BLACK OLYMPIANS

They were the best paving the way for the rest

EDITOR'S NOTE: Two years ago, black Americans who participated in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles squitted themselves quite well in the varous competitions.

During the Black History Month celebration that year, retired Washington AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper editor and publisher Art Carter wrote about the black Olympiads of the past.

We offer this account for your consideration.

By Art Carter

Once again, the sports spotlight, indeed the international focus, turns to the Olympics, with the 1984 renewal of the celebrated quadrennial sports spectacular scheduled for Los Angeles, California, in July and August, the second time in history that the Big Games have been held on American soil.

An Olympic Year is a time for celebration. But it also is time for reflection and reassessment; a time to look back and review our progress, troubles and triumph of the past, and a time to contemplate on the uncharted future as we seek new triumphs, new achievements in world class competition.

That is where we have come as we approach the reunion of the Olympics on American soil for the first time in 52 years.

Few persons are around who remember the colorful and impressive opening ceremony in Los Angeles in 1932 as the great white-robbed chorus sang the stirring strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" and a dazzling stream of Olympic athletes from around the world debouched from a tunnel and spread over the green turf of the big bowl while spectators cheered themselves hoarse. Vice President Charles Curtis read the Olympic oath and cited the spirit of the Olympics and the Big Games were underway.

The Olympics in 1932, were staged in the immediate wake of the stock market crash as the nation struggled to recover from the worse economic depression in its history. It, too, was a time when disaster, labor problems, joblessness, and irrational behavior patterns among the rich and the poor dominated the news.

It also was a time in United States history when segregation reigned in grand style unashamedly and, in some states, legally. It was in that atmosphere that the first black to win an Olympic championship on American soil broke into history. He was Eddie Tolan, who captured gold medals in both Olympic sprints, the 100 and 200 meters.

Trials and triumphs have marked the remarkable and historic participation of black men and women athletes down through Olympic history since George C. Poage won bronze medals at the 1904 Olympics in the 200 and 400 meter hurdles.

Winning a gold medal in the Olympic Games is the highest award an amateur athlete can obtain. Winning that gold medal is not easy. It climaxes years of preparation and preliminary contests prior to the one big event which comes every four years.

Hundreds of gold medals have been won in many different events. To some winners, winning the Olympics marks the start of a new career as a professional where the rewards are riches and more fame. This has happened to some black athletes who were gold medal winners, mainly in one athletic event — boxing.

Others have returned to their earlier pursuits, seeking degrees in the schools they previously attended or following a previously-sought profession, and still others, applauded by their peers of their accomplishments, found rich rewards in business.

Many blacks have competed in events that have no future professionally, and once the Olympics end, numerous black winners wind up with gold medals and gold memories. They simply fade from the picture when the headlines fade.

In this article, we have tried to locate some of the Olympic champions, especially the gold medal winners; to find out how the Olympic movement helped or hurt their endeavors, and whether or not the Olympics helped them down a path of achievement and success. To some, it has been a lodestar; to others it has been a series of problems, but generally there have been gains for most in the post-Olympic period.

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The incomparable Jesse Owens who shocked Adolph Hitler with his astounding victories, never made the fortune less famous Olympian winners made, but posthumously he gained respect in the Alabama town in which he was born when citizens erected a monument honoring Jesse as its most prominent citizen.

And even in that instance, Jesse Owens had troubles as a political battle developed over where the monument honoring him should be located. Some of the old southern-spirited citizens opposed the location of the Owens monument on city hall property in Oakville, Alabama.

This was ironic because the name of Jesse Owens is hammered deep in bronze, embedded in the stone Marathon Gate of the Berlin Stadium, and it appears there more often, even than that of Hitler. The feats of Owens were almost without parallel in Olympic history.

Certainly no individual ever so completely dominated the scene as did the great sprinter from Ohio State University. He won three individual events—100 and 200 meters and the broad jump—and ran a decisive lap on the victorious American relay team, thus taking home four first-place medals and four of the tiny potted German oak trees that the Organizing Committee had provided the winners as living memorials of their triumphs.

He broke the Olympic and world record in the 100 meters, though it was disallowed because of a following wind; he set a new Olympic and world record for 200 meters around a turn; and he broad jumped over 26 feet for the first time in Olympic history—another record. And to top all that, the 400-meter relay team of which he was the anchor runner set a new Olympic and world record for the event.

Owens came home to America amid the tumult and the shouting of admirers but he never did latch on to a topflight job. He ran in exhibition races, spoke at clinics; served as salesman for sporting good outlets and helped sell Olympic coins, but the real gold—the spending kind—never got into his hands as it had for many Olympic winner.

The late **Ralph Metcalfe**, one of a galaxy of stars who were on the same Olympic team with Jesse Owens, twice finished second in the Olympics, behind Eddie Tolan in Los Angeles in 1932 and behind Owens in Berlin in 1936. Metcalfe, who won a gold medal as a member of the victorious relay team in 1936, became a congressman from Chicago.

One of the standout Olympic double winners who is still connected with the Olympic movement is **Marvin G. (Mal) Whitfield**, who since 1964 has served as a regional youth and sports officer working in Africa for the U.S. Information Agency. Last spring, Whitfield returned to the United States for a special ceremony at the Jesse Owens Track and Field Classic held at Ohio State annually. Mal was inducted into the Ohio Track and Field Hall of Fame at the ceremony.

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Whitfield won two Olympic gold medals (800-meter run and 1600-meter relay) in Helsinki in 1952. A middle-distance runner on both indoor and out door tracks, Whitfield broke 18 world records during his racing career. A native of California, Whitfield also attended Los Angeles State College.

During his 20-year career with USIA, Whitfield has trained young athletes throughout Africa, promoted U.S. - African sports exchanges, and sought recognition of outstanding African athletes and programs — imparting at the same time a positive image of American sportsmanship and athletic prowess. Even in those countries without close ties to the United States, Whitfield has been able to surmount political barriers to exercise his unique skills as a trainer and coach.

Whitfield has organized several visits a year for the past decade or more to Africa by American sports specialists at no cost to the U.S. Government. This year, he predicts some 43 nations of the 52 countries in the Organization of African States (OAS) will participate in the Olympics at Los Angeles.

Although black athletes dominated the track and field events in high schools, colleges, AUU meets and the Olympics, there was one event that the public under some form of psychosis seemed to disassociate with a black competitor — the backbreaking Decathlon.

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The one individual who cracked this myth was a high school track and field athlete from Plainfield, New Jersey named **Milton Campbell** who could perform with excellence in just about all of the required ten events of the decathlon. Although he had not heard about the decathlon previously, he made the 1952 Olympic Team at the age of 17 and placed 2nd to follow American Bob Mathias. Campbell recalls that prior to participating in the Olympic trials he researched the exploits of the great Carlisle, Pa., Institute Indian, Jim Thorpe.

Four years later Campbell made headlines when he captured the Decathlon with a blazing score of 7,887 points at the 1956 games.

If Campbell's victory in Melbourne, Australia had any significant meaning to anyone, it came in the person of another black youth, **Rafer Johnson**, who won the decathlon in the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Italy with a staggering score of 8,392 points. Rafer had been runner-up in 1956.

Edwin Moses—1976 Gold Medal winner 400-meter hurdles

Wilma Rudolph—1960 Three Gold Medals in Rome

Jesse Owens — 1936 Four Gold Medals.

Black Olympic gold medals won since 1932

Track and Field

100 Meters (Men)
1932 — Eddie Tolan
1936 — Jesse Owens
1948 — Harrison Dillard
1964 — Robert (Bob Hayes
1968 — James (Jim) Hines
1976 — Hasley Crawford

200 Meters (Men)
1932 — Eddie Tolan
1936 — Jesse Owens
1952 — Andrew (Andy) Stanfield
1968 — Tommie Smith
1976 — Don Quarrie

400 Meters (Men)
1936 — Archie Williams
1952 — George Rhoden
1956 — Charlie Jenkins
1960 — Otis Davis
1968 — Lee Evans
1972 — Vince Matthews

800 Meters (Men)
1936 — Johnny Woodruff
1948 — Mal Whitfield
1952 — Mal Whitfield

1500 Meters (Men)
1968 — Kit Keino

110 Meter Hurdles (Men)
1952 — Harrison Dillard
1956 — Lee Calhoun
1960 — Lee Calhoun
1964 — Hayes Jones
1968 — Willie Davenport
1972 — Rod Milburn

400 Meter Hurdles (Men)
1976 — Edwin Moses

High Jump (Men)
1936 — Cornelius Johnson
1956 — Charles Dumas

Long Jump (Men)
1924 — DeHart Hubbard
1932 — Ed Gordon
1936 — Jesse Owens
1948 — Willie Steele
1956 — Gregory Bell
1960 — Ralph Boston
1968 — Robert (Bob) Beamon
1976 — Arnie Robinson

Decathlon (Men)
1956 — Milton Campbell
1960 — Rafer Johnson

Marathon
1964 — Abebe Bikila

Black Olympians hold eight records

As the relentless "Tick-tocks" of the clock move closer to the twentieth renewal of the Olympic pageant at Los Angeles next summer, the question of "What becomes of Olympic gold medal winners" persist.

Likewise we reflect on the past and wonder where they are and what they are doing. We, too, reflect on what has happened in past Olympiads, and we find:

That more than 20,000 athletes have competed since the modern renewal of the Olympics began in 1896 amid the particularly smiling aspects of the gay nineties.

That one of the major highlights of the global competition, of course, has been the tremendous triumphs Black athletes have recorded under the swirling Old Glory, our Star-Spangled Banner, during the past 87 years.

That in individual running and jumping events Blacks have accounted for a total of 41 gold medals: 8 of them prevailing today as all-time Olympic standards: The list of the record 8 follows:

Name/event	Clocking
Jim Hines (100 meters)	9.9 s
Tommie Smith (200 meters)	19.8 s
Lee Evans (400 meters)	43.8 s
Rod Milburn (110 high hurdles)	13.24 s
A. Juantorena (800 meters)*	1:43.50
Wyomia Tyson (100 meters)	11.0
K. Keino (1500 meters)**	3:38:36

Bob Beamon (long jump) 29 ft., 2½ in.

*Member of Cuban Team
**Member of the Kenya, Africa Team.

Our World

Pattie Hodges

OUR WORLD EDITOR

PARTYLINE

JACK AND JILL VISITS DAY CARE CENTER

The 27 boys and girls at the Calvary Church Day Care Center were entertained recently by members of the Baltimore Chapter Association of Jack & Jill of America, Inc.

Zelma Brown, who chaired this service project led the enthusiastic and energetic 3 to 5-year-olds in a jazzercise, pantomime and animal identification game. Anne Fuller showed a sound filmstrip and all sang songs.

After the numerous activities the children were served ice cream, cookies, and punch and received candy canes.

The nursery school teachers, Ms. Cynthia Brook and Ms. Kim Davis assisted with the activities. Melva Posey directs the day care center, and the Rev. Lorenzo Graves is pastor.

The Associates of Jack & Jill of America, Inc., Baltimore Chapter, are mothers whose children have completed the Jack & Jill program. The purpose of the group is to support the Baltimore Chapter of Jack & Jill in the implementation of its objectives and those of the national body. Frances Draper is the president of the Baltimore Chapter of Jack & Jill.

This activity is a part of the S.H.E.D. (Shelter, Health, Education, and Day Care) program of the organization.

Associates present at the activity were Zelma Brown, vice president of the Associates; Mary Young, Romaine Ball, Dorothy Johnson, Flossie Johnson, president of the Associates; Anne Fuller, Carolyn Willis, Reva Lewis and her grandchildren Candice and Troy Thompson.

Other members of the Associates are Dorothy Clinton, Juanita Gates, June Gee, Shirley T. Hill, Doris Holmes, Ruth Hunt, Muriel Johnson, Catherine McConnell, Marion Patterson, Helen Quarles, Gloria Stokes, and Sylvia Gundy.

AKA FOUNDER' DAY

On Saturday, February 21, Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will be celebratmg its 79th Founders' Day.

This occasion will be held at The Forum, 4210 Primrose Ave. beginning at 12 noon. The theme for this year is: "Service With A Global Perspective."

One of the major parts of the program will be recognizing outstanding citizens with our community.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 744-6324.

LAMBDA KAPPA MU'S IN -HOUSE FOUNDERS' DAY

In mid-january the Iota Chapter of Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority held an In-House observance for Founders' Day commemorating 40 years of existence of the Baltimore sorority.

More than 50 sorors beautifully attired in their red and white participated in a well-planned and interesting program. Among the participants were Elaine Alexander, Vivian Bennett, Elizabeth Day, Myrtle Jones, Mary Mitchell, Evelyn Moore, Ovella Queen, Mary Silva Dorothy Stone and Louise Turks.

The program included Highlights of the Iota Chapter, recognition of past basilei, first Acorn groups and Kopelle coordinators.

Tribute to deceased sorors was paid and a rededication made by those present to the ideals and aims of this sorority.

Inducted into the group was Mildred Franklin, whose many attributes will enhance this group of women dedicated to services.

Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority was founded in January 1937 by 25 college-trained women under the direction of Florence W. Norman. Today there are 33 chapters represented in many areas of the United States with the keynote being Scholarship, Achievement, Sisterhood and Service.

Chairperson for the In-House celebration was Vivian Bennett; co-chairperson, Mary Silva, who also presided at the program. Elizabeth Day is Musical Directress and accompanist. Elaine Alexander is basileus of Iota Chapter.

FLAIR'S 'RAZZMATAZZ'

Flair models will present "Razzmatazz," the eighth annual Fantasy Valentine's Fashion Show and dance Sunday, Feb. 15 from 7 until 11 p.m. at Martin's West. Tickets are $15.

For details, call or visit Flair Studio, 1008 Mondawmin Mall, 669-5365. Flair Directors are Willia Bland and Andrea Bland-Travis.

AMER. ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN MEETS

The Baltimore Branch of the American Association of University Women will have their February general meeting on Thursday, February 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor lounge, Fourier Hall, College of Notre Dame of Md.

Topic is Critical Concerns in Education. Guest speaker is Mr. Jack Epstein, former teacher, principal and supervisor in the Baltimore City schools.

He has also been a professor at Towson State University and has taught at Loyola and John Hopkins University.

For more information call 592-6614.

THE MAGICAL FASHION EVENT

Honorary Chairperson, Sorority, Fraternity, and Committee Members of the Seventh International Designers Show — In Person are proud to extend an invitation to you to join as they celebrate this year's show "The Magical Fashion Event."

This unique production to be held on Sunday, March 8, at the Palladium, 2900 Liberty Heights Ave., and will feature a glorious array of Couture Designer Fashions.

The purpose of this fashion event is to assist local designers and to finncially support fashion conscious institutions. Proceeds will also go to sponsor a deserving student, majoring in fashion design.

Those involved enthusiastically lend their support because of their commitment to Travis Winkey, who has for many years worked diligently towards making Bakltimore a city of the highest fashion consciousness. He has served as an ambassador extraordinaire for our city in his travels throughout Europe and Africa.

All look forward to watching you, as you watch "The Magical Fashion Event."

Honorary chairman is Clarence "Du" Burns.

PRESS PARTY

A press party celebrating the Seventh Annual International Designers Show, "In Person" will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at The Palladium, 2900 Liberty Heights Ave., from 5 to 7 p.m.

The affair, sponsored by Adolph Coors company and V-103 Radio will feature a preview of fashions by such designers as: Tony Irving, Dexter Lu Roi, Sterling Capricio (Chicago); Willie Smith (New York); Grundi (New Jersey); The Total Male, Chris Designs (Baltimore); and Zabadine (Lagos, Nigeria). Furs courtesy of Jerry Exelbert of Coutures, Ltd. (7th Avenue, New York).

Wine and cheese will be served following the preview.

We ask that you reserve your accommodation no later than Tuesday, Feb. 19, since seating is limited and will be handled on a first come-first served basis. Please call Ivy or Linda between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. at (301) 332-1832 to make reservations.

Scenes from the Bill Cosby reception and show

BILL COSBY (left) attended a reception in the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Center prior to his benefit performance on February 6 for the Morgan State University Intercollegiate Athletic Fund. He came to the reception especially to meet the famed Morgan coach Eddie Hurt (right) and his wife Beatrice.

FRANCES 'TONI' DRAPER, (center) the Morgan graduate who recently became President of the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper, and her husband Andre (left) greet Congressman Kweisi Mfume at the festive reception which attendees made $100 and $500 contributions to participate in prior to the concert.

MAYOR CLARENCE "DU" BURNS, (left) greets two prominent Morgan graduates: Victor Julien (cntr.), a national V.I.P. with the Anheuser-Busch Corporation, and Willie Lanier, the former member of the Kansas City Chiefs who was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame during 1986.

JOSH CULBREATH (left) of the UNYSIS Corporation and Joe Black, (right), a Senior Vice President with the Greyhound Corporation, the two Morgan graduates responsible for bringing the comedian to Baltimore to raise funds for their Alma Mater's Athletic program, admire the loving cups presented to them along with Bill Cosby.

HORACE HOLMES AND BEVERLY BURKE, Of WMAR-TV 2, served as the emcees for the spectacular fundraising event which brought in more than $150,000 for Morgans' athletic program.

DR. EARL S. RICHARDSON, (right) the President of Morgan State University, beams brightly as Bill Cosby signs over all the profits that he would have made from his performance.

FEB 1987