

**VICTORY**





**"I DON'T RUN AWAY FROM A CHALLENGE BECAUSE I AM AFRAID. INSTEAD, I RUN TOWARD IT BECAUSE THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE FEAR IS TO TRAMPLE IT BENEATH YOUR FEET"**

JOHN TAYLOR JR

Victory is a tribute to the remarkable achievements of five legendary Black Olympic athletes who have left an indelible mark on the world of sports. This publication celebrates their triumphs, resilience, and the barriers they overcame to reach the pinnacle of athletic success. Each athlete's journey is a powerful testament to perseverance in the face of adversity, showcasing not only their athletic prowess but also their influence on culture, history, and the ongoing fight for equality. Through their victories, they inspired generations, transforming the Olympic stage into a platform for progress and change.



# SIMONE BILES

"I'd rather regret the risk that didn't work out than the chances I didn't take at all."

Simone Biles, born in March 1997, is an American Olympic gymnast who has secured 7 Olympic gold medals during her time as a gymnast so far, her first being in Rio 2016, when she was only 19 years old. She also has an impressive collection of 30 World championship medals alongside her 10 Olympic medals, making her one of the best and most decorated gymnasts of all time. Recognised for her greatness, President Biden awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2022, becoming the youngest receiver of the award at just 25 years old. At age 6 when Biles first found her passion for gymnastics, continuing to begin coached training at age 8. Since then, Biles has had 5 gymnastics elements named after her, highlighting her prominence within the industry. She even won the 2017 'Best Female Athlete' award during the Los Angeles EPSY awards. By winning 8 national all-round titles, in 2023 Biles broke a 90-year-old record, showcasing how unstoppable she is.



# GABBY DOUGLAS

The hard days are the best because that's where champions are made!

Gabby Douglas, born December 1995, is an American artistic gymnast. She is the 2012 all-round Olympic champion, 2015 world all-round silver medalist, 2012 U.S champion on uneven bars and 2016 American all-round champion, therefore making her the 11th most decorated U.S female gymnast of all time. Due to this she is the first African American to become the Olympic individual all-round champion and the first U.S gymnast to win gold in both the individual all-round and team competitions at the same Olympics. Douglas made her debut in 2008 Houston, Texas where she placed 10th in the all-round markings. In 2009, she suffered a fracture in the growth plate in her wrist, due to this she missed a few competitions such as the 2009 Covergirl US classic. Due to her successes, a documentary was made called The Gabby Douglas Story in addition, she also wrote a book about her life.



# NOAH LYLES

## "I'm unlimited"

Noah Lyles, born July 1997, recently took the Olympics by storm when he won gold for America in the 2024 Paris Olympics. It was a close finish, and he won by 5 thousandths of a second, his torso just stretching in front of his opponent, Kishane Thompson. At first, it looked as if Thompson would win, but upon closer inspection of the photo finish, Lyles struck gold. With a time of 9.83 seconds for the 100-metre sprint, he's inches away from seriously challenging Usain Bolts' 9.58 second record. If that wasn't close enough, Lyles' 200-metre sprint in the 2022 World Championships is even more in reach of Bolts, with 19.31 seconds against 19.19. By achieving these incredible times, Noah Lyles has deemed himself "The fastest man in the world". He managed to secure a time of 19.53 seconds in the 200m race in the Paris 2024 Olympics, despite testing positive for covid-19 a couple days prior. All this goes to show how incredible Noah Lyles really is.





# JESSE OWENS

"We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort."

Jesse Owens, born September 1913, won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics. He found his passion for running in the early years of his life whilst delivering groceries. Throughout his life, he credited the success of his athletic career to Charles Riley, his track coach at Fairmount High School. On May 25th, 1935 is known as the day where Jesse established 4 world records in athletics. On this day, he set three world records and tied another in a span of 45 minutes during the Big Ten meet at Ferry Field in Ann. He equalled the world record in the 100-yard dash and set records in the long jump, low hurdles and the 200 metres. On August 9th in the Olympics (where he won his fourth medal) his coach, Lawson Robinson, replaced Marty Glickman and Sam Stoller with Owens and Ralph Metcalfe allowing Owens to win his fourth gold.



# JOHN TAYLOR JR

"I don't run away from a challenge because I am afraid. Instead, I run toward it because the only way to escape fear is to trample it beneath your feet"

John Taylor Jr, born in November 1882, was the first black Olympic gold medallist. He ran two races at London's 1908 Olympics, the first being the 400-metre relay, where controversy between his American teammate and a British runner where a foul was called, and a rerun was ordered. When Taylor and the other Americans refused to run the race, the gold was given to the British. However, this didn't deter John Taylor. He went on to gain gold in his second race, the 1600-meter medley relay, running alongside William Hamilton, Nathaniel Lartmel and Melvin Sheppard. It was this race that crowned him gold. Born in Washington D.C, Taylor went on to enrol at the University of Pennsylvania in 1903, specialising in business and finance, at Wharton School. At the end of the two years, he quit learning finance and continued to join the School of Veterinary Medicine, graduating 3 years later in 1908, the same year he won gold for America.







# 1968 MEXICO CITY

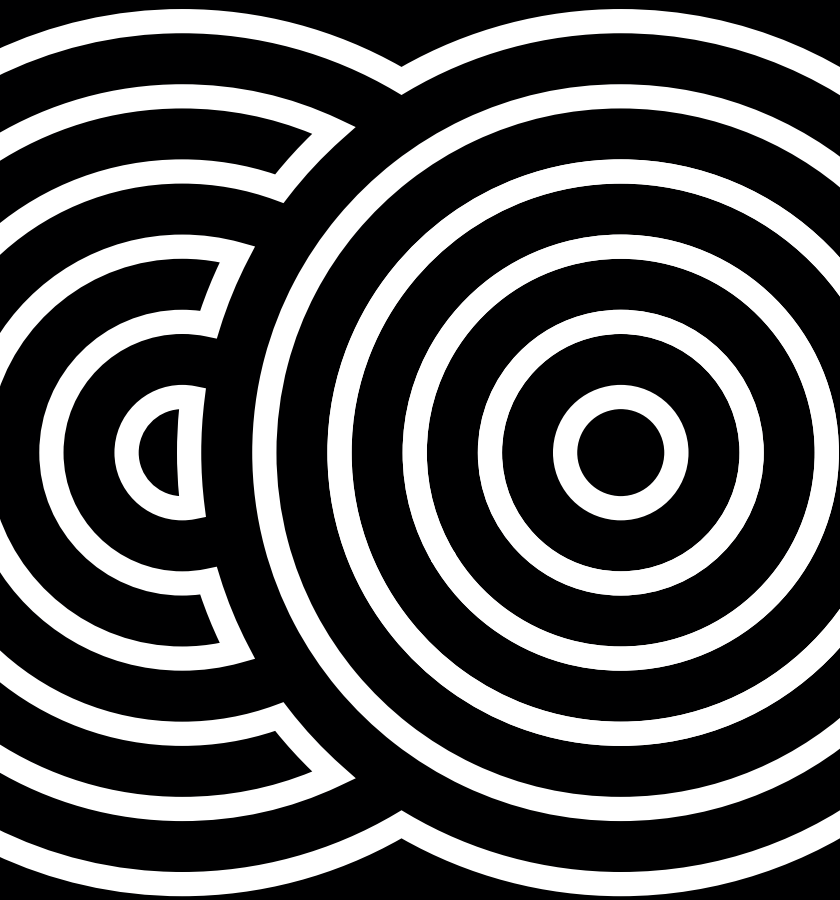


**TOMMIE SMITH  
JOHN CARLOS**

"All I did was stand there with a fist in the air. It was a cry for freedom."

At the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos made a powerful political statement during the 200-meter medal ceremony. After Smith won gold and Carlos took bronze, they stood on the podium, heads bowed, raising black-gloved fists in a salute symbolizing Black power and solidarity. Both athletes wore black socks without shoes to represent Black poverty. This act of defiance against racial injustice during the U.S. civil rights movement drew international attention, resulting in their expulsion from the Games. Despite facing backlash, their gesture became an iconic moment in the fight for racial equality and human rights.







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