

Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



A National Hero!

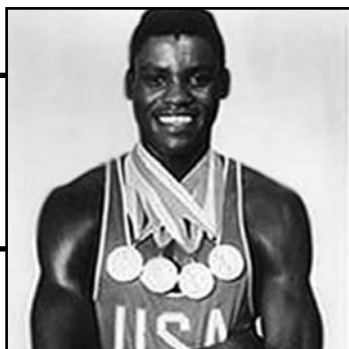
PAST

Jesse Owens
Born: September 12, 1913
Contribution: Sports



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James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens was born in Oakville, Alabama as the grandson of a slave and the son of a sharecropper. Owens first came to national attention when, as a student of East Technical High School in Cleveland, Ohio, he tied the world record in the 100-yard dash and long-jump. Owens then attended Ohio State University and went on to win a record eight individual NCAA championships, four each in 1935 and 1936. The record of four golds at the NCAA has only been equaled by Xavier Carter, in 2006. He then participated in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany where he achieved international fame by winning four gold medals as well as the hearts of the Nazi Germans! This "four Gold medal" winning performance wasn't duplicated until Carl Lewis won gold medals in the same events at the 1984 Summer Olympics. Jesse Owens was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1976 and the Congressional Gold Medal by George H. W. Bush on March 28, 1980.



Olympian of the Century

PRESENT

Carl Lewis
Born: July 1, 1961
Contribution: Sports



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Frederick Carlton "Carl" Lewis was born in Birmingham, Alabama yet grew up in Willingboro, New Jersey. Lewis was a dominant sprinter and long-jumper who topped the world rankings in the 100 m, 200 m and long jump events frequently from 1981 to the early 1990s. He was named Athlete of the Year by Track and Field News in 1982 - 1984, and set world records in the 100 m, 4 x 100 m and 4 x 200 m relays. His 65 consecutive victories in the long jump achieved over a span of 10 years is one of the sport's longest undefeated streaks. His lifetime accomplishments have led to numerous accolades, including being voted "Sportsman of the Century" by the International Olympic Committee and being named "Olympian of the Century" by the American sports magazine Sports Illustrated. In the 1984 Olympic games, he matched Jesse Owens' legendary feat of winning four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics. In addition, he also helped transform track and field from its nominal amateur status to its current professional status, thus enabling athletes to have more lucrative and longer-lasting careers. He won 10 Olympic medals including 9 golds, and 10 World Championships medals, of which 8 were golds, in a career that spanned from 1979 when he first achieved a world ranking to 1996 when he last won an Olympic title and subsequently retired. He currently lives in Los Angeles and is pursuing an acting career.

Inland Empire

What Will You Contribute To The Legacy?