

Kate “the Great” Schmidt

Long Beach CC*/ Long Beach State

American icon in the javelin-two Olympic bronze medals,

Discovered on the softball field, seven national titles, 16-year reign



Kate Schmidt was discovered on a softball diamond by Ron Allice, ultra successful Long Beach CC and current USC head coach, after hearing about Kate’s great arm strength. She ended up competing for Allice’s women’s club team and the first year in the event won the 1969 AAU Nationals.

Olympic/AAU: Schmidt dominated the women’s javelin in America for a decade and claimed bronze medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics and 1976 Montreal Olympics. At the Munich Games Kate was the ONLY American female field event athlete to medal and one of only two Americans to medal in an individual event-Kathy Hammond took the silver in the 400.

AAU Nationals: Schmidt captured seven national AAU titles and during a span of 1972-77 raised the American javelin record from 198-8 to 227-5, which still stands as the American record. *In 1980 her 218-3 throw was the second farthest of all-time.

1972 Olympic Trials: 1st 197-9 (183-1 qualifying)

1972 Munich Olympics (18-years-old): 3rd 196-9(55.94m); Series 56.10, 48.80, 59.84, F, 58.32, 59.94; Qualifying: 193-0 (58.84m)

1975-Long Beach State: AIAW Nationals (pre-NCAA women’s meet)-1st

1976 Olympic Trials: 1st 213-5 (202-3 qualifying)

1976 Montreal Olympics: 3rd 209-10, 63.96m; Series F, F, 59.70, 57.90, F, 63.96;
Qualifying: 201-9, 61.50m

1977: World record 227-5

1980 Olympic Trials: 2nd 207-4 (188-7 qualifying)

1980 Moscow Olympics: No USA team sent

1984: UCLA/Pepsi-2nd 192-7

1984 Olympic Trials: 4th 179-1, alternate for USA Olympic Team
(185-11 qualifying)

USA Rankings: 1972-77 1st; 1978-2nd; 1979-1st, 1980-81 2nd; 1982-3rd; 1983-2nd;
1984-4th

World rankings: 1972-3rd; 1973-3rd; 1974-5th; 1975-2nd; 1976-2nd; 1977-3rd;
1978-9th; 1979-9th

Honors: Schmidt was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1994 and was in the charter class of the Long Beach CC Hall of Champions. She was on the front cover of Track & Field News –April 1976.