

13-15 AGE CATEGORY

OLYMPICS

Early Life and Career

Wilma Rudolph was an American idol and is a role model to many.

As a child, she had polio, a disease which led to her paralysis. During this time, she also

contracted Scarlett fever and double pneumonia. Mrs. Rudolph had been told by doctors that her daughter would most likely never walk again due to the paralysis that the polio caused, but she did not pay any heed to these words. Regardless of financial restraints, Mrs. Rudolph was determined to ensure that her daughter would walk again. She helped her daughter overcome this disease by taking her to a hospital at the Fisk University in Nashville which accepted black people and could treat Wilma's illness. The Meharry Hospital was 50 miles away from Clarksville, but Blanche took Wilma there twice a week for two years, until Wilma was able to walk with the help of a metal leg brace. After this, Mrs. Rudolph and Wilma's sibling performed the therapies at home as instructed by the doctors and Meharry and they encourages Wilma throughout the whole process. At the age of 12, Wilma could walk without the aid of any instruments and it then that she decided to take sports and become an athlete.

Wilma Rudolph



Birthdate: June 23, 1940 in Clarksville, Tennessee, USA

Death: November 12, 1994 at age 54 after having lost her battle with brain cancer.

Wilma was born the 20th of 22 children to Ed and Blanche Rudolph. Ed was a railroad porter and a handyman Blanche did domestic work for well to do families. They were in those times, quite underprivileged.

Wilma was born premature at 4.5 pounds and this led to her mother having to nurse her through many diseases since they were not permitted good medical care because they were black. At that time,

Becoming a great athlete/ Retirement

When she was in Junior High, she joined the basketball team at her school and although she was only put on the court in her third year, she became a star and a scoring champion. Her stardom led her team, Burt High School to the state championship. This is when she was discovered by Ed temple, the coach for the Tigerbelles women's track team at Tennessee State University. Coach Temple invited Wilma to the University for a Summer Sports Camp. Upon graduation from High school, Wilma was given a scholarship to Tennessee State University. It is here where she perfected her talent in track and field.

At the age of 16, the Olympics world was first introduced to Ms. Rudolph at the 1956 Olympic Games which were held in Melbourne. At these games, she won a bronze medal as one of the

“The Tornado made her mark in the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, Italy. She became the first American woman to win three gold medals in track during a single Olympic Games. The events she won were the 100- and 200-meter sprints and the 4 x 100-m with fellow Tigerbelles Martha Hudson, Lucinda Williams and Barbara Jones.”

<http://bleacherreport.com/articles/1081466-the-20-most-influential-african-american-athletes-who-changed-sports-forever>

members of the 4x100, relay team. Four years later, at the Rome Olympic Games of 1960, her greatness was confirmed when she not only won three gold medals, but also broke three world records. The European press gave her the nickname “*The Black Gazelle*” because of her speed, beauty and grace.

In celebration of her great success, there was a homecoming parade held for her in Clarksville. Wilma insisted that the parade be open to everyone and not segregated as was the norm at that time. Her wishes were granted and her victory parade and the banquet that followed were the first racially integrated events to have ever occurred in Clarksville. It is this “first” that Wilma is most proud of.

In retirement, Wilma did some coaching and was a sports commentator; but she dedicated a lot of her time to her foundation- The Wilma Rudolph Foundation; which helped underprivileged children by supporting them academically and through free coaching in various sports.

WILMA’S MEDALS

OLYMPIC GAMES	SPORT - EVENT	RESULTS (Seconds)	MEDALS
Rome 1960	Athletics - 4x100m Relay Women	44.5	Gold
Rome 1960	Athletics - 100m Women	11.0	Gold
Rome 1960	Athletics - 200m Women	24.0	Gold
Melbourne / Stockholm 1956	Athletics - 4x100m Relay Women	44.9	Bronze

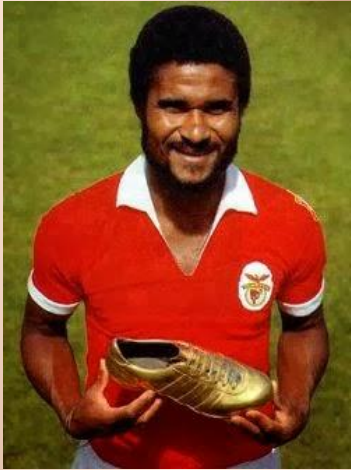
SOCCER (FOOTBALL)

Eusebio

"The Black Pearl"

"The Black Panther"

"O Rei- The King"



Birthdate: January 25, 1942

Death: January 5, 2014 at the age of 71.

A bronze statue to honour the "black panther" stands outside his Portuguese club's stadium: Estadio da Luz.

Undoubtedly one of the most famous names in Portuguese football, Eusebio da Silva Ferreira was born in Lourenco Marques, Mozambique.

He is still considered one of the greatest strikers in the history of the game of football (soccer).

He developed his skills while playing for the local club, Sporting Club Lourenco Marques. In 1961, he was bought from his local club by the coach of Benfica in Portugal £7500. It is here where the European world was introduced to Eusebio's great ability for the game of soccer; and where he developed and perfected these abilities.

In one of his debut games for his new club, Eusebio scored a hat-trick (three goals in a single game) against Santos, the Brazilian club which the

"He scored beautiful goals. All of the Santos players, including myself, thought Eusebio was a great player even if none of us knew who he was at that time."

Pele

Today, Eusebio's birthplace is known as Maputo, which is the capital of Mozambique

great Pele belonged to. He was a fantastic striker and left his mark on every field that he played at in the Portuguese league where he scored 320

goals in 313 games played during his career there. He helped Benfica win 10 Portuguese league champions and 5 domestic cup titles.

He also made his mark on the world stage at the 1966 World Cup which was held in England. He played for Portugal and although they left with the Bronze and not the Gold, Eusebio was the top goal scorer at the tournament having scored 9 goals in the six games that Portugal played. Follow the link below to gain some insight on how this great striker felt about his first and only World Cup tournament:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=7FOYyd6d4uU.

Eusebio's Accomplishments

- **1965-** European Player of the Year (Golden Ball Winner)
- **1968-** Golden Boot Winner - European Football topscorer

- **1970**- Portuguese Footballer of the Year
- **1973**- Golden Boot Winner - European Football topscorer
- **1973**- Portuguese Footballer of the Year
- From **1964** to **1968** – he was topscorer in the Portuguese league each year during this time. After a hiatus, this title was once again given to Eusebio in 1970 and again in 1973.

Life after Benfica

After almost a decade and a half career with Benfica, Eusebio played for some North American teams before retiring in 1978.

Below is a list of the club's that Eusebio played for during his career of over 20 years.

Club career

1957 - 1961: Sporting Lourenço Marques, now Maxaquene (Mozambique)

1961 - 1975: Benfica

1975: Rhode Island Oceaners (USA)

1975: Boston Minutemen (USA)

1976: Toronto Metros-Croatia (USA)

1976: Monterrey (Mexico)

1976-1977: Beira Mar

1977: Las Vegas Quicksilver (USA)

1977: Uniao de Tomar

1978: New Jersey Americans (USA)

BASKETBALL



Nicknamed “The Big O”, **Oscar Robertson** is a legendary basketball player who became the top scoring guard of all time; having scored a total of 26,710 points.

Oscar’s Early Years

The “Big O” was born On November 24, 1938 in Charlotte Tennessee. He did, however grow up in a dis-advantaged area in Indianapolis, Indiana. Due to his poor upbringing, Oscar did not have access to a basketball court or a ball; but he was keen on learning how to play basketball. To remedy his situation, he made a basketball out of tennis balls, rags and rubber bands. He would practice by shooting his make-shift ball into a peach basket.

Although his high school, Crispus Attucks, had no gym, this is where Oscar continued to nurture his skill and love for basketball with the nurturing he received from Coach Ray Crowe.

Robertson’s natural and physical abilities were instrumental in putting his high school on the map of the basketball world. He led his school’s basketball team to state championships in 1995 and 1996, with a state-record 45 consecutive victories in 1996. Robertson and his All-African-American high school basketball team brought Indianapolis its first ever state championship. Furthermore, before Robertson’s arrival at Crispus Attucks, none of the All-white schools wanted to play against them.

Robertson attended The University of Cincinnati; and regardless of his excellence on the basketball court, he faced hardship off the court in the form of racism. He was Cincinnati’s first black player and although he was a part of the Cincinnati Bearcats basketball team, the colour of his skin prevented him for staying in the same hotels as his white peers since he was not permitted in them.

Oscar’s NBA Career

- The Big O entered the NBA in the 1960 draft and was chosen as a territorial pick by the Cincinnati Royals.

*Just how good was Robertson?
"He is so great-he scares me."*

*--former Celtics Coach Red
Auerbach*

- He excelled his first season in the NBA and was awarded with the honour of NBA Rookie of the Year for the 1960-61 season.
- In 1960, Robertson was co-captain of the U.S Olympic basketball team. He shared his leadership duty with Jerry West.
- Robertson played for the Royals until the 1969-70 season having never won an NBA championship. Right before the 1970-71 season, he was traded to the Milwaukee Bucks where he played alongside Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar).
- Although his move was not welcome by either Robertson or Royals fans, it did provide him with the NBA championship title that he longed for. In the same season he joined the Bucks, Robertson helped his new team win the NBA championship

Oscar's Honours and Accomplishments

1996	One of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History
1980	Elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame
1971	NBA champion
1970, '71	All NBA Second Team
1964	NBA MVP
1961-69	Nine-time All-NBA First Team
1961	Rookie of the Year
1961-72	12-time NBA All-Star
1961, '64, '69	All-Star MVP
1960	Olympic gold medalist

Enjoy this video compilation of the Big O showcasing his talented scoring skills:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPdQ7EhCYa8&feature=player_detailpage.

CANADIANA-SPORT

Early Years

Ferguson (Fergie) Arthur Jenkins Jr. is a former baseball player who is remembered for his dominant right-handed pitches and his many strikeouts.

Fergie was born in Chatham, Ontario on December 13, 1942. As a young boy, his natural ability for sports and his athleticism were apparent and he excelled in nearly every sport he took part in. This ability is believed to have been inherited from his parents Delores and Ferguson Jenkins, who were a skilled bowler and semi-pro baseball athlete respectively.



He attended Chatham Vocational High School where he competed in track and field, hockey and basketball. He did very well in all three sports, however due to some hockey injuries which required 14 stitches, his mother was not willing to have him continue with hockey.

When he was a teenager, Fergie played bantam baseball. His stature, constituting of his long arms and legs, made him a superb first baseman. Jenkins and his friends would also practice their pitching skills in Terry's Coal Yard which was across the street from his house. Here, they would aim to pitch pieces of coal or rock into an ice chute just at the moment when the rubber flap was coming up. It is through this childhood game that Fergie honed his skills in precision and timing when it came to pitching. They also aimed at the spaces between passing box cars.

In 1962, once he had graduated from high school, he was signed to the Philadelphia Phillies as an amateur free agent, after having been scouted and trained by Gene Dziadura, a scout for the Philadelphia Phillies. He played with the Phillies until April 12 of 1966 when he was traded to the Chicago Cubs.

Major League Career

His move to the Cubs was the start of the best years of his career. He was chosen for his first All-star Game at the age of 24 and here, he struck out six players in three innings. Although he was predominantly a pitcher, Ferguson believed in a pitcher's right to bat; and in his first game with the Cubs, he hit a homerun.

For the next seven years that he was with the Cubs, he continued to excel. He left the Cubs in 1973 and was traded to the Texas Rangers. While with the Rangers, he won a career-high 25 games and was voted Comeback player of the Year in 1974.

After two seasons with the Rangers, he was traded to the Boston Red Sox, where he played for another two seasons. He went back to the Rangers for another 4 seasons before coming back to where he started in 1982, the Chicago Cubs.

Retirement

Fergie retired in 1983 after nineteen seasons in the Major League. Although his personal career accomplishments were numerous, he did face many hardships in life, having lost his mother to cancer in 1970, his wife in a car accident and a daughter who was only three years old. However,

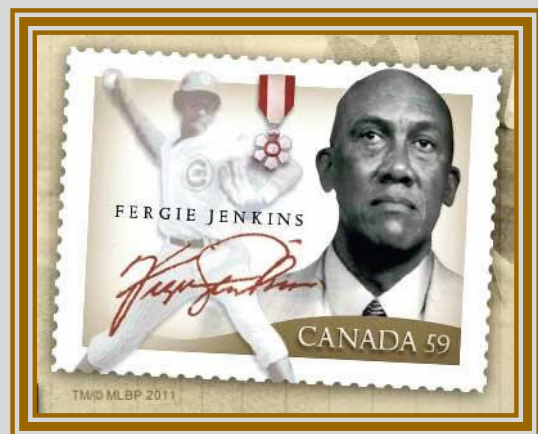
Fergie did not let his hardships get the better of him. Instead he chose to support the causes and issues that led to some of his adversities. He turned his grief into happiness by supporting charities in both the United States and his home and native land. In 2000, he registered his charity foundation, The Fergie Jenkins Foundation. The Foundation was, however, founded in 1997 with the following mission statement: "Serving Humanitarian Need through the Love of Sport". It supports nearly 400 charities all over North America.

"There are two things in (this) sport. Either you win or you lose. Life is like that, too. How you get through it depends on how strong your faith is."

-The Game Is Easy, Life Is Hard, by Ferguson Jenkins.

Fergie's STATS, accomplishments and honours

- Only Canadian to be inducted into the American Baseball Hall of Fame.
- In 1971, he won the National League Cy Young Award
- The only pitcher to have over 3,000 strikeouts with less than 1,000 walks.
- Inducted in the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 1987.
- 13 Career Home Runs
- In association with Black History Month in February of 2010, Fergie was honoured by having his own Canadian Postage Stamp.



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