

= Andreas Thorkildsen =

Andreas Thorkildsen (born 1 April 1982) is a former Norwegian javelin thrower , born in Kristiansand . He is the first male javelin thrower in history to be European champion , World champion and Olympic champion . He was Olympic champion in 2004 and 2008 , European champion in 2006 and 2010 , World Champion in 2009 as well as a three @-@ time silver medalist at the World championships in 2005 , 2007 and in 2011 . He set a world junior record in 2001 . He has a personal best of 91 @.@ 59 m set in 2006 .

= = Personal life = =

Thorkildsen 's father Tømm Thorkildsen is a former javelin thrower , achieving a personal best throw of 71 @.@ 64 metres in 1974 . His mother Bente (née Amundsen) became national champion in the 100 metres hurdles in 1972 , representing Hamar IL . He has one older brother . He took his secondary education at Kristiansand Cathedral School .

= = = Relationship with Christina Vukicevic = = =

Thorkildsen 's relationship with the Norwegian hurdler Christina Vukicevic generated some unwanted publicity on his part . When Thorkildsen and Vukicevic won the King 's Cup for men and women respectively at the 2006 Norwegian championships , Thorkildsen left the stadium to avoid photographers , whom he had shown the finger the previous day . Thorkildsen has performed as a fashion model for former footballer Martin Dahlin , fronting his 2007 winter and autumn collections .

In March 2011 Christina Vukicevic and Thorkildsen announced in Norwegian media that they no longer were a couple .

= = Career = =

Thorkildsen took up javelin throwing at the age of 11 , and was coached by his father Tømm until 1999 . He established numerous national boys ' records as a teenager . In 1996 he set a national record for the 14 years ' class (53 @.@ 82 m) , in 1998 for the 16 years ' class (61 @.@ 57 m) , in 1999 for the 17 years ' class (72 @.@ 11 m) , and in 2000 a record for the 18 years ' class (77 @.@ 48 m) . In 1999 he finished seventh at the European Junior Championships .

In 2000 Thorkildsen took his first medal at the Norwegian championships , finishing in silver medal position behind Ronny Nilsen . His form earned Thorkildsen his first call @-@ up to the Norwegian European Cup team . In October he participated at the World Junior Championships and received a silver medal behind winner Gerhardus Pienaar from South Africa .

= = = 2001 ? 2003 = = =

In 2001 Thorkildsen moved to Oslo and started competing for the club SK Vidar under coach Åsmund Martinsen , a former javelin thrower who won the bronze medal at the 1994 Norwegian Championships , and had a career best throw of 68 @.@ 12 metres . The cooperation proved fruitful as Thorkildsen soon broke the 80 metre barrier , throwing 83 @.@ 87 metres on Fana stadion in June . This was a world junior record till 2011 . Participating in his second European Junior Championships , he won a silver medal behind Aleksandr Ivanov . Both competed at the World Championships in Edmonton , but while Ivanov managed to reach the final , Thorkildsen finished last in the entire competition with only 68 @.@ 41 metres . When asked to comment on his own throwing he described it as " completely awful " .

On the national level Thorkildsen became Norwegian champion for the first time . In August he competed in a discus throw meet at Sognsvann , establishing a personal best of 83 @.@ 02 metres . He has not competed on national level in other athletic events .

In 2002 , he recorded a season best of 83 @.@ 43 metres in June before witnessing his form

gradually declining over the next months . At his first European Championships , which were held in August in Munich , he again failed to progress from the qualifying round . With a best throw of 78 @. @ 36 metres he finished fifteenth overall , 68 centimetres behind Ari Pakarinen who secured the last spot in the final . Although Thorkildsen only managed to take silver at the Norwegian championships behind Pål Arne Fagernes , his result of 83 @. @ 43 metres was enough to front the national top list in javelin throw for the first time .

Next year he finished eleventh at the 2003 World Championships in Paris , his first major international final . His performance and throw of 77 @. @ 75 metres was slightly disappointing as he had thrown 79 @. @ 44 metres in the qualifying round , having travelled to Paris with a personal best of 85 @. @ 72 metres , established in June in Ventspils . On the lighter side he took his second national title , consolidating his spot as Norway 's leading javelin thrower .

= = = 2004 = = =

In 2004 Thorkildsen faced competition from Ronny Nilsen , who threw 84 @. @ 73 metres in May . Although Thorkildsen did not retake the national number one spot right away , he did display increasing form in the preparations for the Olympic Games . He qualified for the Olympics with an 84 @. @ 12 m throw at the Bergen Bislett Games , an event which was won by Breau Greer with a North American record and world leading throw of 87 @. @ 39 metres . On 27 July Thorkildsen took his first victory in an IAAF Grand Prix meet , beating Breau Greer by a comfortable margin at the DN Galan meet in Stockholm . Three days later he improved his season best to 84 @. @ 45 metres at the London Grand Prix at Crystal Palace .

Even though several throwers , including Nilsen , still towered above Thorkildsen on the world list , the Olympic javelin contest was regarded as widely open ? " one of the most open finals in Olympic history " , according to the IAAF Olympic coverage . Thorkildsen threw 81 @. @ 74 m in the qualification round , barely earning a mention in the event report as he safely passed the automatic qualifier mark of 81 metres to go through to the final . Breau Greer won the qualification with 87 @. @ 25 m , but left the stadium in a limping state . In the javelin final held two days later , Thorkildsen opened with an 84 @. @ 82 m release which saw him ranked third at the end of the first round . Vadims Vasi?evskis of Latvia had thrown a personal best of 84 @. @ 95 m to earn a surprising lead ahead of reigning World champion Sergey Makarov . In the second round Thorkildsen threw a personal best of 86 @. @ 50 metres . As neither Aleksandr Ivanov , Greer nor anyone else managed to beat this , Thorkildsen won a surprising Olympic gold medal with Vasi?evskis and Makarov staying in place to take the silver and bronze medals respectively . Commenting on his win , Thorkildsen described the feeling as " completely insane " . A second place behind Breau Greer at the World Athletics Final in Monte Carlo rounded off the season .

= = = 2005 = = =

The most important event of 2005 was the World Championships . The preparations for this event looked promising for Thorkildsen as he improved his personal best to 86 @. @ 82 metres in Kuortane in June , beating the Norwegian record of Pål Arne Fagernes . Tero Pitkämäki from Finland , who achieved a world leading result of 91 @. @ 53 metres in the same competition , seemed a likely contender for the world champion title . In July , When Thorkildsen further improved his national record to 87 @. @ 66 metres at the Bislett Games , reigning world champion Sergey Makarov had already thrown 90 @. @ 33 metres two weeks earlier at the Russian Championships in Tula . Going into the World Championships , Pitkämäki was still in first place on the world top list ahead of Makarov and Thorkildsen , who in turn was ahead of Breau Greer by one centimetre .

In the qualification round at the World Championships , held in windy conditions on the Helsinki Olympic Stadium , only Pitkämäki , Makarov and Thorkildsen managed to beat the automatic qualification mark of 81 metres . Rain supplemented the wind the following day , constituting difficult weather conditions for the javelin final . Thorkildsen , in the lead after three rounds with 86 @. @ 18 metres , eventually finished in silver medal position behind Andrus Värnik of Estonia as the latter

threw 87 @. @ 17 metres in the fourth round .

Pitkämäki , who finished a disappointing fourth at the World Championships , bounced back to win the World Athletics Final ahead of Thorkildsen , despite the latter improving his national record to 89 @. @ 60 metres . 89 @. @ 60 metres was enough to finish third on the world top list that season , behind Pitkämäki and Makarov .

= = = 2006 ? 2008 = = =

In 2006 Thorkildsen returned to his original club Kristiansands IF , having represented SK Vidar in competitions the five previous seasons . In May he broke the 90 metre barrier for the first time , with 90 @. @ 13 metres from the Doha Super Grand Prix . At the Bislett Games he yet again improved his record to 91 @. @ 59 metres , reaching his goal of 300 feet . As no one managed to top his 91 @. @ 59 metre result , he entered the 2006 European Championships as a favorite , together with Tero Pitkämäki who had won the IAAF Golden League meet in Paris . Thorkildsen won the event with 88 @. @ 78 metres , having led the competition since the second round . Thorkildsen finished the season by winning his first World Athletics Final as well as the 2006 IAAF World Cup . With 91 @. @ 59 metres he finished on top of the world list for the first time .

Thorkildsen 's main goals for the 2007 season were the Bislett Games and the 2007 World Championships in Osaka , as well as winning the Golden League jackpot . In addition he aims to beat the old record of Terje Pedersen , who threw 91 @. @ 72 metres with the old javelin implement , by throwing in the range of 93 to 94 metres . The season started in a mediocre manner as he threw 81 @. @ 10 metres in Dakar and 86 @. @ 39 m in Doha . He recovered his form at the world championships , but once again could only achieve a silver medal , this time losing to Pitkämäki finally fulfilling his potential with a throw of 90 @. @ 33 (though he 'd already been assured the medal by this point) .

In 2008 Thorkildsen won the Golden League event at Bislett in Oslo , his main goal besides the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing . He won a gold medal in the Olympics where he set a new Olympic record with 90 @. @ 57 metres . Thorkildsen dominated the competition , leading it from his first throw and making the two longest throws in the competition without using his last attempt . All of his 5 throws would have given a medal . Thorkildsen also won the javelin competition of the 2008 IAAF Golden League in Zürich on 29 August .

= = = 2009 ? 2010 = = =

He became the first male javelin thrower in history to hold all three titles of European champion , World champion and Olympic champion , winning IAAF World Championship in Berlin with 89.59m. Thorkildsen also has the season 's leading throw , with 91.28m. achieved in Zürich on 28 August .

He opened his 2010 season with a large throw of 90 @. @ 37 m at the Florö Track & Field Festival in May and went on to score a victory over Pitkamaki in their first match up in the 2010 IAAF Diamond League at the Bislett Games , finishing with a best throw of 86 @. @ 00 m . On 31 July he defended his European title with a throw of 88 @. @ 37 , finishing ahead of second @-@ placed Matthias de Zordo .

= = Awards = =

At the end of 2004 Thorkildsen was selected Norwegian Sportsperson of the Year by Norwegian sports journalists .

In 2008 he was awarded the European Athlete of the Year Trophy by the European Athletic Association , announced on 2 October 2008 , and to be presented at the European Athletics Awards Dinner in Amsterdam on 18 October . The Association cited Thorkildsen 's success at the Beijing Olympics and his breaching of the 90 @-@ metre barrier as part of their reasoning for the award .

= = Seasonal bests by year = =

1998 - 61 @.@ 57
1999 - 72 @.@ 11
2000 - 77 @.@ 48
2001 - 83 @.@ 87
2002 - 83 @.@ 43
2003 - 85 @.@ 72
2004 - 86 @.@ 50
2005 - 89 @.@ 60
2006 - 91 @.@ 59
2007 - 89 @.@ 51
2008 - 90 @.@ 57
2009 - 91 @.@ 28
2010 - 90 @.@ 37
2011 - 90 @.@ 61
2012 - 84 @.@ 72
2013 - 84 @.@ 64
2014 - 80 @.@ 52