

10-12 AGE CATEGORY

OLYMPICS



Gail Devers is an American Olympic athlete. She is known for being a fast sprinter and hurdler. Ms. Devers is most known for being a survivor. At the beginning of her track and field career she was diagnosed with an illness called Graves' disease. It is an illness which affects the thyroid gland. Gail had to take a break from her athletics career because the disease made her extremely ill. Her illness caused her to lose her memory, her hair and some of her skin.

She was determined to beat her disease and continue her career.

Battling her disease....triumph over her disease...

1988

- Her health starts to fail while she is training for the Olympics
- She finishes eight in the 100 metre hurdles qualifying round at the Olympics.
- She becomes very ill after the Olympics.

1990

- Gail is diagnosed with Graves' disease and goes through radiation treatment.

1991

- Her feet are almost amputated because of the radiation treatment, but the doctors save them.
- In March, she begins her come back by walking around the track field with sock on because her feet were still very tender from her disease.

Meet Gail Devers...

Birth Date: November 19, 1966

She was born Yolanda Gail Devers, but just uses Gail now.

She was born in Seattle, but her family move to National City, California when she was young.

She started racing when she was young. She would race against her brother and lose.

Her desire to beat her brother made her start training and she became a talented sprinter.

She went to Sweetwater High School where she became an even better sprinter.

In 1984, she won the 100-metre dash and the 100-metre hurdles at the State Championships.

She was offered many athletics scholarships from different universities.

She chose the University of California.

Her coach was Bob Kersee and he helped Ms. Devers become a great sprinter.

She graduated University in 1988.

1988 was the year Gail competed in the Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

1992

- She wins a gold medal in the 100-metre dash at the Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

1994

- She is named one of the top two athletes of 1993 by the U.S Olympic committee

1996

- She wins another gold medal in the 100-metre dash at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta.
- She also won a gold medal for the 4x 100-metre relay.
- She made history at the 1996 Olympics because she was only the second woman to win back-to-back Olympic gold medals in the 100-metre dash.

Although she did not receive gold medals at all of them, Gail Devers has participated in 5 Olympic Games. Four of these five were after she triumphed over Graves' disease and two of them gave her 3 gold medals. Her story is known by most of the world and it continues to encourage people and teach them about hard work and determination.

SOCCKER (FOOTBALL)



Although he is now known as an anti-war activist and a politician, **George Weah** was first introduced to the world as a soccer star. Born in Monrovia, Liberia; this shining star in the football world was named African, European and World Player of the Year in 1995. This is an achievement that no other football player has ever achieved. He was also named African Player of the Year in 1989 and 1994. The journalists on the continent named him the African Player of the 20th Century.

In 1997, he was named a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. In 2004, Weah's name was added to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) 100. This is a list of the top 100 greatest players

George's Early Years

Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• George was born on October 1, 1966.• He was born George Tawlon Manneh Oppong Ousman Weah
Career	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the age of 15, he started playing soccer for the Young Survivors youth club in Monrovia.• As his talent developed and he became a better player, he went on to play for bigger clubs such as Mighty Barolle.• At 22, George was discovered by the coach of the Cameroon national team.• This led to him being signed to a European team, AS Monaco in France.• AS Monaco was managed by Arsene Wenger, who personally flew to Liberia to see George play.

George in Europe

At AS Monaca	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Even though he was not trained formerly like his fellow teammates, Weah did not let this defeat him.• He soon caught up and became an excellent goal scorer in the 1991 French Cup Championships.
---------------------	--

At PSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1993, he moved to Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), and helped his new club win the French Cup. • In 1994, they won the Ligue 1 title. • In the 1994-95 season, Weah was instrumental in PSGs victories in the French Cup and the Ligue Cup. • He was named the Champions League leading scorer in the same season.
At AC Milan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the 1995-96 season, George moved to and played for AC Milan in Italy. • Here, he once again led his club to victory and they won the Serie A title. • He scored what is probably the most famous goal of his career at the beginning of the 1996-97 season in a game against Verona. This goal can be seen in the link below: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UIPrWnXlqs.

Life after his career

After being in Milan for 5 years, Weah played for Chelsea, Manchester City, Marseille and Al-Jazira before his retirement in August of 2003.

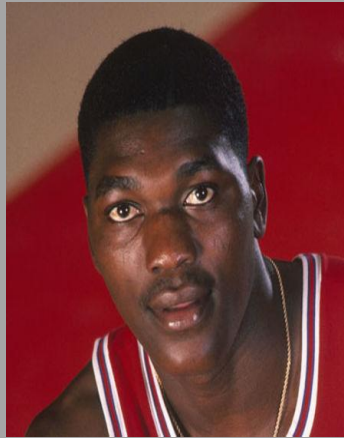
Even while he was playing football, Weah was very involved in the well-being of his home country, Liberia. In 2011, he ran for president, but he did not win. However this did not stop him from still being involved. Since June of 2010, he has been an ambassador for Goal 1. Goal 1 is a campaign which helps support children who are disadvantaged to get education. It is supported by FIFA.

He has also spent \$2 million dollars of his own money, in order to support the Liberian national football team, the Lone Stars. George did this because he saw that soccer was a sport that helped to stabilize his country.

BASKETBALL

- His nickname is “the dream”.
- He was born on January 21, 1963 in Lagos. Nigeria
- The first time he played basketball was when he was 15 years old.
- He was the first player in the NBA to ever record at least 200 steals and 200 blocks in a single season (1988-89)

Hakeem Olajuwon



- He won a Gold medal at the 1996 Olympic Games.
- He was named one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history.

- He is the first number one NBA pick to ever come from Africa.
- The team that picked him was the Houston Rockets in 1984.
- He played for the Rockets for 17 of his 18 seasons in the NBA
- In the 1993-94 season, he became the first player in NBA history to win the Most Valuable Player, Finals MVP and the Defensive player of the Year awards.

- He was born on June 7, 1975 in Hampton, Virginia, USA.
- Allen did not start playing basketball until he was 10 years old. His first love was Football.
- Throughout his high school career he excelled at both sports. Leading his high school Bethel, to

Allen Iverson



- He has many nicknames, two of which are “the

- Despite going through some hard times and being told he couldn't do it. Iverson had a very successful career and obtained many awards.
- In 1996-1997, he was named Rookie of the Year.
- In 2000-2001, he was awarded the Most Valuable Player

<p>win the State Championships in both Football and Basketball in the same year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He was the first pick in the 1996 NBA draft and was picked by the Philadelphia 76ers.	<p>answer” and “bubbachucks”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2014 he released a documentary on his life and career called The Answer. The documentary is dear to Allan because he was personally involved in making it.	<p>Award.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He has also been awarded with 2 All-star MVP awards.• He changed the game of basketball by leaving a legacy which allowed players to be who they were.
--	--	---

CANADIANA-SPORT

- Ms. Hooper played for the Canadian National Women's Soccer team from 1986 (when she was 18), until 2006 (when she was 38).
- In her career, she made a total of 125 appearances for team Canada and scored 70 goals.

Charmaine Hooper



- She was born in Georgetown, Guyana on January 15, 1968.
- She was the first women's soccer player to make 75 appearances for Canada by the 19th of June 2001.
- Her nickname is *Chucky*.

- Lennox Lewis is a heavyweight boxing legend. Muhammad Ali said to him: *"You're the greatest one there is, like me."*
- Mr. Lewis was born in West Ham, England on September 2, 1965.
- He holds Dual citizenship for Canada and England.
- He has won 41 fights, lost 2 and drew 1. Of the 41 wins, 32 of them were by knockout.

Lennox Lewis

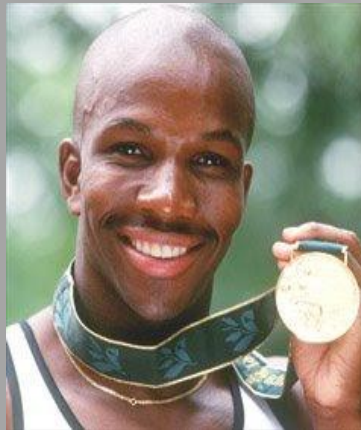


- Lennox was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.
- A year later, he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

- He has many career highlights and awards, but some of the most impressive are: **Heavyweight Gold Medalist at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1986**; Won the Super Heavyweight Gold medal for Canada in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games; **On February 6, 2004, he retired from professional boxing as only the third man in history to do so while still reigning as Heavyweight Champion.**

- Donovan Bailey is a world class Olympic athlete who is best known for his sprinting.
- He was born in Manchester, Jamaica on December 16, 1967.
- His track career really took off in 1990 and in 1993 he made it to the World Championships as a member of the sprint relay team.

Donovan Bailey



- At the age of 15, he became the first Canadian to break the 10 second barrier for the 100 metres.
- He has been inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame twice. In 2008, as part of the relay team at the 1996 Olympics and in 2011 in his own right.

Achievements:

- Gold Medal in the 100m at the World Championship in Goteborg, Sweden.
- He won the Gold Medal in the 100M at the 1996 Olympic Games, with a record time of 9.84 seconds. This record was unbeaten until Usain Bolt came on the scene.
- At the same Games, he and his fellow teammates took the 4x100m relay Gold Medal.

REFERENCES

1. <http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2007/apr/01/athletics.features>
2. http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Gail_Devers.aspx
3. <http://canadasoccer.com/?t=roster&pid=1509>
4. <http://www.biography.com/people/george-weah-37098#liberias-proud-son>
5. <http://www.biography.com/people/hakeem-olajuwon-21101363>
6. <http://www.biography.com/people/allen-iverson-38105>
7. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TCjK4jRDfw>
8. <http://www.alleniverson3.net/biography/>
9. <http://lennoxlewis.com/>
10. <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/donovan-bailey/>
11. <http://blackhistorymonthstein.pbworks.com/w/page/36948500/The%20Adventures%20with%20Donovan%20Bailey>