USA). Ranked largely on times, she was much faster than those below her and was 3rd at the US Champs. Her only win over the top 15 was beating Beard at the trials.
10. Perri Shakes-Drayton (GBR). Beat Zadorina 2-0, including at the Euro Teams Cup. Just as fast as Zadorina, with most of PSD's times from indoors and Zadorina didn't race enough to gain more merit than PSD.
11. Kseniya Zadorina (RUS). Russian Champion, beating Ryzhova, she was faster than Grenot on average and beat her at the European Teams Cup in a time that Grenot only beat once all year.
12. Jessica Beard (USA). 4 wins over the top 8, most notably in Padua running her fastest time and beating McPherson, Ryzhova and Grenot there. Slower than the rest of the top 20, but with much more merit. Beat Grenot 2-0 including at their only outdoor meeting in a time that Grenot only beat once all year.
13. Allyson Felix (USA). Only 1 race, but that gave her 3 wins over the top 5, whereas Ryzhova, Spencer, PSD, Zadorina and Grenot had none and Beard had just 1. By comparison Grenot had 4 wins over the top 8, so perhaps comparable. Similarly Grenot's best time was not far behind Felix's and Grenot's backup times were well outside 51 seconds. Where Felix is much better than Grenot is on win-loss records, being 1-0 against 3 of the top 5. Others below Grenot have very little merit, though Firova and Ustalova have 3 times under 51 seconds.
14. Libania Grenot (ITA). Had 2 wins over Williams-Mills and 2 over Ryzhova when they were at their worst, post-Worlds. Otherwise no wins over the top 20, and she lost to Shakes-Drayton and Zadorina at the Euro Teams. They were both much faster than her on average, so rank ahead, as does Beard who beat her 2-0.
15. Kseniya Ustalova (RUS). Had 4 decent wins including the Russian Indoor Champs and the WUG, but only 2 wins over the top 20, being 2-1 v Zadorina. Zadorina has sufficient extra merit and beat Ustalova at the Russian outdoor champs.
16. Joanna Atkins (USA). Was as fast as Beard on average, and beat her at the US Champs, but didn't have the merit in Europe that Beard gained. Atkins only had 3 wins over the top 20, compared to Beard's 4 wins over the top 8.
17. Regina George (NGR). Lost her only meeting to Atkins. George was faster, but Atkins had more merit.
18. Tatyana Firova (RUS). Even with Hall overall, Firova had 3 times under 51 secs to Hall's 1.
19. Patricia Hall (JAM). One win indoors against Krivoshapka, otherwise her merit comes from beating those outside the top 20, e.g. in Hengelo and the Jamaican Champs.
20. Shaunae Miller (BAH). 2-1 v George (counting the indoor SEC for George), but George was faster and had more merit overall. Won the NCAA indoors and was 2nd outdoors.

800m

1. Eunice Jepkoech Sum (KEN). She had very little before Moscow, including a loss to Winny Chebet. Then she won 3 of the year's 4 biggest meetings. She didn't meet Niyonsaba who won the other one and was faster, but Sum had much more merit.
2. Francine Niyonsaba (BDI). Undefeated, winning the 2nd (Eugene) and 5th (Paris) biggest meetings of the year. Thus she had almost as much merit as Savinova and ran much faster than her. They never met. She didn't have as much merit as Martinez and Montaño, but she beat them 1-0 and 2-0 respectively, and her faster times make them roughly even overall.
3. Mariya Savinova (RUS). Like Niyonsaba, she only ran in 3 significant meetings. Thus she didn't have as much merit as the Americans and they had many more fast times. However, Savinova only lost to Sum and was 1-0 v Martinez and 2-0 v Montaño.
4. Brenda Martinez (USA). Almost inseparable from Montaño. They had almost identical times and went 2-2. Martinez did better at the two biggest meetings, Eugene and the Worlds, but Montaño ran more often in other big meetings, so has slightly more merit. At the two championships there was 0.11 and 0.04 between them.
5. Alysia Montaño (USA). She ended up with better win-loss records than Martinez, e.g. 4-0 v Poistogova (Martinez was 2-1) and 5-0 v Wilson (3-1). However, the verdict has to go with their WC positions, as they were so close overall.
6. Yekaterina Poistogova (RUS). 0-4 v Montaño, 3-2 v Akkaoui and 5th at the Worlds. Unlike Savinova, she ran often in big meetings.

7. Malika Akkaoui (MAR). Didn't make the Worlds final, unlike Poistogova, Wilson and Lupu, but she beat Wilson 3-1 and was faster than her and Lupu.
 8. Aje Wilson (USA). 2-0 v Lupu, including at the Worlds.
 9. Nataliya Lupu (UKR). Way ahead of Jepkosgei: beat her 1-0, had far more merit and was faster.
 10. Janeth Jepkosgei (KEN). Got a lot of merit from 3rd in Eugene, worth more than Lupu's 7th at the Worlds. Her other meetings were not so big, and she she only ran 4 in total. 2-0 v Akkaoui, but Jepkosgei had less merit and much slower times.
 11. Yelena Kotulskaya (RUS). Russian champion indoors and out, but in the absence of Savinova and Poistogova. Didn't meet Jepkosgei and Kotulskaya was faster. However, the Kenyan had much more merit and much better win-loss records against others. 1-1 v Okoro, and Kotulskaya was faster and ahead in their WC semi.
 12. Marilyn Okoro (GBR). Chebet was faster, but Okoro beat her 1-0 and her best 3 meetings for merit (Eugene, Moscow and Paris) were better than Chebet's best (Kenyan trials).
 13. Winny Chebet (KEN). Kupina was faster, but Chebet had far more merit.
 14. Yekaterina Kupina (RUS). Very little merit, but she was faster than all but the top 9. Beat Arzamasova in their only meeting, at Yerino, where Kupina gained a lot of her merit.
 15. Marina Arzamasova (BLR). 1-1 v Masna, but Arzamasova had merit from outside the Worlds, unlike Masna. They were both 5th in their WC semis, but that counts as Masna's victory as she made the final.
 16. Lenka Masná (CZE). Her only merit comes from 8th at the Worlds, but that is a lot of merit and gives her wins over everyone who didn't make the final. Elsewhere she beat no one in the top 25 and had 10 individual losses to those ranked below her.
- Tricky for the final 4 places. Also in contention were Kate Grace (4th Paris), Mary Cain (5th Eugene), Elena Lavric (2nd London, 1st Francophone, only 1 time under 2:01.5), Melissa Bishop (minor merit, 4 times under 2:01), Siham Hilali (2nd Rabat, 6th Paris), Jessica Judd (1st ETC, 1st Birmingham), Caster Semenya (1st Rieti, 2-0 v Jepkosgei).
17. Nelly Jepkosgei (KEN). She beat Masna and Kupina in their only meetings, but was well behind them on merit. Conversely she lost 2-0 to Semenya, but those were Semenya's only decent runs of the year. Jepkosgei had 6 runs under 2:01 compared to 2 by Semenya.
 18. Halima Hachlaf (MAR). 4 times under 2:01. By reaching the Worlds semis she effectively beat Makusheva, Lavric, Bishop and Judd. Then she beat Chebet in her semi.
 19. Margarita Mukasheva (KAZ). Won the WUG in a very fast time, beating Kotulskaya and Kupina, and she beat Chebet in Amsterdam. Not too much to back those up, including 7th in her WC heat ahead of Lavric.
 20. Abeba Aregawi (SWE). Only 2 races, but in Hengelo she beat Chebet and Arzamasova and in Stockholm she beat Martinez, Okoro and Kupina (the last two dnfs). So she was 1-0 against all of them. Mary Cain had similar success with 5th in Eugene, but was slower and only 4th in San Diego.

1500m

The main problem with ranking this event is the Van Damme meeting which might have sorted out the lower positions, but instead only confused matters further. There is very little between 8th and 13th, so the ranking here mostly follows decisive win-loss records for those places.

1. Abeba Aregawi (SWE). Undefeated World Champion with the fastest time indoors and out.
2. Jenny Simpson (USA). Her ranking depends very much upon how we treat her fall in the ridiculous Brussels race that had 17 starters and a slow pace. Discounting that, she was 2-0 v Obiri, and although Obiri has slightly more merit and faster times, Simpson is close enough for that 2-0 to count. If it is 2-1, and if Obiri counts her merit wins over all the fallers in Brussels, then Obiri should be ahead. I've treated the fall as something that should not affect rankings, as otherwise someone like Hilali gets a whole bunch of merit for beating the fallers, whereas Langat, who wasn't there, gets none.
3. Hellen Obiri (KEN). Even without merit for beating her in Brussels, Obiri is just ahead of Simpson on merit, and she is ahead on times by about a second on average. However, Simpson beat her 2-0 (or 2-1), including at the Worlds, and is close enough for that margin to count. 3-0 v Kipyegon.
4. Faith Kipyegon (KEN). 2-1 v Dibaba including the Worlds, and just as fast, much faster than Simpson.
5. Genzebe Dibaba (ETH). 2-1 v England including one win indoors. England was ahead at the Worlds and had slightly more merit, but Dibaba was so far ahead on times that her 2-1 margin is more than enough to rank her ahead.
6. Hannah England (GBR). 2-3 v Sharmina, but England won at the biggest meetings, had more merit than Sharmina and had faster times.
7. Yekaterina Sharmina (RUS). A lot of merit, particularly from winning in Berlin and coming 6th at the Worlds, far more than Kibiwot. They were 1-1, but Sharmina did better head-to-head against almost everyone else.
8. Brenda Martinez (USA). The hardest to rank, due to her lack of races. 2-0 v Rowbury, 2-0 v Langat, 2-0 v Anderson (3-0 including a road mile). Despite her lack of races, she was still faster than Rowbury. Rowbury had more merit, but Martinez was close enough for her 2-0 to count. Martinez was also 2-0 v Langat, but Langat was ahead on times and on merit. She only lost to the top 3 women in the world but she only raced 4 times on the track

(twice against ranked women) and in one road mile. Those that raced more often picked up more merit, but also loads of losses, e.g. Rowbury 24 losses to those below her, Langat 20 losses, Hilali 24 losses.

9. Shannon Rowbury (USA). Her greatest merit comes from the chaotic Brussels race, but elsewhere she either ran poorly (Drake, NC, Lausanne, Decanation) or was behind Martinez (New York, Monaco). 2-0 v Kibiwot, 6-1 v Anderson, but she was only 1-1 v Langat and Hilali.

10. Viola Kibiwot (KEN). 1-1 v Sharmina and a lot faster than her, but Sharmina had far more merit. 0-2 v Rowbury, but Kibiwot was faster and was 3-0 v Langat and 3-1 v Hilali whereas Rowbury was only 1-1 with each of them.

11. Nancy Langat (KEN). More merit than Rowbury and faster. 2-2 v Hilali and they were very even, with Langat marginally ahead on merit and ahead at the Worlds. Her biggest merit was from Eugene and Birmingham. Langat had some poor runs in big races, e.g. 12th Rome, 14th Berlin, so despite having more merit than Martinez, Langat ranks lower as the American beat her 2-0 in races where Langat ran quite well.

12. Siham Hilali (MAR). More merit than Rowbury and faster. 1-2 v Sum, but Hilali was faster and had much more merit. Big merit in early June from Eugene and Rome, but only 11th at the Worlds and in Berlin.

13. Eunice Jepkoech Sum (KEN). She beat Langat and Hilali 2-1, but she was significantly behind them on merit, so those marginal win-loss advantages are not enough.

14. Gabriele Anderson (USA). Anderson had a fine 4th in Berlin to make up for her fall in Brussels. Also 5th in Monaco in a fast time, so she ranks 4th in the USA.

15. Mercy Cherono (KEN). Like Martinez, she only had 2 significant track races, but that gave her 6 wins over the top 10. She only beat anyone 1-0 (apart from Kibiwot) and she only had slow times, so it is difficult to rank her ahead of Anderson who had 5 wins over the top 10, and had 3 times faster than Cherono's best of the year. Cherono could be ranked much higher if we ignore her complete lack of good times.

16. Treniere Moser (USA). Great merit from 5th in Eugene and winning the US Champs, but that is short of Anderson's merit, and Anderson was much faster. Only 13th in Monaco, but her merit keeps her well ahead of the rest. She beat Kuria and Reid in Eugene.

The next 4 are very close. Three of them fell in Brussels which might have sorted things out.

17. Mary Kuria (KEN). Would have been higher if her 2nd place in Berlin had stood. As it is she has decent merit from Doha, Rabat and London.

18. Sifan Hassan (ETH). Only 2 significant finishes, but she easily beat Buckman in one and Reid in the other.

19. Zoe Buckman (AUS). 7th at the Worlds, but those ranked 11 to 18 weren't at the Worlds, and that was her only win over anyone in the top 20. Kuria and Hassan were faster.

20. Sheila Reid (CAN). Didn't do well at her NC or at the Worlds, with her compatriot Sifuentes doing better at both. However, Reid was much better earlier on, with 2nd at the Drake Relays (beat Rowbury & Anderson) and 6th in Eugene (beat England, Sum and Kuria). So she was 2-1 v Mary Cain. Cain was 10th at the worlds, but there are 9 women ranked here who weren't even at the Worlds.

5000m

1. Meseret Defar (ETH). Lost just once to Genzebe Dibaba, but ended up 2-1 against her and beat Tirunesh in Zurich. Won 3 of the year's four biggest meetings.

2. Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH). Ran the year's fastest time and only lost once, to Defar. Merit even with Kibiwott, but Dibaba ran much faster.

3. Mercy Cherono (KEN). Very even with Kibiwott who had more merit from her best races. Chebet was 3-2 overall against Kibiwott and was ahead at the Worlds and Zurich.

4. Viola Kibiwott (KEN). Ayana ran in minor races compared to Kibiwott, so the Kenyan has far more merit. So although Ayana was faster and won their only meeting, she can't make up the merit deficit. Kibiwott had 12 wins over the top 8 compared with only 5 such wins for Ayana. In addition Kibiwott is almost inseparable from Cherono overall.

5. Almaz Ayana (ETH). She didn't meet Genzebe Dibaba, and Dibaba had more merit from just 2 races. However, Ayana had the faster time, and Dibaba only had two times. Dibaba's win-loss records suffer due to her dnf in Moscow whereas Ayana only lost to the top 3, once each.

6. Genzebe Dibaba (ETH). Won the 2nd biggest race of the year (after Zurich) in Shanghai. Beat Muriuki 2-0.

7. Margaret Muriuki (KEN). Beat Diriba 3-1, Tiop 2-0 and Burka 2-0.

8. Buze Diriba (ETH). Beat Tirop 3-0 and Burka 3-1. Although she lost to Chebet and Cherono in Zurich, she had more merit based on those 6 wins, and also 4 times under 14:53, compared to only one each for Chebet and Cherono. Her 5th at the Worlds gives her very little merit, as she only beat Muriuki (dnf h1), Huddle and Kuijen there, of those in the top-20.

The order of the next 4 depends on how we weight the single performance of Chebet and Gladys Cherono, and their single time. Those performances gave Chebet and Cherono 4 wins over the top 8 and 6/7 wins over the top 15. Tirop and Burka by comparison had 1 win each over the top 8 and 6/3(+1 road race) wins over the top 15. So more merit in one race than a whole season. On win-loss records, Chebet and Cherono also have an advantage, as they only lost to the top 3 and have 7 or 8 1-0 margins. On times Burka at least is well ahead of Chebet and Cherono, and Tirop is

probably also ahead, with 3 times under 14:57. If that means overall that the four are close then Chebet and Cherono should be ahead of Tirop and Burka, as they beat Tirop at their only meeting.

9. Emily Chebet (KEN). Just had 5th in Zurich of any merit or speed. But she beat enough people there, in a fast enough time to rank here.

10. Gladys Cherono (KEN). Similar to Chebet.

11. Agnes Tirop (KEN). Close with Burka, and Tirop beat her at their only meeting. Burka had better times, but Tirop had much better win-loss records and more merit.

12. Gelete Burka (ETH). As mentioned, very little merit: against the top 14 she managed just 1 win over Diriba (1-3 overall) and 1 against Cheptai (1-1). Tirop by comparison had 1 over Dibaba (1-1), 1 over Burka (1-0) and 3 over Cheptai (3-0). A 5K road race win over Mercy Cherono gives Burka a little more merit, but not enough to make a difference.

13. Irene Cheptai (KEN). Only 1 win over the top 15, but 8 wins over the top 19. She was also far ahead of Simpson on times.

14. Jenny Simpson (USA). 2-0 v Huddle, although Huddle was much better for times. Simpson had more merit, mainly due to her 7th in Zurich.

15. Molly Huddle (USA). She and Kibet were fairly even overall, but Huddle won their only meeting.

16. Sylvia Kibet (KEN). With 3 times under 15:03, she was much faster than those below her. She also had at least as much merit as them, so she's well clear in 16th place.

17. Sule Utura (ETH). Very even with Eshete, who has the edge on times. However Utura had the biggest win, with 4th in Paris, beating Diriba and Huddle. Eshete beat no one ranked above her.

18. Shitaye Eshete (BRN). She beat Haroye in Hengelo, Kuijken in Oslo and Kisa in both races, plus she beat Yalew 2-0.

19. Janet Kisa (KEN). On the track she was 1-1 v Haroye and 2-1 v Yalew. Her loss to Kuijken came when she dnf in Oslo.

20. Alemitu Haroye (ETH). 4-1 v Yalew who has the next best times. Kuijken was 8th at the Worlds but only beat Muriuki (dnf different heat) there and lost to Rowbury there.

10000m

To rate Defar as high as 4th, we have to weight very heavily in favour of times, but other rankings appear quite sensible on that basis. The two big races were the WC in Moscow, and Ostrava.

1. Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH). 1st in Moscow, 1st in Ostrava. 2 times under 30:48.

2. Gladys Cherono (KEN). 2nd in Moscow, 2nd in Ostrava. 2 times under 30:48.

3. Belaynesh Oljira (ETH). 3rd in Moscow, 3rd in Ostrava. 2 times under 30:48.

4. Meseret Defar (ETH). Only ran in one minor race, but with the fastest time of the year. She only has the one time, which also doesn't compare favourably with others. However, she was 39 seconds faster than the best of Chebet who also only has one fast time (plus a slow time at altitude), and almost 50 seconds faster than Niiya's fastest, although she has another good time. Niiya and Chebet have a lot of merit from their Moscow placings, so there is a lot of weight on times to rank Defar this high.

5. Emily Chebet (KEN). 4th at the WC and 2nd at the Kenyan trials.

6. Hitomi Niiya (JPN). 5th at the WC and won the JPN-NC in a good time.

7. Ababel Yeshaneh (ETH). Only 9th at the WC, but 4th in the big Ostrava meeting in a time much faster than Flanagan, Eshete and Kaptich managed. Even with a lower weighting for times (which would leave Defar 7th), Yeshaneh is still way ahead of the rest due to her better merit, and beating 6 of the top 20.

8. Shitaye Eshete (BRN). 6th at the WC, but her best time was 38 seconds slower than Yeshaneh (c.f. Chebet 39 seconds slower than Defar). Unlike Defar, Yeshaneh has a lot of merit - not quite as much as Eshete, but the time gap is unbridgeable. Eshete's other wins were against minor opposition.

9. Selly Chepyego (KEN). 17 seconds slower than Flanagan at her best, but Chepyego beat her at the Worlds, and had a bit more merit elsewhere.

10. Shalane Flanagan (USA). 8th at the WC. Her other wins add little merit (beat Hasay in both). She had 3 times under 31:45, unlike the 3 above her, but her fastest time was not much faster than Eshete ran when beating her in Moscow.

11. Sule Utura (ETH). Not far behind Flanagan, on the basis of her faster time in the big Ostrava race.

12. Linet Chepkwemai Masai (KEN). 6th in Ostrava and faster than Godfay ran in the more minor Sollentuna race.

13. Afera Godfay (ETH). 29 seconds faster than Saina at her best, but, like Defar, Godfay has no merit.

14. Wude Ayalew (ETH). Very little merit, as Chemtai, behind her in Ostrava, was quite slow. So she just relies on times, like Godfay. She was only 8 seconds slower than Godfay, only 20 seconds faster than Saina.

15. Betsy Saina (KEN). Beat Obare in the fastest race of the year for them both and in the Kenyan Trials. Obare has extra merit from Kumagaya, but that's not enough.

16. Dorica Obare (KEN). All 3 of her times were a lot slower than Godfay's only time. Obare had quite a lot of merit, but not enough to make up for her much slower times. Beat Hagiwara 2-0.

17. Ayumi Hagiwara (JPN). 3rd in Stanford gets her a lot of merit, and she beat the next two there.
18. Marisol Romero (MEX). 11th at the Worlds, but only 5th at Stanford, with a faster time.
19. Jordan Hasay (USA). 12th at the Worlds, but only 6th at Stanford, with a faster time. 4 times under 32:20 put her ahead of Smith who only had 1 run all year.
20. Kimberley Smith (NZL). Marginally slower than Chemtai, but she beat Romero and Hasay in Stanford. Romero had merit from the Worlds and Hasay had other good times, so Smith is behind them.

Marathon

Only 5 of last year's top 20 make it this year, Prisca Jeptoo, both Kiplagats, Kebede and Cherop.

1. Prisca Jeptoo (KEN). Undefeated, winning two major marathons. Rita was faster but her opposition wasn't as good as Prisca's.
2. Rita Jeptoo (KEN). Also undefeated, and the Chicago field was good. She had the year's fastest time too.
3. Edna Kiplagat (KEN). Has a case for 2nd, but Rita was noticeably faster and Edna had a poor run in New York.
4. Jemima Jelagat (KEN). She only lost once to Rita Jeptoo and she had the best pair of times of anyone. She didn't have great opposition, but couldn't have done much more.
5. Valeria Straneo (ITA). 2nd in the strongest field of the year in Moscow. She didn't have any fast times, but beat Kebede in Moscow and Edna in New York.
6. Aberu Kebede (ETH). Won two of the top 10 marathons, including beating Kilel in Tokyo.
7. Caroline Kilel (KEN). She won Frankfurt, the third best marathon of the year in terms of quality participants and in terms of times with 5 under 2:24 and 6 under 2:24:10. But she only had that one fast time and was 21st in Tokyo, equivalent to a dnf.
8. Ryoko Kizaki (JPN). 4th in Moscow for lots of merit, and won her other marathon in a reasonable time, beating Dibaba and Čelnova-Prokopčuka there.
9. Boru Feyse Tadese (ETH). Choice between Tadese and Deba is time versus merit. I have given it to Tadese because much of Deba's merit relies on her beating Kiplagat and Straneo when they did not run so well in New York. Tadese's 2:21:06 was the 4th fastest of the year and she beat Mohammed and Kirwa there.
10. Bizunesh Deba (ETH). 2nd in New York but no times under 2:24.
11. Kayoko Fukushi (JPN). Most of her merit comes from Moscow where she beat 3 of the top 10. Compared to Kizaki, her other run was slower and she was 2nd in a weaker race.
12. Birhane Dibaba (ETH). Two times under 2:24 plus merit from both 3rd in Frankfurt and 2nd in Nagoya.
13. Filomena Chepchirchir (KEN). Close with Dibaba. There was only 1 second between them in the strong Frankfurt race, but Chepchirchir's win in Seoul was against a weak field in a time two minutes slower than Dibaba's other race.
14. Merima Mohammed (ETH). Apart from her dnf, she only lost to higher-ranked women. However, she only beat 2 of the top 20 all year.
15. Florence Kiplagat (KEN). One fast time in Berlin, but only 6th in London. Thus she only beat 20th-ranked Cherop all year.
16. Mariya Konovalova (RUS). Only one finish, in a good time and in the strong Chicago race which featured another 4 women who would be ranked between 21st and 30th.
17. Eunice Kirwa (KEN). The last person with 2 times under 2:24, though her only merit is from Frankfurt, beating Esayias.
18. Yeshi Esayias (ETH). No times under 2:24, but she beat Kilel in Tokyo.
19. Jelena Čelnova-Prokopčuka (LAT). 3rd in New York, beating Florence Kiplagat and Straneo. Like Straneo she had no fast times.
20. Sharon Cherop (KEN). 2nd in Berlin in a fast time, but it wasn't a strong field. Also 3rd in Boston, but in a slow time and again against a fairly weak field.

Best marathon fields of the year (scoring participants 20 down to 1):

- 84 - WC, Moscow
- 68 - New York
- 47 - Chicago
- 45 - London
- 39 - Frankfurt
- 32 - Tokyo
- 24 - Nagoya
- 23 - Paris
- 21 - Shanghai
- 19 - Boston

3000m Steeplechase

At the top we have a clear order with win-loss margins following the WC finish order and the best times.

1. Milcah Chemos (KEN). 1 WC, 6-1 v Chepkurui.

2. Lidya Chepkurui (KEN). 2 WC, 4-2 v Assefa.
3. Sofia Assefa (ETH). 3 WC, 5-1 v Ayalew.
4. Hiwot Ayalew (ETH). 4 WC, 8-0 v Diro.
5. Etenesh Diro (ETH). 5 WC, 4-2 v Kirui.
6. Purity Kirui (KEN). Not at the WC, but she was a lot faster than Jepkemoi and had more merit than her. 2-0 v Rotich and 2-0 v Zhudina.
7. Hyvin Jepkemoi (KEN). 6 WC and she beat Kirui at their only meeting, the Kenyan WC Trials. However, she had a pretty thin season, so her merit comes from just two meetings, and Kirui had 5 times faster than Jepkemoi's 2nd best.
8. Lydia Chebet Rotich (KEN). On average her times are about as good as Zhudina's. Rotich did well at two big meetings, beating 4 of the top 20 in Doha and 5 of them in Rome. In comparison Zhudina beat 4 in Moscow and 2 elsewhere, and she had losses that Rotich didn't have.
9. Valentina Zhudina (UKR). 7th at the WC and 2-0 v Möldner-Schmidt.
10. Antje Möldner-Schmidt (GER). Beat Kipkemboi 2-0.
11. Gladys Kipkemboi (KEN). She has much more merit than the three just above her, mainly due to her 2nd place at the Kenyan Trials. She had a disaster at the Worlds and no times under 9:35, but she had 6 wins over the top 10, compared to 1 by Rotich, 2 by Zhudina and none by Möldner-Schmidt. The deciding factor is that Möldner-Schmidt beat her 2-0 (including at the Worlds) and had 4 times faster than Kipkemboi's fastest of the year. However, if you particularly favour merit-wins, she could be ranked as high as 8th, and she was 2-1 v Jepkemoi.
12. Habiba Ghribi (TUN). Only 1 race, 7th in Doha with a fast time. There she beat Rotich, Ayana, Cherotich and Krause, giving her about as much merit as those last 3 had all year. Ayana and Cherotich only had 1 time under 9:35, so Ghribi's 9:22 compares favourably.
13. Almaz Ayana (ETH). 2-0 v Cherotich. Her best time was in a very minor race. She beat Moldner-Schmidt 1-0, but that was one of the German's worst runs of the year. Moldner-Schmidt was just as fast as Ayana on average and had much more merit.
14. Fancy Cherotich (KEN). 6 wins over the top 20 and a 9:28.
15. Natalya Aristarkhova (RUS). 3 times under 9:35, whereas the next 3 have none. She won the European Cup and the Russian Champs, but those give her surprisingly little merit. Her disaster at the Worlds is not enough to drag her below the next 3 who were finalists there.
16. Gesa Felicitas Krause (GER). Fairly even with the next 2 on merit and times and they were all 1-1. 9th at the Worlds.
17. Eilish McColgan (GBR). 10th at the Worlds.
18. Salima Alami (MAR). 15th at the Worlds, but she has a lot more merit than those placed 11th to 14th there because she was 7th in Rome, beating Möldner-Schmidt, Kipkemboi, Krause, McColgan and Bobocel.
19. Birtukan Alemu (ETH). 10th in Doha and 3rd in Zagreb gave her 5 wins over the top 16, compared to 2 by Bobocel. They were similar on times and only met when Alemu dnf in Birmingham.
20. no clear choice. There are about 8 women in contention, all fairly evenly matched for a variety of reasons.

100m Hurdles

8 of the top 10 and 12 of the top 20 are from the USA.

1. Brianna Rollins (USA). Despite an unbeaten season, running the equal 4th fastest time ever, Rollins was short on merit, as she only ran in two major meetings. She was also only 1-0 against most of her rivals, whereas Harper-Nelson was, for example, 7-0 against Wells. However, she has just enough to head Harper-Nelson who was slower and had 6 losses.
2. Dawn Harper-Nelson (USA). She missed the later rounds of the US Championships, and lost to Rollins at the Worlds, finishing 4th. However she won many major races. 4-1 v Harrison, 4-2 v Pearson, 6-2 v Porter.
3. Queen Harrison (USA). 1-1 v Pearson and 5th at the Worlds to Pearson's 2nd. However, Harrison had much more merit than Pearson - her runs in the Drake Relays (1st), US Champs (2nd), Monaco (1st), Turin (1st) and WC (5th) all gave her more merit than Pearson's 2nd best meeting (2nd Brussels). Furthermore, Harrison had better win loss records against almost all of the top 10 than Pearson, being 27-12 overall, compared to 14-16 for Pearson.
4. Sally Pearson (AUS). Returning from injury, she got better as the season went on, but was way behind Harrison overall. Only 4-3 v Wells and Porter, 0-1 v Jones, 1-2 v Lewis and Castlin. She relies upon times and that 4-3 margin to be ahead of Wells.
5. Kellie Wells (USA). She also had more merit than Pearson and better win-loss records. However, Pearson was 0.1 faster on average, and beat her 4-3, so Wells's advantages are not enough to rank above Pearson.
6. Lolo Jones (USA). Finished her season after Lausanne, by which time she had a lot of merit. Her runs in Lausanne (3rd), Turin (2nd), Rome (2nd), Drake Relays (4th) and the US Champs (5th) all gave her more merit than Porter's 2nd best meeting (3rd Turin). In fact Jones beat Porter 3-1, and although Porter had a lot of merit from 3rd at the Worlds, it wasn't enough to overcome that deficit.
7. Tiffany Porter (GBR). 4-1 v Ali including their WC semi.

8. Nia Ali (USA). 5-2 v Lewis, 3-0 v Castlin.
9. Yvette Lewis (USA). Not many meetings with those below her, but she had 7 wins over those above her, compared to 2 for Castlin, 4 for Billaud and 2 for Whyte. Lewis had the big 2nd place in Monaco, beating Pearson, Wells, Porter, Ali and Billaud, plus other good merit elsewhere, so she works out a long way ahead of Castlin.
10. Kristi Castlin (USA). Never met Billaud, Whyte or Kondakova, although most of Castlin's merit comes from European races in July, plus the US Champs. Castlin did a lot better against her US rivals (10½-3½ overall v Thomas, Crawford, Coward, Smith) than Billaud did against her European rivals (6-4 overall v Kondakova, Caraveli, Borsi, Talay). Castlin was 3-0 v Bliss and Billaud was 2-1. They were very even on times, so Castlin comes out well ahead overall.
11. Cindy Billaud (FRA). Avoided the major meetings, and lost to Whyte at the Worlds. However, Billaud at least has some other merit, from 3rd at the DL final, and she was faster than Whyte.
12. Angela Whyte (CAN). Whyte has almost nothing other than her 6th at the Worlds, her only other merit is from beating Ali in Edmonton. So she is a long way behind Billaud overall.
13. Yuliya Kondakova (RUS). 8th at the Worlds is her only major merit, a little less than most of the following Americans. However, Kondakova was notably faster than them.
14. Vashti Thomas (USA). Beat the next 3 Americans at the US Champs, was 3-0 v Coward and faster than them all.
15. Virginia Crawford (USA). "Lost" to Coward by not making the US Champs final, but Crawford ran faster than Coward in both the heats and the semis. Crawford also had marginally faster times overall, and the biggest win, with 3rd in Rome. However she only had 5 races.
16. Jacquelyn Coward (USA). Was 6-0 v Smith.
17. Loreal Smith (USA). Faster than the rest, and she beat Bliss 3-0.
18. Andrea Bliss (JAM). Faster than the rest, and she had winning margins against most of them, e.g. 2-0 v Caravelli.
19. Marzia Caravelli (ITA). Went 2-2 with her compatriot Borsi, and had more merit, mostly from May and June. 3-0 v Okori.
20. Veronica Borsi (ITA). She suffers from not making the Worlds semis, but she was still 3-1 v Talay who was faster on average.

400m Hurdles

If we eliminate the following disastrous runs, then win-loss records become clearer:

PSD Eugene & WC, Muhammad Prague, Moline WC & Stockholm, Spencer WC

Here, merit largely comes from occasions where the best athletes had a bad day. So we need to take more account of times to get a fairer ranking.

1. Zuzana Hejnová (CZE)
2. Perri Shakes-Drayton (GBR). Beat Muhammad 2-1, was a lot faster than her, and had more merit than her. PSD just has a bad Worlds final.
3. Dalilah Muhammad (USA). 2nd at the Worlds and 3-1 v Moline. She lost her only meeting with Carter, but she was almost as fast as her on average, and had
4. Kori Carter (USA). Because she skipped the US Champs semis, her best meeting for merit was 4th in London, i.e. she has very little merit. However, she was a lot faster than the likes of Spencer, 0.65 seconds faster on average, and Carter has 6 times that are faster than Spencer's 2nd fastest time. Carter beat Moline 4-1 and Spencer 1-0. The problem is that Moline was as fast as Carter on average, and has far more merit, so does the 4-1 margin take precedence? You could say that Moline messed up in Moscow, so doesn't quite have enough merit. Or you could say that Carter missed the big finals by her own choice, so earlier wins are not so relevant. I'm of the opinion that those ranked 4 to 9 are pretty close, so the 4-1 should be heeded as both women ran well in all 5 races.
5. Georganne Moline (USA). 4-1 v Spencer, though one of her wins was Moscow heat 1 where neither of them qualified. Moline had slightly less merit but was way ahead on times, hence why she usually beat Spencer.
6. Kaliese Spencer (JAM). Compared to Carter, she has much more merit, but much slower times. Carter narrowly beat her in their only meeting. Spencer was 2-1 against Demus and 2-1 v Titimets, her loss in each case due to her WC dsq.
7. Lashinda Demus (USA). She had a very thin season - outside the Worlds she only had 1 win over the top 10, PSD in Eugene. But she was as fast as Child and her extra merit from the Worlds makes them even on that score. So there seems no reason to change the Worlds order. She was faster than Titimets and won their only meeting.
8. Hanna Titimets (UKR). She had slower times than Demus and Child, but more merit, as she competed post-Moscow, unlike them.
9. Eilidh Child (GBR). She only had 4 wins over the top 8, and those were all when the top women had a bad day. However, she was faster than Spencer and Titimets on average, and she had a very good record against those ranked below her, being unbeaten by them. She lost to Demus and Titimets in their only meeting, at the Worlds, so is there enough justification to change that order?

10. Angela Moroşanu (ROU). I'd always put Morosanu ahead of Yaroshchuk, as the Romanian had 3 times faster than Yaroshchuk's best of the year and she also won their only meeting by nearly a second. She had a short season of two halves, fast and slow. Even with only 3 fast times, they are so fast that she probably deserves the 10th spot.
11. Denisa Rosolová (CZE). I'd always put Rosolová ahead of Yaroshchuk, as they were 1-1, but Rosolová had slightly more merit and slightly better times. The tough choice is between Rosolová and Morosanu, and depends on how heavily you weight merit and times. They did meet and Rosolová won, but that was during Morosanu's slow half.
12. Hanna Yaroshchuk (UKR). 6th in a depleted Worlds final. Much of her merit comes from beating Shakes-Drayton, Moline and Spencer there, for various reasons. She also had two wins over Muhammad, but no good times. A big gap after Yaroshchuk.
13. Ristananna Tracey (JAM). Lost her one meeting with Brown, but Tracey was well ahead on merit, with 7 wins over the top 16, compared to Brown's 2. Tracey was also slightly faster on average.
14. T'erea Brown (USA). Very consistent, with every race, including heats, in a range of 0.54 seconds. But on average slower than Tracey, and with not too much merit.
15. Yadisleidy Pedroso (ITA). Close with Brown (they never met) and Beesley (1-1). More merit than Brown, but slower. Much of her merit comes from Dubai (beat Mohammad, Spencer, Demus)
16. Meghan Beesley (GBR). Slower than Pedroso, but with more merit. Some merit from two of her slowest races, Stockholm (beat Moline and Antyukh) and Zurich (beat Muhammad).
17. Nickiesha Wilson (JAM). Beat Beesley by 0.03 in their only meeting, thus making the Worlds final. However, other than in Moscow, Wilson beat no one from the top 20, so Beesley has more merit and was faster.
18. Irina Davydova (RUS). Times faster than Beesley and Wilson, but she had very little merit. She was faster than the rest, including being much faster in the Worlds semis, so well clear in 18th.
Difficult to choose between several candidates for the last two places. Most have merit from "beating" Moline and Spencer at the Worlds.
19. Turquoise Thompson (USA). No wins over those ranked above her, but she did well against those below her. Beat Lauren Boden 2-0 and Tiffany Williams 3-0. 1-1 with Christine Spence, and Thompson was faster than all of them and Antyukh.
20. Natalya Antyukh (RUS). Best at the Worlds of those remaining, though she wasn't as fast on average as Boden or Spence.

High Jump

1. Svetlana Shkolina (RUS). Unbeaten World Champion, though not with the highest heights.
2. Anna Chicherova (RUS). 2-2 with Barrett and Barrett jumped higher and was ahead at the Worlds. However, Chicherova has much more merit, and a better win loss record against almost everyone - overall she was 25½-1½ against those ranked 4 to 10, whereas Barrett was 13½-7 against them.
3. Brigetta Barrett (USA). Her big meetings for merit were the World Champs and Monaco. Her 1.98s at Paris and Madrid were against fields that weren't very deep, so Chicherova had 7 meetings with more merit than those.
4. Blanka Vlašić (CRO). 2½-0½ v Beitia. Beitia had more merit as Vlasic ended her season early, but Vlasic had the better heights. Overall they were fairly even, so their win-loss record takes effect.
5. Ruth Beitia (ESP). 5½-2½ v Green Tregaro. 1-1 v Kuchina, but Beitia was a long way ahead of her on heights and on merit.
6. Emma Green Tregaro (SWE). 2-1 v Kuchina, and well ahead of her on heights and on merit.
7. Mariya Kuchina (RUS). 2-0 v Trost who jumped much higher. Those two wins were outdoors, whereas Trost was at her best indoors. They were quite even on merit, but due to Trost's mixed outdoor form, Kuchina has better win-loss records against almost everyone, e.g. 2-0 v Barrett, 3-0 v Kasprzycka (Trost was 0-2 and 0-2). They come out quite even overall, so the 2-0 margin between them counts.
8. Alessia Trost (ITA). Her best meetings were indoors, and not to be forgotten as she beat good fields winning in Hustopece and Trinec, and placed 4th at the European Indoors. Outdoors she jumped 1.98, but was not so good elsewhere. She ended up 4-2 v Stepaniuk, 0-2 v Kasprzycka and 2-2 v Gordeyeva. She was miles ahead of those last two on merit and on heights.
9. Kamila Stepaniuk (POL). 6-3 v Kasprzycka and 3-3 v Gordeyeva. Stepaniuk beat Gordeyeva at the Worlds and had more merit (they were even on heights). Stepaniuk jumped about 2cm higher than Kasprzycka on average. She was not good indoors, so lost 0-3 to both Veneva-Mateeva and Holosha who competed sparingly outdoors.
10. Justyna Kasprzycka (POL). 3-0 v Gordeyeva who jumped higher at her best. They were even on merit and so the 3-0 is only just enough to be decisive.
11. Irina Gordeyeva (RUS). 0-2 v Hellebaut, indoors, but Gordeyeva was at her worst indoors. She jumped higher and had more merit than Hellebaut, so is well ahead overall.
12. Tia Hellebaut (BEL). 1-1 v Iljuštšenko, but Hellebaut jumped about 2cm higher on average and had 3 jumps higher than Iljuštšenko's best of the year. Hellebaut's worst jump was at the European Indoors, but her Arnstadt win was better than anything Iljuštšenko achieved.

13. Anna Iljuštšenko (EST). 1-0 v Veneva-Mateeva and more merit than her. Close between the next 7, so I have mostly stuck with the decisive win-loss records.
 14. Ana Šimić (CRO). She had easily the best heights of the rest, and mostly in good international meetings, Beijing, Budapest, Zagreb. Not so good at the Euro Indoors, or the Worlds, so she lacks any major merit. Beat Veneva-Mateeva 3-1. 2-4 v Demireva, but Simic jumped 3cm higher than her on average.
 15. Venelina Veneva-Mateeva (BUL). Much more merit than Jungmark, and better heights, though Jungmark won their only meeting. Veneva-Mateeva beat Holosha 3-0 and Demireva 4-2.
 16. Levern Spencer (LCA). 2-1 v Simic, but well behind her on heights. 11th at the Worlds gives her most of her merit, not nearly as much as Veneva-Mateeva (from the indoor season) and Jungmark (just the World Indoors). Luckily she beat Jungmark 2-0 and Holosha 2-0.
 17. Ebba Jungmark (SWE). She beat the three above Spencer at the European Indoors, her only meeting with them, but they all had better heights and more merit. She beat Holosha 2-0, one indoors and one out.
 18. Olena Holosha (UKR). 4-1 v Demireva. 2-2 v Dusanova with Holosha having much better heights. She was 3-0 v Stepaniuk but all indoors before the Pole improved.
 19. Nadezhda Dusanova (UZB). 3-1 v Demireva.
 20. Mirela Demireva (BUL). 4-2 v Simic, 3-1 v Melanie Melfort.
- Zheng Xingjuan, Airiné Palšytė and Marie-Laurence Jungfleisch made the Worlds final, unlike 8 of the last 9, but they only had 5, 5 and 8 wins respectively over the top 20, compared to 13, 14 and 16 for the last 3 ranked. Palšytė had decent heights but almost no merit outside the Worlds.

Outdoors only

The World Championships become more dominant, with the 13 finalists all in the top 16. Quite a lot to change.

5. Green Tregaro. Outdoors she was 2½-3½ v Beitia, but she had 6 jumps over 1.95 to Beitia's 3 and she had good merit from many meetings, whereas Beitia only had Moscow and Eberstadt.
 6. Beitia.
 7. Kuchina, 8. Stepaniuk, 9. Kasprzycka, 10. Gordeyeva
 11. Trost. Three of her best competitions were indoor wins in Hustopece and Třinec, plus 4th= in the Euro Indoors. Without them she still has 7th at the Worlds, only enough for 11th overall.
 12. Spencer. 2-1 v Simic.
 13. Simic. She just loses her 1.93i and minor Euro Indoor merit, but that's enough to put her behind Spencer.
 14. Zheng Xingjuan (CHN). 9= at the Worlds with her season's best of 1.93. No merit elsewhere as she lost in Beijing to Simic, Dusanova and others. However, her one victory over Palsyte is enough, despite the Lithuanian's slightly better jumps.
 15. Airiné Palšytė (LTU). Behind Zheng at the Worlds, she had better heights, but not by enough.
 16. Marie-Laurence Jungfleisch (GER). 1½-½ v Dusanova, Jungfleisch made the Worlds final, though her best merit was from Rome, beating Gordeyeva, Iljuštšenko and Demireva.
 17. Dusanova. 1-0 v Iljuštšenko and 2-1 v Demireva.
 18. Iljuštšenko. 2-0 v Demireva and 2-0 v Kononova. Only 1 jump over 1.90, her 1.94 for 3rd at the WUG.
 19. Demireva. 6 wins over the top 10 and not far behind Kononova on heights.
 20. Yevgeniya Kononova (RUS). Only two wins over the top 20, but she had 6 jumps over 1.90, more than anyone below Simic.
- Hellebaut didn't compete outdoors. Veneva-Mateeva didn't beat anyone significant outdoors, and Holosha and Jungmark had very weak outdoor campaigns.

Pole Vault

1. Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS). How little can you do in the pole vault and still be number one? Isinbayeva pushes this question to the limit with only 4 finals and less merit than the next 4. Her heights were a lot worse than Silva and Suhr. Crucially she beat Silva 2-0, and won the Worlds by a clear height. Silva, Suhr and Spiegelburg have plenty of losses whereas Isinbayeva has none. Last year Suhr was number one with very little merit (lots of wins against nobody), and only 2-1 against her top rivals, so Isinbayeva does a similar trick this year. Just ranking the top 5 alone, as they were well clear of the rest, she does come out as no.1.
2. Yarisley Silva (CUB). Has a good case to be number 1, with the most merit, but she had 11 individual losses (not including the nh in Turku) and was only 5-3 v Murer and 3-2 v Bleasdale (2-2 indoors). She beat Suhr 5-2 and Spiegelburg 4-2, so she is clearly no. 2 at least.
3. Jennifer Suhr (USA). 2-2 v Spiegelburg who had more merit. However, Suhr had much better heights, and was ahead at the Worlds.
4. Silke Spiegelburg (GER). Lots of merit, as she won the two big meetings after the Worlds. She didn't jump as high as the top 3, but she was 5-2 v Murer.
5. Fabiana Murer (BRA). 1-1 with Bleasdale, with similar heights, but Murer has far more merit from a full outdoor season.

6. Holly Bleasdale (GBR). These rankings weight indoor performances and meetings in the same way as outdoors. Bleasdale was 3-1 v Savchenko. She was 1-2 v Svobodova, but Bleasdale had a better win-loss record against almost everyone else. She jumped higher than both of them, and had more merit thanks to big wins at the Euro Indoors and the Russian Winter meeting.
7. Anastasiya Savchenko (RUS). Beat Svobodova 4½-3½ and had slightly better heights on average, slightly more merit and was ahead at the Worlds.
8. Jiřina Svobodová (CZE). She did well against those ranked just above her, but was only even on win-loss against the 4 ranked just below her. Well ahead of them on heights and merit.
9. Mary Saxer (USA). Well clear of the rest by any measure. She was 3-1 v Rogowska.
10. Anna Rogowska (POL). Despite her thin outdoor season, her European Indoor silver gives her much more merit than Kyriakopoulou. She also jumped higher on average. Kyriakopoulou beat her 3-2, but two of Rogowska's losses were nhs. Rogowska was 1-1 against the next two Russians, but she had a lot more merit than them both.
11. Angelina Zhuk-Krasnova (RUS). Very even with Sidorova, as they were 5½-5½. Zhuk-Krasnova won 4 of their last 5 meetings (the other a tie) and was ahead in both NCs and the EC-U23, whereas Sidorova was ahead at the Euro Indoors. Zhuk-Krasnova also had slightly better heights. Beat Kyriakopoulou at both the Euro Indoors and the Worlds.
12. Anzhelika Sidorova (RUS). A lot of merit from the Euro Indoors, and other indoor meetings. Outdoors 2nd at the ETC was her best for merit. Beat Kyriakopoulou twice indoors.
13. Nikoleta Kyriakopoulou (GRE). 0-2 v Zhuk-Krasnova and 0-2 v Sidorova. She only had 3 meetings of merit, 3rd in Donetsk indoors, 2nd in Bislett and 5th= in Zurich, but that gives her a bit more merit than the two Russians.
14. Kylie Hutson (USA). Much better heights than all except the top 7, but she had a lot of nhs, so she was 7½-6½ v Saxer, 0-3 v Marion Lotout and 6-6 v Tori Pena.
15. Martina Strutz (GER). Beat Gadschiew 3-0 and had better heights than her. However, because Strutz ended her season early, Gadschiew comes out with a lot more merit - enough that should normally rank her ahead. However, Gadschiew would not rank above Hutson, so her 0-3 record against Strutz is respected.
16. Kristina Gadschiew (GER). 5-2 v Ryzih and 4-1 v Büchler.
17. Lisa Ryzih (GER). Best of the rest at the Worlds, with 8th=, her only meeting with Büchler. Not great heights, but she was 2-1 v Hingst.
18. Nicole Büchler (AUT). 2-0 v Hingst and more merit than her, a lot of it from 3rd in Lucerne.
19. Carolin Hingst (GER). Jumped 4.71, but only 6 times over 4.40, so she was erratic, hence 4-3 v Gadschiew, but 0-3 v Strutz.
20. Li Ling (CHN). 11th at the Worlds, beating Marion Lotout and some who didn't qualify, like Rogowska, Kyriakopoulou, Hutson, Büchler and Hingst. But only 5 jumps over 4.40 and little merit compared with those above her.

Outdoors only

6. Saxer. Now 2-1 v Svobodova and 2-0 v Savchenko.
 7. Svobodová. Outdoors she was 2½-1½ v Savchenko and had slightly better heights.
 8. Savchenko. Had 4 of her top 6 heights indoors plus a lot of merit from Donetsk and the Euro Indoors. Outdoors she still had 5th= at the Worlds, but not the merit of Saxer or Svobodova. Beat Zhuk-Krasnova 4-0.
 9. Zhuk-Krasnova. With 7th at the Worlds she beat almost everyone below her and gained a lot of merit. Hutson had better heights but poor win-loss records due to her nh at the Worlds.
 10. Hutson. Outdoors still 0-3 v Lotout, but now 3-6 v Pena. She largely ranks this high on heights, though she is 1-0 v Rogowska and 1-0 v Strutz.
 11. Rogowska. Loses her best performances, but she is still 3-0 v Strutz and 3-1 v Ryzih.
 12. Strutz, 13. Gadschiew, 14. Ryzih,
 15. Kyriakopoulou. Only 6 meetings outdoors. 1-0 v Büchler, but she has no decisive win-loss records.
 16. Büchler, 17. Hingst, 18. Li
 19. Marion Lotout (FRA). 1-2 v Pena, but Lotout made the Worlds final, unlike Pena.
 20. Sidorova. The best of those remaining on heights, and her two best heights were when finishing 2nd at the ETC and 2nd at the EC-U23. She didn't have a lot of merit besides, but she was stil 1-0 against Rogowska, Lotout, Pena and Bengtsson.
- Pena had good heights at Chula Vista, but was behind many at the Worlds and only 1-4 v Holliday.
CHECK HER NC HEIGHT
 Bleasdale had only 3 competitions (including an nh) outdoors.

Long Jump

1. Brittney Reese (USA). Only 2-2 with Okagbare, and Reese had some terrible losses. However, she had the longest jumps and won the World Champs.
2. Blessing Okagbare (NGR). Close with Reese and 4-1 v Proctor.

3. Shara Proctor (GBR). 1-3 v DeLoach, but Proctor was ahead at the Worlds and had the big Zurich win in the absence of DeLoach.
4. Janay DeLoach Soukup (USA). Was perhaps world number 1 up to the end of June, being 3-3 v Reese and 3-0 v Proctor, with great distances. Her last two competitions were disasters but she still ended up 3-4 v Reese and 3-1 v Proctor. She can't simply be judged on her World Champs performance, where she lost her only meetings with Spanovic, Kucherenko and Sudareva. She had 5 competitions over 6.89 (2 only windy), compared to Spanovic's best of 6.82. Most of her best jumps were in big meetings.
5. Ivana Spanović (SRB). Very consistent and she had a great end to the season. 3-0 v Kucherenko.
6. Darya Klishina (RUS). Very close with Kucherenko and Spanovic. Klishina has more merit and better distances than Kucherenko, but as she competed often, she has a few losses that impact on her win-loss records.
7. Olga Kucherenko (RUS). She only has 3 meetings where she gained significant merit, the Worlds, Zurich and indoors in Moscow. But that merit and her distances put her well ahead of Lesueur.
8. Éloyse Lesueur (FRA). Didn't make the Worlds final, but she was 2nd at the Euro Indoors and beat Sokolova 3-2 and Sudareva 2-1.
9. Yelena Sokolova (RUS). 0-1 v Sudareva, but Sokolova had far more merit (8 wins over the top 10) and better distances. She falls down on frequent losses to others in the top 10 which Sudareva didn't have as she only competed once against them.
10. Olga Sudareva (BLR). Her only significant meeting was the World Champs and she only had 4 distances above 6.60. 6 wins over the top 10 put her this high.
11. Sosthene Moguenara (GER). 1-1 v Polk and Polk was ahead at the Worlds. However, Moguenara jumped about 10cm further on average and the Worlds was one of her worst 3 competitions of the year. She had plenty of merit from Zurich and the DecaNation.
12. Tori Polk (USA). 6-1 v Jimoh, 2-1 v Jarder and 8th at the Worlds put her well ahead.
13. Erica Jarder (SWE). 1-1 v Jimoh who had the better distances. However Jarder was ahead at the Worlds and also had 3rd at the European Indoors.
14. Funmi Jimoh (USA). Beat Kolchanova at the Worlds and clearly had far more merit than her.
15. Lyudmila Kolchanova (RUS). Two great distances to win the Russian Cup and the Russian Champs, but she had virtually nothing else and could only manage 6.53 at the Worlds.
16. Svetlana Denyaeva (RUS). 8 (of her 9) competitions were over 6.60, mostly indoors and better than others below her. Beat Mosina and Bauschke at their only meetings, and beat Griva 2-0.
17. Veronika Mosina (RUS). Slightly behind Griva on merit, but she jumped 10cm further on average and beat her at their only meeting.
18. Lauma Gríva (LAT). 3-0 v Bauschke, 2-0 v Bowie. Not good on distances but she beat a lot of people in Lucerne and Monaco.
19. Melanie Bauschke (GER). Close with Bowie overall, and Bauschke won their only meeting.
20. Tori Bowie (USA). 2-0 v Reese and 3-2 v Jimoh. But little international competition, being 0-2 v Griva. Oksana Zhukovskaya jumped 7.02, but only had 2 wins over the top 20 and her next best was 6.68.

Outdoors only

7. Sokolova. Kucherenko's 3 best jumps were indoors and Lesueur was 2nd at the World Indoors. Without those, Sokolova is well ahead.
8. Sudareva. Had 2 losses indoors to Lesueur. Her only merit comes from 4th at the Worlds, but Kucherenko has not much more merit, lesser distances and lost their only meeting.
9. Kucherenko, 10. Lesueur, 11. Moguenara, 12. Polk, 13. Jimoh, 14. Kolchanova
15. Jarder. She was 3rd at the World Indoors with her 2 best jumps.
After Jarder, things are quite close, so taking out the indoor season makes a big difference.
16. Mosina.
17. Bowie. Very even with Mosina outdoors.
18. Malaika Mihambo (GER)
19. Bianca Stuart (BAH)
20. Gríva. Two of her wins over Bauschke were indoors, but then Bauschke's best jump and best merit come from 2nd indoors in Karlsruhe, so she also drops. Gríva was still 2-0 v Bowie, but Bowie is a lot further ahead on outdoor form only.
Denyaeva only had 3 minor meetings outdoors.

Triple Jump

This event is a good example of where we need to be careful with weightings. If you weight heavily in favour of merit, the Russians, who traded places in many big meetings, rise to the top, to the exclusion of people like Toma and Da Silva Costa.

1. Caterina Ibargüen (COL). Undefeated number one.

2. Olha Saladuha (UKR). 1-1 with Koneva, but Saladuha was well ahead on merit, particularly with the indoor season included. Saladuha jumped a little further and had many more wins over their rivals, seven wins against each of Williams, Knyazheva and Gumenyuk whereas Koneva only has two wins over each of them.
 3. Yekaterina Koneva (RUS). Beat Saladuha at the Worlds, but it's not nearly enough as Saladuha was superior in every category, merit, series of marks and win-loss records.
 4. Kimberly Williams (JAM). 6-3 v Knyazheva and 5-1 v Gumenyuk.
 5. Hanna Knyazheva (UKR). 5-1 v Gumenyuk and 3-1 v Pyatykh.
 6. Irina Gumenyuk (RUS). 2-3 v Pyatykh and Pyatykh was ahead at the Worlds, but Gumenyuk jumped almost 20cm further on average and had more merit including winning the Russian titles outdoors and indoors (the biggest meeting of the year not won by Ibarģuen).
 7. Anna Pyatykh (RUS). 0-1 v Dolgachyova, but whereas Dolgachyova got almost all of her merit from one meeting, Pyatykh was good at several, 3rd Oslo, 7th WC, 2 Rus-NC, 4 Stockholm etc. So she is a very long way ahead of Dolgachyova on merit.
 8. Viktoriya Dolgachyova (RUS). Only one outdoor meeting, but indoors was 2nd at the Russian Champs. Almost as much merit there as Gay gained in her only significant meeting of the year. Dolgachyova then has merit elsewhere and better jumps.
 9. Mabel Gay (CUB). 5th at the Worlds, beating Knyazheva, Gumenyuk and Pyatykh, but that was her only merit of the entire year. She never met Dolgachyova who has more merit and jumped further on average.
 10. Natalya Kutyakova (RUS). 3-1 v Pyatykh with two of the wins being indoors and one in May. Those were Kutyakova's only wins over the top 10, whereas Pyatykh had 7. Over a few meetings she had more merit than Dolgachyova and Gay, but they had better distances and beat better people.
 11. Snežana Rodič (SLO). 2-3 v Veld'áková, but Rodič beat her at the Worlds and had much better distances, 10 over 14m to Veld'áková's 2.
 12. Dana Veld'áková (SVK). Small amounts of merit from many meetings. 2-0 v Kayukova-Chernenko, and better distances than her on average. 11th at the Worlds sounds good, but she only beat Da Silva Costa there out of those who are ranked.
 13. Yekaterina Kayukova-Chernenko (RUS). Very even overall with Murtazina who had better distances. But Kayukova-Chernenko beat her 3-1 and beat Mosina 3-1.
 14. Alsu Murtazina (RUS). 3-1 v Mosina.
 15. Veronika Mosina (RUS). Much of Mosina's merit comes from 3rd at the Russian Indoors, and 4th at the European Indoors. She also had good distances, better than Veld'áková, Kayukova-Chernenko and Murtazina. However outdoors she had disasters at a couple of big meeting, so she ended up 0-2 v Valyukevich, 1-3 v Krylova and 1-3 v Zavyalova. They were well behind her on merit and distance, so she just stays behind Kayukova-Chernenko and Murtazina with whom she was 1-3.
 16. Carmen Cristina Toma (ROU). Good distances, but mainly at minor meetings. The exceptions were Zagreb and the WUG (beat Murtazina), but they add up to little merit in comparison to the Russians. Her distances were good enough to rank her here.
 17. Xie Limei (CHN). Her only merit came from 4th in Shanghai, and her distances elsewhere bear out her victory over Costa there.
 18. Anna Jagaciak (POL). 10th at the Worlds, but there she only beat Veldakova and Da Silva Costa from the top 20. Here distances were much less than Xie and Costa, but she did beat Costa at their only meeting, the Worlds.
 19. Keila Da Silva Costa (BRA). Eugene was her best performance for merit, and there she beat Valyukevich in their only meeting. Her distances were much better than anyone outside the top 11.
 20. Viktoriya Valyukevich (RUS). Traded wins with the other Russians and her best was 3rd at the Russian Champs for a lot of merit.
- Krylova and Zavyalova may be next as they gained a lot of merit from the numerous Russian domestic meetings.

Outdoors only

Dolgachyova only had one meeting, so does not rank, and Kutyakova only had 3, so:

8. Gay, 9. Rodič, 10. Veld'áková
11. Toma, 12. Xie, 13. Jagaciak, 14. Da Silva Costa
15. Kutyakova was still 3-0 v Murtazina and 2-1 v Valyukevich
16. Murtazina. Not great indoors, but good enough to fall behind Costa on outdoor form only. Still 2-1 v Valyukevich outdoors.
17. Valyukevich.
18. Athanasia Perra (GRE). Had big distances at the Mediterranean Games and her NC. SO she was 3-0 v Panetta and 2-0 v La Mantia, but only had 2 wins over the top 20, which doesn't compare well with the Russians.
19. Kayukova-Chernenko. 4th at the Russian Indoors gave her a lot of merit and her 2nd best distance. Rankings are quite close, so she slips down a little.
20. Anna Krylova (RUS). 4-0 v Zavyalova and 3-0 v Mosina.

Mosina relied heavily on her indoor merit.
Niki Panetta is close, but lost 0-2 to La Mantia and 0-1 to Zavyalova.

Shot Put

1. Valerie Adams (NZL).
2. Christina Schwanitz (GER). 2nd at the Worlds and beat Gong 2-0, Kolodko 2-1 and Carter 5-1.
3. Gong Lijiao (CHN). 3rd at the Worlds, but very close with Kolodko and Carter. The others had slightly more merit, but Gong had slightly better distances and was unbeaten apart from by Adams and Schwanitz.
4. Yevgeniya Kolodko (RUS). 2-1 v Carter, although Carter was ahead at the Worlds. Kolodko had slightly better merit elsewhere (Zurich, Euro Indoors), so it all evens out and we are left with the 2-1 margin.
5. Michelle Carter (USA). Beat Kopets 4-0, as did Kolodko.
The next 5 are very close.
6. Alena Kopets (BLR). Had a poor Worlds, with 12th place, but elsewhere she beat Tarasova twice and Brooks 3 times (3-1 overall). She had good merit from several meetings like the Euro Indoors, Euro Winter Throws, London, Zurich, etc, unlike Li and Brooks who got most of their merit from the Worlds.
7. Irina Tarasova (RUS). 1-2 v Kopets. 2-0 v Liu.
8. Liu Xiangrong (CHN). 4-3 v Li. Liu was only 10th at the Worlds but that was her worst distance of the year (excluding qualifying rounds). Liu had 10 throws further than 18.40, compared to only 2 by Li.
9. Li Ling (CHN) her average distance is skewed by two huge throws over 19m (2 of her wins over Liu). Otherwise she was down around 18m. She only competed twice outside China, and most of her merit comes from 6th at the Worlds. Overall she comes out a little ahead of Brooks, and she beat her in their only meeting at the Worlds.
10. Tia Brooks (USA). Like Li, most of her merit comes from the Worlds where she had her only wins, two, over the top 10. Others in the top 10 had at least 4 such wins. She had distances as good as Kopets, but was 1-3 v Kopets and well behind the others on merit. Also behind them on win-loss records, so we would have to weight in favour of distances to rank Brooks higher.
A big gap after the top 10.
11. Halyna Obleshchuk (UKR). Very close with Duco and Heltne, she was 1-1 v both of them. Obleshchuk beat them both at the Worlds and threw further than Duco.
12. Nadine Kleinert (GER). 11-3 v Terlecki. 1-0 v Duco, and Kleinert had 6 throws further than Duco's best of the year.
13. Natalia Ducó (CHI). Close with Heltne who threw much further, but Duco beat her 2-0 and made the Worlds final. Beat Terlecki 2-1.
14. Josephine Terlecki (GER). 2-1 v Heltne, including beating her at the Worlds. Much more merit than Heltne, but Terlecki didn't throw as far.
15. Anca Heltne (ROU). 1-1 v Kleinert. Both had not much merit and threw similar distances. However, Duco was 0-2 v Duco and 1-2 v Terlecki.
16. Radoslava Mavrodieva (BUL). 2-1 v Rosa and Mavrodieva threw further.
17. Jeneva McCall (USA). She never met Mavrodieva or Rosa and they were pretty even. McCall had 8 throws over 17.90 to Rosa's 3, so she sits in between them on distances.
18. Chiara Rosa (ITA). Most of her merit comes from 4th at the Euro Indoors, beating Tarasova, Terlecki and Heltne.
19. Yuliya Leantsiuk (BLR).
20. Anita Márton (HUN). Her few bits of merit, including 4th at the WUG, are more than anyone who is unranked. Young Olha Holodna threw further, but Marton beat her at their only meeting in WC qualifying.

Outdoors only

4. Carter
5. Kolodko. Without her big merit from the Euro Indoors she is well behind Carter. Outdoors they were 1-1 and Carter beat her at the Worlds.
6. Tarasova, 7. Liu, 8. Li
9. Kopets. With 3rd at the Euro Indoors she had beaten Tarasova and gained her best merit. Still 2-1 v Brooks, equal on distances and well ahead on merit.
- 10-17 unchanged
18. Leantsiuk, 19. Marton
20. Geisa Arcanjo (BRA). Was the next best in WC qualifying and almost the next best on distances.
Rosa relied heavily on her Euro Indoors for merit.

Discus

1. Sandra Perković (CRO)
2. Yarelis Barrios (CUB). 3-1 v Lewis-Smallwood, 4-2 v Robert-Michon and she threw further than them.
3. Gia Lewis-Smallwood (USA). 4-2 v Robert-Michon.

4. Mélina Robert-Michon (FRA). Excelled at the Worlds, but mixed results elsewhere, e.g. she was 1-3 v Samuels. 4-4 v Sendriutè and very close overall so their WC positions are used to separate them.
5. Zinaida Sendriutè (LTU). 2-2 v Müller, and Müller was ahead at the Worlds. However, Sendriutè has better merit - she beat 5 of the top 12 in Rome & Lausanne and 3 of them in Doha, Monaco, Moscow and Brussels, whereas Müller managed 7 in Moscow and 3 in the Euro Winter Throws. Sendriutè had 5 wins over the top 4 and 4 losses against those ranked below Müller, but Müller had 3 wins over the top 4 and 10 losses against those ranked below her.
6. Nadine Müller (GER). Excelled at the Worlds, but she had poor win-loss records against the whole top 10, apart from Rüh (6-2) and Pérez (1-0). Sendriutè was better against almost everyone.
7. Tan Jian (CHN). Very close with Pérez, so their relative WC positions apply.
8. Yaimí Pérez (CUB). Even with Rüh on merit, and Rüh won their only meeting. However, Pérez threw nearly a metre further on average at her best (admittedly in Havana), and Rüh missed out on a lot of merit because she wasn't picked for the Worlds. Pérez met Caballero 9 times and on average beat her by 2.4 metres, her only loss being at the Worlds where Caballero was 8th.
9. Anna Rüh (GER). Did well in Halle, Rome and Birmingham. Beat Samuels at their only meeting, and Rüh was ahead of her on distances and well ahead on merit.
10. Dani Samuels (AUS). Behind Glanc on merit, but Samuels threw over a metre further on average and beat her 2-1.
11. Żaneta Glanc (POL). Glanc had poor win-loss records compared with the rest of the top 10, beating none of them (at best she was 3-3 v Rüh) and she was also 1-2 v Fischer. Her distances were also a long way behind all of the top 10, and Fischer and Gu (on average). She is ahead of Fischer because of her big merit from Moscow and Rieti. 7th at the Worlds with her best of the year, but only 51cm ahead of 11th place.
12. Julia Fischer (GER). Lost to Caballero at the Worlds, but Fischer was well ahead of her on merit and especially distance.
13. Denia Caballero (CUB). 8th at the Worlds gives her almost all of her merit.
14. Gu Siyu (CHN). Overall her distances are difficult to appraise, as her 67.86 was so far ahead of the others. She had 7 over 60m, more than anyone outside the top 12 (except Collado). Very little merit and lost to almost everyone by having no mark in WC qualifying. Those below her also have very little merit, so Gu is easily ahead of them.
15. Dragana Tomašević (SRB). Few international competitions, so all her merit comes from 3rd at the Euro Winter Throws and beating a few women in WC qualifying. That is more merit than all but Thurmond, and Tomašević also threw further than the rest on average.
16. Aretha Thurmond (USA). Only 6th in the US Champs, behind Ashley and Podominick who nearly rank here. However, that was Thurmond's 10th best of the year. Thurmond's distances were no better than Podominick, but she had good merit from Rome (beat Glanc, Fisher, Strokova and Ganeyeva) and San Diego (beat Lewis-Smallwood, Ashley and Podominick). She was 2-0 v Strokova.
17. Rocío Comba (ARG). 12th at the Worlds, her only significant meeting, so she beat all non-qualifiers like Strokova and Ganeyeva.
18. Yekaterina Strokova (RUS). 1-3 v Ganeyeva (including different qualifying pools at the Worlds), but Strokova did much better against the other Russians (e.g. 4-2 v Saykina, to Ganeyeva's 0-1), and won the Russian NC. Her best merit was from 4th at the Euro Winter Throws.
19. Vera Ganeyeva (RUS). Only 2 throws over 60m, but she won the WUG. Beat Ashley and Podominick in WC qualifying.
20. Yarisley Collado (CUB). 7 throws over 60m, she was 3-3 v Caballero. All her known competitions were in Havana.

Hammer

Below the top 3, the top 10 met very infrequently. So for them we can either follow the World Champs placings slavishly, or put slightly more weight onto distances (as those should be relatively unaffected by conditions, unlike discus and javelin), or consider their performances against lower-ranked athletes. If we use either of the last two options, the Chinese come out lower than their WC placings.

1. Anita Włodarczyk (POL). 5-1 v Lysenko, but only 2-4 v Heidler. She won all the big post-WC meetings, so she has more merit than everyone and better distances than them all too.
2. Tatyana Lysenko (RUS). 2-1 v Heidler, beat her at the Worlds and threw further. Lysenko also had more merit than Heidler as she won the Worlds and was 2nd in the big post-Moscow meetings.
3. Betty Heidler (GER). Lost out on a lot of merit by not qualifying for the Worlds final. She still has a lot more merit than the others and threw further.
4. Anna Bulgakova (RUS). Two places behind Zhang at the World, so she has that difference to make up elsewhere. Zhang just has two wins over Wang elsewhere, and 4 throws over 72m, whereas Bulgakova has many wins over Kondratyeva and Khanafeyeva, and 6 throws over 72m. Her only competition outside Russia was 8th at the Euro Winter Throws.
5. Zhang Wenxiu (CHN). Her only competitions outside China were 3rd at the Worlds and 8th in Eugene.

6. Yipsi Moreno (CUB). With victories against lower-ranked athletes considered, Moreno comes out a lot better than Kondratyeva and Wang. Kondratyeva has better distances, which makes them roughly equal overall, so Moreno's 1-0 advantage comes into play.
7. Oksana Kondratyeva (RUS). On average she threw a good 2m further than Wang. Lost their only meeting, at the Worlds, but 0-1 is not decisive enough given the 2m gap.
8. Wang Zheng (CHN). Only one competition outside China, when she was 4th at the Worlds. Otherwise she only had one win over Zhang for merit, as the other Chinese were unranked.
9. Jeneva McCall (USA). 1-1 v Orban (McCall lost by 5cm and won by 5m), but McCall threw about 1m further on average and McCall has far more merit, in particular from 2nd in Dubnica.
10. Éva Orbán (HUN). Bingson has more merit and threw further, but Orban was 8th at the Worlds and beat her 3-0 and is close enough for that to count.
11. Amanda Bingson (USA). 10th at the Worlds, she was behind McCall on distances, merit and win-loss records and she lost 2-3 to her.
12. Gulfiya Khanafeyeva (RUS). 12th at the Worlds (better than Campbell or Klass), but her best performance was at the Kuts Mem, beating Bulgakova and Kondratyeva with 75.02. That also boosted her average distance to be a lot further than Campbell and Klass.
13. Jessica Cosby (USA). 3-2 v Campbell, and Cosby threw further than her on average. Missed out on a lot of merit by not making the US team for the Worlds.
14. Amber Campbell (USA). Beat Cosby at the US Trials, but she was well behind her overall. Beat Klass 3-1 and threw a lot further than her.
15. Kathrin Klaas (GER). Picked up a lot of merit, beating Moreno, Orban and Khanafeyeva in the Moscow Challenge, Orban, Bingson and Campbell in Dubnica, Moreno and Orban in Ostrava, Bulgakova and Perie in the Euro Winter Throws, Orban and Bingson at the ISTAF. So she was 4-2 v Orban. However, her distances were a lot less than the top 14, and she lost 1-3 to Campbell.
16. Bianca Perie (ROU). 11th at the Worlds, but her distances were well behind Menkova. But overall she was well ahead of Menkova and beat her at the Worlds.
17. Oksana Menkova (BLR). Top-12 on distances (better than Orban), but most of her merit comes from the Moscow Challenge (beat Moreno, Orban and Khanafeyeva). She didn't make the Worlds final, being behind Klass and Hitchon in qualifying.
18. Gwen Berry (USA). Beat all the top Americans in Lisle, and two of them plus Frizell in Toronto, but she was only 9th at the US Trials. Well ahead of Frizell on distance and beat her 1-0.
19. Sultana Frizell (CAN). No great distances, but sufficient merit to be even with Dahlgren overall. So her 1-0 margin (in WC Qualifying) comes into play.
20. Jennifer Dahlgren (ARG). Next best on distance and she beat 3 of the top 20 in Eugene. Sophie Hitchon (GBR) was behind Frizell and Dahlgren in WC qualification and came out a little behind them both overall. She beat Menkova 2-0, but threw 1.3m less than her on average.

Javelin

1. Christina Obergföll (GER). 6-4 v Abakumova, and Obergföll won the Worlds. However, Abakumova had as much merit as Obergföll by winning all the big post-WC meetings. Also Abakumova threw 2.5m further than Obergföll on average (at their best). That 6-4 isn't quite decisive - it is only if we consider that the WC win makes that 6-4 decisive that we can make Obergföll number 1.
2. Mariya Abakumova (RUS). Had one of the best seasons ever with the new javelin, with 6 throws over 68.5 (next best is 4). Had she reversed one of her losses to Obergföll they would have been 5-5 and Abakumova would have been streets ahead. But she wasn't even 2nd at the Worlds.
3. Kimberley Mickle (AUS). 2-2 v Abakumova, with Mickle ahead at the Worlds. However Abakumova is way ahead on distances and merit because Mickle missed the post-WC meetings. Stahl, by contrast, was 0-7 v Abakumova.
4. Linda Stahl (GER). Similar distances to Mickle, and Stahl has more merit, from the post-WC meetings and from winning Lucerne. However, Mickle beat her 2-1 and one of Mickle's wins was at the Worlds. 5-0 v Viljoen.
5. Sunette Viljoen (RSA). 2-2 v Mitchell, with Mitchell ahead at the Worlds. However, Viljoen has a little more merit and threw about a metre further on average.
6. Kathryn Mitchell (AUS). 5th at the Worlds and threw further than those below her apart from Rebyrk whom she beat 5-1.
7. Vira Rebyrk (UKR). Erratic early season and then consistently poor after WC qualifying. However, 4 of her best 6 throws were in big meetings and gained her a lot of merit. In Lucerne (63.94) she beat Mickle, Mitchell and Sudarushkina, at the Euro Winter Throws (63.42) she beat Stahl and Ratej, in New York (60.95) she beat Viljoen and Ratej and at the WC (61.70Q) she beat Palameik and Ratej. She also had a win over Abakumova at the ETC, so she has 5 wins over the top 6, compared to 1 by Sudarushkina. If she had ended her season after Moscow she would be close to Mitchell. Those late meetings give her a misleading 0-3 v Flink and 1-3 v Palameika. She still beat

Palameika at the Worlds, and she is ahead of all the rest on both merit and distances. Finally she is 2-1 v Sudarushkina, so she ranks ahead of her.

8. Viktoriya Sudarushkina (RUS). 7th at the Worlds, and she beat the lower-ranked women often, e.g. 3-1 v Molitor, 3-1 v Hatsko, 2-0 v Jelaca, 2-0 v Dorozhon. Also 5 throws over 62 metres, which is a lot better than the rest. 1-0 v Palameika.

9. Madara Palameika (LAT). Beat her compatriot Ozolina-Kovala 3-2. Overall they were fairly even.

10. Sinta Ozolina-Kovala (LAT). Only threw at 7 meetings, but she had good merit and distances in 3 of them. In Beijing (60.90) she beat Abakumova, Li and others, in Riga (64.38) she beat Sudarushkina and others and in Rome (62.52) she beat Rebyrk, Palameika and Ratej. These give her as much merit as Flink and Ratej, and she threw a lot further than Flink. Beat Li at their only meeting, in Beijing.

11. Lu Huihui (CHN). Beat Li 3-0 by margins of between 3 and 5 metres. Also beat Zhang Li 3-1, but that is all her merit and her only two win-loss records. Three great distances, all a lot further than Flink or Ratej threw all year. But she is mainly ranked here to be ahead of Li.

12. Li Lingwei (CHN). Beat the next 3 at the World Champs (their only encounters), and she threw a lot further than Flink, with 6 throws over 60m to Flink's 3. Molitor and Ratej threw as far, but they have worse win-loss records.

13. Sofi Flink (SWE). Picked up most of her merit in August, with throws below 60m. So her wins over Viljoen, Mitchell, Sudarushkina and Palameika were when those athletes threw less than 60m. She was 3-0 v Rebyrk, but all when Rebyrk threw less than 59m (she threw 60m 8 times). Flink beat Molitor 2-0.

14. Katharina Molitor (GER). Beat Ratej 2-0, though overall they were very evenly-matched.

15. Martina Ratej (SLO). Her win-loss records suffer from her doing so badly in WC qualifying.

The next 7 have roughly similar distances.

16. Hanna Hatsko (UKR). Didn't do well at the Worlds, but still beat Jelaca 2-1 and Dorozhon 3-2 (4-2 including different WC qualifying pools). Here best merit was from 2nd in Madrid.

17. Tatjana Jelaca (SRB). 9th at the Worlds gave her almost all of her merit (beat Fink and Rebyrk)

18. Nadeeka Lakmali (SRI). 12th at the Worlds gave her a lot less merit than Jelaca, but she also beat Zhang Li 2-0.

19. Lina Muze (LAT). Beat Dorozhon 3-0 including in WC qualifying.

20. Marharita Dorozhon (UKR). Ranked here mainly due to her big win in Budapest where she beat Mickle, Mitchell, Molitor and Hatsko, so that gives her as much merit as 10th at the Worlds. In theory she lost to Zhang Li and Yuki Ebihara in WC qualifying (they were in the other pool), but Dorozhon has a lot more merit than them.

Zhang Li (CHN) and Yuki Ebihara (JPN) have similar distances, but very little merit.

Mercedes Chilla (ESP) beat top athletes in both Rabat and Gateshead, and she didn't compete at the big meetings, so she has great win-loss records: 1-0 v Abakumova, 1-0 v Viljoen, 1-0 v Rebyrk, 2-0 v Ozolina-Kovala, 1-0 v Molitor. However she had no throws over 60m and many of her throws were well below 60m. She was 2-2 v Bicet, her compatriot, who didn't have quite so much luck against the big names, but who threw a lot further than Chilla on average.

Heptathlon

Merit won at Götzis makes up for the fact that scores there were well down on what might be expected, due to the poor conditions. So merit from Götzis should not be ignored.

1. Hanna Melnychenko (UKR). Only 7th in Götzis, but she made up for that by winning the Worlds and having the best set of marks. Beat Theisen-Eaton 2-1 and won Talence.

2. Brianne Theisen-Eaton (CAN). Very close with Melnychenko as Theisen-Eaton has more merit from winning Götzis.

3. Dafne Schippers (NED). 3rd at the Worlds and 3rd in Götzis

4. Tatyana Chernova (RUS). Even weighting heavily in favour of scores, Chernova doesn't really challenge Schippers as the Dutchwoman has so much more merit. If a decider is needed, it is that Schippers beat Chernova at their only meeting. Compared to Rath, Chernova has a little less merit, but better scores on average and won their only encounter.

5. Claudia Rath (GER). 4th at the Worlds and easily 5th here, she was 3-0 v Day.

The next 4 are very close and their ranking depends on how you weight scores against merit, how you treat dnfs and how many heptathlons you expect your athletes to finish each year. However, one crucial comparison is that Day had 2 scores better than Tymieńska or Broersen managed all year, was 1-1 with them and beat them both at the Worlds (with a score above what they achieved all year). 4 of the top 10 only managed to finish 2 heptathlons all year, and whether we're looking for 2 or 3 performances doesn't make much difference except to these few places.

6. Sharon Day (USA). She has a poor win-loss record due to her dnfs in Götzis and Talence, so she was 1-2 v Klučinová and 1-2 v Maksimova and 1-3 v her compatriot Kiani Profit. Her 3 dnfs in the USA don't really count against her as none of her rivals were there. Her two scores are a lot better than those below her, over 140 points better than KJT on average.

7. Katarina Johnson-Thompson (GBR). She had the cleanest season, only losing to the top 5 and with no dnfs. She beat Day at the Worlds, and neither of them had much merit elsewhere. However, Day's scores were much better than

- KJT's, so perhaps enough to turn round their WC placings. KJT's score in beating Tyimińska and Broersen at the Worlds was a lot more than they achieved all year, and KJT beat them both 1-0.
8. Karolina Tyimińska (POL). Better scores than Broersen and Tyimińska beat her 1-0.
 9. Nadine Broersen (NED). Thanks to her 2nd at Götzis, she had more merit than all but the top 3. But she had the lowest scores of this close group of 4.
 10. Laura Ikauniece (LAT). Slightly behind Klucinova on scores, but Ikauniece beat her 2-1 and gained merit from 6th at Götzis and 2nd at the WUG.
 11. Eliška Klučinová (CZE). 1-1 v Nana Djimou, but Klucinova beat her at the Worlds and had better scores.
 12. Antoinette Nana Djimou (FRA). 8th at the Worlds, 2-0 v Mächtig, 2-0 v Zsivoczky-Farkas and 2-1 v Maksimova.
 13. Julia Mächtig (GER). She lost 0-2 to Zsivoczky-Farkas, but both those meetings weren't very good for either of them. Mächtig had nearly as much merit as Zsivoczky-Farkas anyway, due to her win in Ratingen. On scores, Mächtig is way ahead, and sufficiently far ahead overall to make the 0-2 irrelevant.
- The next 4 are close and only Zsivoczky-Farkas and Maksimova met outside the Worlds. Maksimova has the lowest scores, but lots of merit from 5th at Götzis. There is no compelling reason not to follow the WC placings.
14. Yorgelis Rodríguez (CUB). 12th at the Worlds, and a higher score elsewhere, but no merit elsewhere.
 15. Nafissatou Thiam (BEL). 14th at the Worlds, well behind Rodríguez, but Thiam had a much higher score elsewhere.
 16. Györgyi Zsivoczky-Farkas (HUN). 1-1 v Maksimova, but Zsivoczky-Farkas was ahead at the Worlds and had better scores than Maksimova.
 17. Yana Maksimova (BLR). 5th at Götzis gives her a lot of merit, enough to be roughly even with the three above her here.
 18. Kira Biesenbach (GER). 1-1 v Marcussen, though Marcussen's win was at the Worlds where neither of them did well. Biesenbach had a lot more merit thanks to her 8th in Götzis.
 19. Ida Marcussen (NOR). Much higher scores than Sprunger, and merit from 6th in Talence, her best score.
 20. Ellen Sprunger (SUI). Much more merit than her rivals, due to 13th at the Worlds, although her score there, her best of the year, was only 6081.
- Grit Sadeiko and Kristina Savitskaya had better scores than Sprunger, but only had 1 or 2 wins over the top 20, compared to 8 by Sprunger.

20Km Walk

1. Yelena Lashmanova (RUS). Unbeaten and won the Worlds in the year's fastest time.
2. Anisiya Kornikova-Kirdyapkina (RUS). She has more merit than Lashmanova, as she won the EP, but she lost 0-2 to her compatriot.
3. Liu Hong (CHN). 3rd at the Worlds with fast times elsewhere, only losing once to Lu.
4. Sun Huanhuan (CHN). 4th at the Worlds, also with fast times in China, but with more losses than Liu.
5. Vera Sokolova (RUS). 2nd at the European Cup, the 2nd biggest meeting of the year. She also beat Yumanova and Pandakova in a very fast time at the Russian Winter Champs in Sochi. Disqualified at the WUG and the WC, so she can't challenge the top 4.
6. Irina Yumanova (RUS). 4th at the EP, so she beat all the non-Russian Europeans there, and she had a fast time in Sochi. 2nd at the WUG gave her a victory over Sokolova, putting her ahead of Pandakova (they were 1-1).
7. Lu Xiuzhi (CHN). Beat Liu and Sun at the Chinese National Games and she had two times under 1:28.
8. Marina Pandakova (RUS). 3rd at the EP, beating Yumanova, Cabecinha etc. Behind the other Russians in Sochi.
9. Ana Cabecinha (POR). 5th at the EP and 8th at the Worlds and did well elsewhere (except her dnf in La Coruna). That dnf affected her win-loss record, but she was still 1-1 v Riguardo, 4-3 v Henriques, 2-2 v Takacs and 3-1 v Drahotova.
10. Li Yanfei (CHN). Beat Sun at the NG and Lu at the NC, and she was 2-0 v Qieyang. Faster than Cabecinha, but with nowhere near as much merit. To rank her higher would need a strong emphasis towards times, but even then Yumanova was about as fast and had much more merit.
11. Elisa Riguardo (ITA). 5th at the Worlds in a time faster than the next 4 ran all year. She had little else and a dnf at the EP, so she doesn't rank higher.
12. Ines Henriques (POR). Only 11th at the Worlds, but she did well elsewhere so she ended up 3-1 v Pascual and 3-1 v Takács.
13. Beatriz Pascual (ESP). 2-1 v Takacs, with Pascual ahead at the Worlds.
14. Júlia Takács (ESP). 9th at the Worlds, behind Drahotova, but she was 2nd in La Coruna and had 3 times under 1:30.
15. Anežka Drahotová (CZE). 7th at the Worlds, but she had no merit elsewhere and her next best time was 1:30:54.
16. Qieyang Shenjie (CHN). Only 15th at the Worlds, but she had two fast times in China. Her main merit is from beating Sun at the NG, so she is well behind all those above her for merit.
17. Mirna Ortiz (GUA). 2nd at the two big meetings in Lugano and Rio Maior, but she was disqualified in Dublin and at the Worlds.

18. Lina Bikulova (RUS). 3rd in Lugano behind Ortiz, and like her she had 2 times under 1:29.

19. Eleonora Anna Giorgi (ITA). 6th at the EP and 10th at the WC, but no times under 1:30.

20. Lyudmila Olyanovska (UKR). 7th at the EP and 12th at the WC, but no times under 1:30.

He Qin (CHN) would be next - she had 1 fast time and a little merit from beating Lu and Qieyang at the Chinese NC.

Then a big gap as the next few mostly lost 0-2 to both Giorgi and Olyanovska.