

Bolt tops them again...

World 200m champion, Usain Bolt, was yesterday named by highly regarded international track and field website www.all-athletics.com as the top male athlete for the just-concluded year.

American 100m world champion, Carmelita Jeter, claimed the female top prize.

The awards were based on the athletics database website's overall ranking system as at December 27, 2011.

Despite failing in his bid to successfully defend his 100m world title at the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships in Daegu, South Korea, Bolt returned to power his way to his second consecutive 200m world title with a strong 19.40-second run.

The 100m and 200m world record holder had gone 14 races unbeaten in 2011 and ended last season as the fastest over 100m, with his 9.76-second run in the IAAF/Samsung Diamond League curtain-closer in Brussels. Bolt, who was also named IAAF Male Athlete of the Year, tallied 1,458 points.

Bolt's training partner, Yohan Blake, who won gold in the 100m in Daegu before posting the fastest 200m (19.26) and second fastest in history - also in Brussels, finished second in the ranking, a mere seven points behind Bolt.

Double World Championships silver medallist, Walter Dix of the United States, was third in the ranking, with 800m world champion and world record holder David Rudisha and steeplechase standout Brimin Kipruto rounding off the top five.

Asafa Powell, who registered the second fastest time in the 100m last season, with 9.78 in addition to winning the event in the IAAF/Samsung Diamond League, finished in 12th position on 1,397 points.

Veronica Campbell-Brown, in third place (1,415 points), is the highest placed Jamaican on the women's overall list, which is topped by Jeter, who tallied 1,438 points.

Jeter beat Campbell-Brown into second place in the 100m in Daegu, before the Jamaican returned the favour in the 200m. Jeter was the fastest over 100m with 10.70, while Campbell-Brown was next best with 10.76.

Vivian Cheruiyot, the 10,000m and 5,000m champion is in second place, with 100m hurdles champion and Diamond League winner Sally Pearson and shot put supremo Valerie Adams completing the top five.

Interestingly, [all-athletics.com](http://www.all-athletics.com) has Blake (1,423) ranked above both Powell (1,397), Bolt (1,393) and Nesta Carter (1,370) in the 100m, as Jamaicans account for four of the top five spots.

Bolt (1,417), is the top 200m athlete, with Nickel Ashmeade (1,319) being the next best Jamaican in fifth place.

Like it was in Daegu, Jeter is the top-ranked 100m female athlete with 1,415 points ahead of Campbell-Brown (1,379) and Trinidad and Tobago's Kelly-Ann Baptiste (1,363).

In the half-lap event, world and Olympic champion Campbell-Brown is ranked fifth with Jeter again coming out on top.

Novlene Williams-Mills is the best placed Jamaican in the women's 400m at sixth with 1,310 points, one spot ahead of Rosemarie Whyte (1,302) with Shericka Williams in ninth in 1,296 points. World champion Amantle Montsho (1,400), Allyson Felix (1,361) and Francena McCorory (1,325) are the top three in the event.

In the male equivalent, it's a Caribbean one-two with Jamaica's Jermaine Gonzales (1,346) in second place behind world champion, Grenada's Kirani James, who tallied 1,359 points. World Championships silver medallist LaShawn Merritt (1,342) is in third place.