

# 16-18 AGE CATEGORY

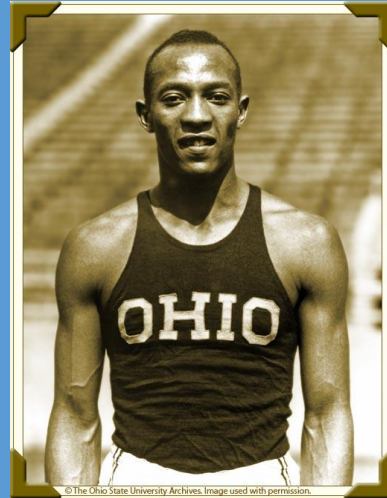
## OLYMPICS

### Introducing Jesse Owens

*Jesse Owens*, a native of Oakville, Alabama was born the seventh child of Emma and Henry Owens as James Cleveland Owens, but called "J.C" by his family. When he was nine years old, his family moved from Oakville to Cleveland, Ohio; and it was here where his name became Jesse. When he introduced himself to his new schoolteacher as "J.C", she heard Jesse, and this is how he would be known from then on.

Jesse Owens is one of the most remembered athlete in Olympic history. His Olympic career began in 1928 in Junior High school where he set records of 6 feet in the high jump and 22 feet 11  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in the broad jump. His career progressed and he went on to win all of the most important track events. The wins included the Ohio state championship three years in a row. During his senior year of high school, he established a new high school record at the National Interscholastic meet in Chicago. He ran the 100 yard dash in only 9.4 seconds, making his time equivalent to the accepted world record. At the meet, he also set a record by running the 220 yard dash in 20.7 seconds. His early success in his athletic career made him a desirable recruit for many colleges. Although Ohio State University (OSU) was not able to offer any athletics scholarships, it was still Jesse's first choice.

Due to the absence of a scholarship, Jesse worked many jobs in order to pay his way through college as well as to support his new wife Ruth. His jobs included an elevator operator, a waiter, gas attendant, library worker and a page in the Ohio Statehouse. These jobs did not deter him

**Birth Date:**

September 12, 1913

**Death:**

March 31, 1980

*"Perhaps no athlete better symbolized the human struggle against tyranny, poverty and racial bigotry. His personal triumphs as a world-class athlete and record holder were the prelude to a career devoted to helping others. His work with young athletes, as an unofficial ambassador overseas, and a spokesman for freedom are a rich legacy to his fellow Americans."*

- President Carter

from advancing his career through practise and continued record setting in the intercollegiate environment.

### **Big Ten Championships- Ann Arbor, May 25, 1935**

Due to a fall down the stairs that caused a sore back, Jesse was not sure that he would take part in the championship; but with determination, he convinced his coach to let him run the 100 yard dash in order to gauge the extent of the injury to his back. As was his trait, he went on to record an official time of 9.4 seconds, and he once again tied the world record. Within a period of about 45 minutes, the man formerly known as "J.C" not only tied this record, but he went on to set three more world records. This accomplishment is regarded as one of the greatest achievements in the history of athletics. With this feat under belt, Jesse gained the confidence to enter the 1936 Olympic Games.

### **1936 Olympic Games**

The 1936 Games were held in Nazi Germany, in Berlin. Hitler's hope for hosting the Olympic Games was that they would support his belief that the German "Aryan" people were a dominant race, and thus would be the most successful there. However, Jesse dispels Hitler's beliefs as he became the first American track and field athlete to win four gold medals at a single Game. These medal were:

- the 100 meter dash in 10.3 seconds (tying the world record),
- the long jump with a jump of 26' 5 1/4" (Olympic record),
- the 200 meter dash in 20.7 seconds (Olympic record), and
- the 400 meter relay (first leg) in 39.8 seconds (Olympic and world record).

This remarkable triumph would only matched in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles by Carl Lewis. Having been so successful during an epoch of deep-rooted segregation based on race, he demonstrated that it is individual excellence and not race or national origin that separates one person from another.

### **Life after Olympic greatness**

Unlike today, Olympians in those days were not given endorsements and Jesse had to find a job in order to take care of his family upon his return. His job as a playground director in Cleveland was Mr. Owens introduction to a lifetime of work which gave him his greatest satisfaction: working with underprivileged youth. Jesse and his family eventually moved to Chicago where he carried out his work with youth as both a board member and director of the Chicago Boy's Club. He was also an inspirational speaker who addressed many different groups at a variety of venues around the country.

Jesse Owens received the highest civilian honour in the United States in 1976, when he was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Gerald Ford. Then in 1979, he was back in the White House receiving the Living Legend Award from President Carter who had this to say about Jesse: *"A young man who possibly didn't even realize the superb nature of his own capabilities went to the Olympics and performed in a way that I don't believe has ever been equaled since...and since this superb achievement, he has continued in his own dedicated but modest way to inspire others to reach for greatness"*.

# SOCCER (FOOTBALL)

## Probably the Greatest Footballer, ever!

Although some might not agree, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, known to the world as Pelé, is one of, if not the greatest football (soccer) player of all time.



**Birth Date:** October 23, 1940

**Place of Birth:** Três Corações, Brazil

**Career:** 1956-1977

- In 1999 he was awarded the FIFA “Co-player of the Century. An honour which was shared with Diego Maradona.
- In 1997 he was given an honorary British Knighthood.
- On November 19, 1969, he scored his 1000<sup>th</sup> goal.

*“I was born to play football, just like Beethoven was born to write music and Michelangelo was born to paint.”*

- Pelé

He not only possessed technical and athletic skills on the soccer field, but he also exuded intelligence, speed, precision and somewhat of an intuition or sense when it came to goals. The accomplishments that arose from the combination of his magnificent skills and traits is summed up below.

- He won his first World Cup (Sweden, 1958) at the young age of 17, scoring three of five goals in the semi-final game (5-2) against France, and two of five goals in the finals (5-2) against the host country.
- He scored 1231 goals in the 1363 total games that he played during the span of his 20 year professional football (soccer) career. This is a world record that still stands.
- Over 120 of the games he played resulted in multiple goals from the legend. Six games had him ending off with 5 goals; 30 games with 4 goals and 92 games with three goals.
- Won three World Cups

## Where it all started

When Pelé was a small boy, his family moved from his birth city to another city in Brazil, Bauru. It is on the streets of Bauru where the young Pelé developed his soccer skills using a ball made of a rolled-up sock stuffed with rags. When he was an adolescent, he joined a soccer youth squad which was coached by a former player of the Brazil national team, Waldemar De Brito. Inspired by the talent that was being demonstrated by this young athlete, De Brito managed to convince Pelé’s parents to permit the then 15 year old, to leave home and try out for one of the countries professional soccer clubs, Santos. Once he signed with them, there was no holding him back. He could

*Pele is not only the greatest football player of all time, he is also hailed by the International Olympic Committee as the “Athlete of the Century” in 1999.*

[www.football-bible.com](http://www.football-bible.com)

already hold his own with the team's regular and perhaps more seasoned players, and went to score his first professional goal when he was 16 years old. His first season at Santos, he was the league leader for most goals scored; and his success led him to being chosen to play for the National Team of Brazil.

## A National Treasure

The 1958 World Cup was the first time that the rest of the world was introduced to the legend, and the world responded favourably to him. After having displayed his talent, speed and goal-scoring power in 1958, Pelé was sought after by many European football clubs. However, unlike many other professional soccer players. He did not leave his country due to the acquisition of the title of National Treasure. This declaration was made in 1961 by the President Jânio Quadros. As a national treasure, it was difficult for him to play soccer in any other country, but his own.

*Although Pelé had faced disappointment on the world stage after the 1966 World Cup, his legendary presence was still sought after by many. Amid the Biafran Civil War that took place between 1967 and 1970 in Nigeria, citizens agreed to a 48 hour cease fire so that they could watch this legendary soccer player in an exhibition game which took place in Lagos.*

Although an injury had during the last round of Chile, Brazil's treasure country's victory in the tournament. The 1966

repeat of history as once again Pelé was on the sidelines due to leg injuries he sustained through attacks from defenders on the opposing teams. This misfortune was a sign of things to come as Brazil was knocked out of the tournament after the first round.

him out of commission the 1962 World cup in still contributed to the first two games of the World Cup in England was a

The legend's glory, and that of his nation, was restored in 1970, when Pelé led his team to victory in the World Cup which was held in Mexico. He scored 4 goals in the tournament and one of these was in the final against Italy, when Brazil took the trophy with a 4-1 win.

Four years after his third World Cup victory, Pelé announced his retirement from professional soccer. However, in 1975, he was convinced to play for the New York Cosmos, a team in the North American Soccer League (NASL). His presence within the league brought much needed attention to the league and it became a big attraction as attendance increased by 80 percent.

Pelé's last professional game was played on October 1, 1977. The game was an exhibition game which had his current club, New York Cosmos, playing against his former club, Santos at the Giants stadium. This game was made even more memorable because Pelé played for both teams. The first half was Santos' and the second half was given to Cosmos. He scored only one goal during the game and it was in the first half. By the end of the game, it was heavily raining and Brazilian Journalists reported that "even the skies were crying over the retirement" of this great footballer.

### **Life after 3 World Cup wins**

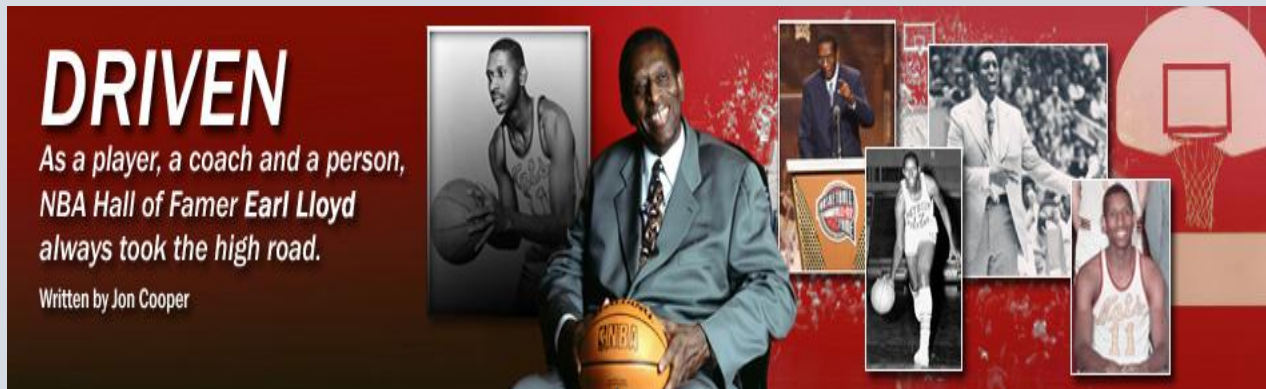
Even after retirement, Pelé remained an important icon for the world of soccer and he was still active in many areas of professional soccer. He became Brazil's Extraordinary Minister for Sport and a United Nations ambassador for ecology and the environment. In 1978, he was awarded an International Peace Award for the work that he had been doing with UNICEF. The legend has also raised money for charities such as Harlem Street soccer merging both his love for the game and his desire to show support to youth.



# BASKETBALL

## The pioneer and his peers

*Earl Lloyd* was born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1928. At the age of 21, on October 31 1950, he became the first African-American player to participate in a National Basketball Association (NBA) game. However, although undoubtedly a pioneer for African-American basketball players, Lloyd was accompanied by two other pioneers. He, Chuck Cooper and Nat “Sweetwater” Clifton were the first African-American players who had been drafted (selected) to play for NBA teams for the 1950-51 season. This was unprecedented, as before them, black players would not have been drafted into NBA teams. Cooper was the first one to be drafted, and he went to play for the Boston Celtics; and “Sweetwater” who was drafted by the New York Nicks was the first of the three to sign an NBA contract. Due to the Celtics and the Nicks starting their seasons later (in November), Lloyd became the first of the three to play since the Capitols season started on the 31 of October.



Source: <http://www.nba.com/hawks/features/driven-story-earl-lloyd-jon-cooper>

Although Earl had reservations about joining an all-white team, he was fortunate to have teammates who were welcoming. Many of them had played on mixed-race teams in college and did not treat Earl the way some of the white fans did. The historic game was played against the Rochester Royals, and even though the Washington Capitols lost, Earl scored 6 of the 70 points and paved the way for the reception of African Americans in the NBA. Lloyd went on to play seven games for the Capitols before being drafted into the military and being sent to Korea for two years. In the two years he was gone, his former team went out of business allowing the Syracuse Nationals to have Lloyd join their team upon his return, in 1952.

## Syracuse Nationals

While with the Nationals, Earl achieved the greatest performance of his career in the 1954-55 season when he helped his team make it to the Eastern Division Championship by scoring 731 points. His skill helped to further demonstrate his pioneer spirit when he became the first African-American player to win an NBA championship. In 1956, he was named the Central

Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Player of the Decade for the years spanning from 1946 to 1956.

### **Detroit Pistons**

In 1958, the National traded Lloyd to the Detroit Pistons where he played for two years before retiring from professional basketball in 1960. In 1968, after he had retired, Lloyd stayed true to his pioneer nature by becoming the first African-American to be named as Assistant coach in the NBA; and his coaching tenure would be with the Detroit Pistons. Three years later, he was the Pistons first black head coach. Even when Lloyd was fired as head coach of the Pistons due to a bad 1971-72 season; he continued to be involved in instrumental moments for black people. Lloyd was succeeded by another head coach who was black; and this was another first in league history.

### **Awards and Accomplishments**

Earl Lloyd has worked hard and achieved many great things. The table below highlights some of his many accomplishments.

<b>1948-49</b>	<b>Lead his Alma Mater, Virginia State to two CIAA Conference and Tournament Championships.</b>
<b>1948-50</b>	Named All-Conference Player three years consecutively
<b>1949-50</b>	Named All-American Player
<b>1950</b>	First African-American to play in an NBA game
<b>1955</b>	First black player to win an NBA title
<b>1968</b>	First black assistant NBA coach
<b>1998</b>	Voted to CIAA's 50 Greatest Players as well as the Hall of Fame
<b>2001</b>	February 9 <sup>th</sup> is named Earl Lloyd Day in Virginia by the governor
<b>2003</b>	He is inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame



# CANADIANA-SPORT

The **Amber Valley Baseball Team** was established by Jefferson Davis (J.D.) Edwards, one of the first residents of Amber Valley, a settlement 24 kilometers from the town of Athabasca. Until 1932, it was known as Pine Creek. Edwards founded the team in 1926 and it was one of the best baseball teams in Alberta from the 1920s to the 1940s.

The team allowed the community to develop a strong sense of camaraderie through their teamwork, determination and cooperation. The members of the team demonstrated skills that were unrivaled and the team became positive representatives of the newly settled Black community. The baseball team, which was given great focus by its manager and founder J.D, hit its prime in the 1930s, and at this same time, the population of Amber Valley grew to 350. During its prime, the team gained such a repertoire that they would be guaranteed a fee of \$50 a game regardless of the outcome of the game.

The team, in their all white uniform would draw in large crowds of people. Baseball fans valued the skill, power, agility, and camaraderie that was demonstrated by the members of this all-Black baseball team. Contrary to the United States at that time, the Amber Valley Baseball team, which consisted fully of black players would play against teams which consisted of white players. At the time, the traditional barnburner game against Lac La Biche was the most awaited game of the year. It took place every 1 July in celebration of Canada Day.

One of the most memorable games for the team was that which was played against the Grande Prairie team. The game was to be played in Grande Prairie and transportation was challenging from Amber Valley to Grande Prairie due to inaccessible roads and unreliable vehicles. In order to make it to the game, the team had to board a local ferry in order to cross a river. Many of the

## Ode to the Amber Valley Baseball Team

By: Clinton Murphy

We saw "Kenny" in the catcher's slot  
In the days of old renown  
And "Forty" with that side-arm curve  
Was hurlin' 'em on the mound  
"TC" was out in centre field  
So proud he would almost burst  
"Man" was playing second  
And "Big J" was huggin' first  
"Doc" was in at shortstop  
No matter what the count might be  
You would always hear him yell "tut,  
tut"  
I'll tell the world—it looked pretty good  
to me  
"Alvin Brown" was deep in left  
"Moose" was covering right  
And down along that third baseline  
You were sure to find "Peepsight"

These boys played well together  
Known far and wide for their fame  
Win, lose or draw, to them  
Fairness was the game  
They taught us a lesson  
You're playing for the team's sake  
Play up and the play the game



players could not afford the 5 cent fare as their day jobs did not pay much. However, some of the truck drivers on the ferry agreed to hide the players under a pile of straw.

---

*“The first institution built in Amber Valley was a one-room schoolhouse, built by settlers in 1913. Named for Nimrod Toles, who donated the land for the school, the Toles School was open for six months of the year, and school trustees were elected by members of the community. Toles School was rebuilt in 1932, and, in 1946, Keyes School was built.”*

[www.albertasource.ca/blackpioneers](http://www.albertasource.ca/blackpioneers)

With their ongoing team spirit and positive reinforcement to one another on the field, the Amber Valley Baseball team won the game and accompanying their win was \$300. Baseball not only gave Amber Valley the ability to showcase their hard working, determined and cooperative values on the field, but also in their lives off the field.

## REFERENCES

1. <http://www.jesseowens.com/>
2. <http://www.blackhistorycanada.ca/topic.php?id=127&themeid=2>
3. <http://wayback.archive-it.org/2217/20101208160316/http://www.albertasource.ca/blackpioneers/>
4. <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/earl-lloyd-becomes-first-black-player-in-the-nba>
5. [http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Earl\\_Lloyd.aspx](http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Earl_Lloyd.aspx)
6. <http://www.biography.com/people/pel%C3%A9-39221#soccers-national-treasure>
7. <http://www.football-bible.com/soccer-info/best-soccer-player-ever.html>
8. <http://ca.complex.com/sports/2013/10/pele-25-things-you-didnt-know/pele-24>
9. Picture of Amber Valley Baseball Team sourced from [www.attheplate.com](http://www.attheplate.com).