

Basketball stars among Olympians who have done well 'after the gold'

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2 1/2 inches, in October 1968, at Mexico City. The record still stands although experts think Carl Lewis, the current cinderpath comet, may break it before his career fades.

Beamon is 37 now and works as director of sports development for Dade County Parks and Recreation in Miami. Recalling his 1968 jump, he said he merely wanted to jump "as far as I could with little thought about breaking a record."

Many observers contend that Beamon was lucky, since he accomplished his jump in the "thin mountainous air of Mexico City." But they overlook the fact that everybody else competed in that thin air, too.

It also must be remembered that Beamon's mark was two feet longer than the record set by Ralph Boston in 1965. Beamon was competing against Boston and Igor Ter-Ovanesyan, a Soviet long jumper who had tied Boston's record in 1967.

In 1932, when Los Angeles hosted the games, 127 women competed in 14 track and field, fencing and swimming events. Since then, 13 more sports categories have been added to broaden the scope of female participation.

In the span of time since the 1932 games, women, and black women in particular, have provided outstanding performances in all events they participated in.

The most dominant figure in women's competition without a doubt has been Wilma Rudolph, who won three gold medals in the 1960 games at Rome.

Wilma came out of Tennessee State University under Coach Ed Temple, who was developing women runners long before it became stylish for them to compete in big meets. Wilma won gold medals in the 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100-meter relay.

Some of Tennessee State's other Olympic gold medalists were Edith McGuire and Wyomia Tyus. McGuire won the 200 meters in Tokyo in 1964. Tyus won the 100-meter gold at Tokyo and also at Mexico City in 1968.

Besides the previously mentioned gold medal winners, scores of others have made history as performers under the American flag in the Olympics.

Howard P. Drew was a sprinter in the 1912 Olympics and a favorite to win the gold, but he never ran in the finals. Drew was stricken with a leg injury after winning the semi-finals in the 100 meters. Although he suited up for the finals, he never ran because the injury was too painful.

Perhaps the biggest hard luck story of the Olympics occurred in Munich in 1972 when Ray Robinson and Eddie Hart, then two of America's standout sprinters, were disqualified because they failed to report at the starting post on time for the second heat of the 100 meters.

Six Olympic gold medal winners were honored last year among the 20 charter members of the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. The list was topped by Jesse Owens, winner of four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics, and the lone boxer was Cassius Clay, now known as Muhammad Ali, who won the light-heavyweight title in Rome in 1960.

Others include Wilma Rudolph, winner of three gold medals in the women's events in 1960; Rafer Johnson, 1960 decathlon champion; Bob Beamon, 1968 long jump victor with a still-standing world record of 29 feet, 2 1/2 inches, and Harrison Dillard, four-time gold medal winner in sprints and hurdles in 1948 and 1952.

It should be remembered that coaching techniques are imperceptibly altered as time goes on, making it impossible for any clocking to remain unchallenged. Jesse Owens, for example, was not permitted to use the modern starting block. And he had to break the tape. But today the dash man need only make contact with the tape. Perhaps the Owens 9.4 of 1936 today would be a 9.1.

In the historic words of Baron deCouberteu, who is considered the father of the Modern Olympics: "The important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning, but

taking part. The essential thing is not conquering, but fighting well."

This may have been fine when the Modern Games were renewed in 1896, but the simple fact now is that athletes and nations "go for the gold" because winners of gold Olympic medals find gold -- real gold -- easier to obtain once that gold medal dangles on a ribbon around their

necks.

Some of the gold winners have gained success, and some of them have been like Tennyson's snowflake: "A moment white on-water, then gone forever."

But the story of those who have excelled in the Olympics and moved into successful careers have made history -- Black History especially -- that we can never overlook.

Black College Briefs

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Bryant won 323 games, and Robinson needs just 10 wins to catch him. "Everybody wants to talk about what's happening," says Robinson. "But I just want to enjoy these last six years (Louisiana has a mandatory retirement age of 70; Robinson is 64) and have the best time I can..."

Former Winston-Salem State star Reggie Gaines is doing well in the Continental Basketball Association, leading the Louisville Catbirds with a 27.9 average....

Brutus Jackson, former head of the athletic council at Prairie View A&M, has been named athletic director there.

Russell

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Plus, the lack of practice time also adversely affected my game.

"I was a little surprised that I made the team after the injuries because I knew the injuries and missed time would hurt my chances. But the coaches gave me their votes and I appreciate it."

Russell said he now has his sights set on the CIAA tourney title. "I am able to go at full speed again now," he says. "I didn't want to miss any of the season but I now feel the layoff helped me."

Affectionately know as "Troy the Joy" by local fans, Russell said he feels no pressure entering his first league tournament. "There is no added pressure," he said. "Right now I'm concentrating on playing my best and winning it all."

Northern Division title-winner Norfolk State and St. Augustine's, which won the Southern title, were the only two schools to place two players on the team.

Joining Pope from Norfolk was freshman guard Ralph Tally. The two St. Augustine's players were senior forward Anthony Rogers and guard Randy Franks. Franks was a teammate of Russell's at Essex County.

"It feels good to see Randy on the team," said Russell. "It says something about the team and the coaching we had in junior college."

Others making the team were Fayetteville State's William Person, St. Paul's Charles Bell, North Carolina Central's Charles Murphy, Hampton Institute's Cedric Miller, Shaw's Dave Lacy and Johnson C. Smith's Roosevelt McGruder.



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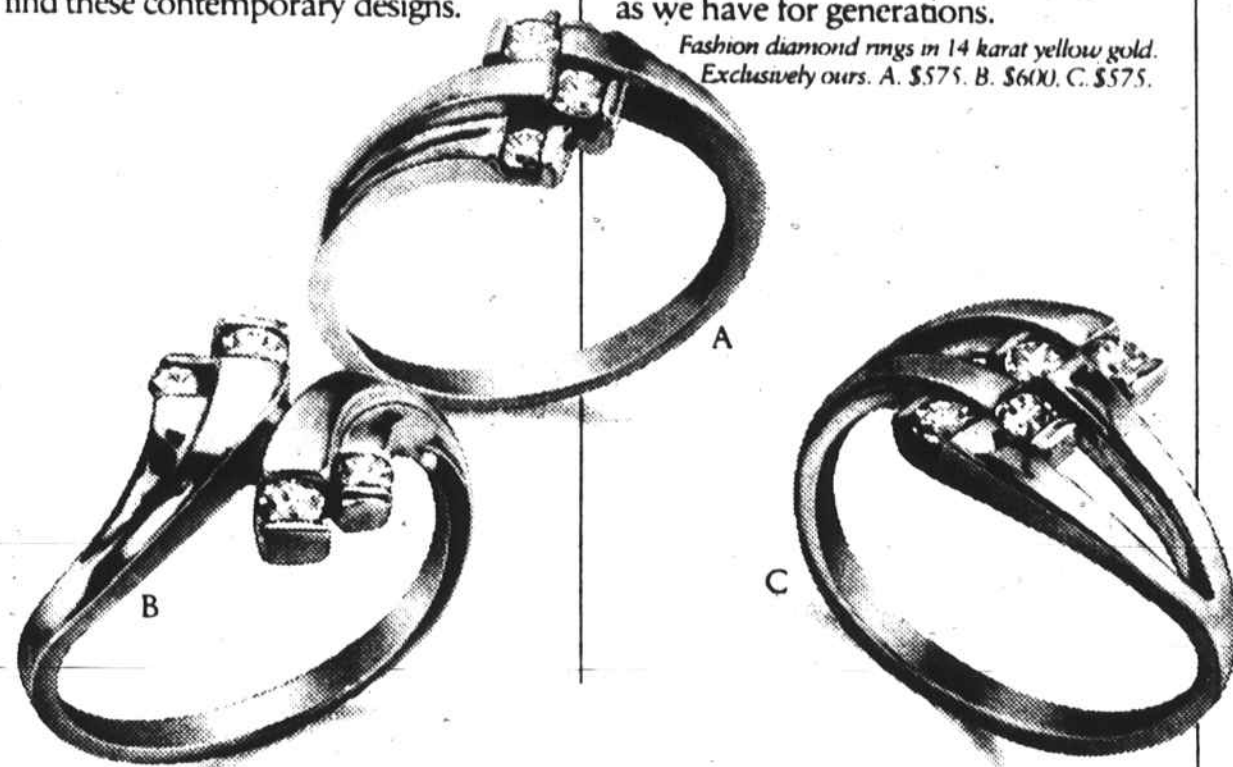
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The official Oratorical Contest is "My Responsibility, Involvement." Contestants must speak on the official subject for not less than four minutes and not more than five minutes. Scoring is based on personal qualities, material organization, delivery and presentation, and overall effectiveness.

For information concerning the contest, contact:

James Moore 784-6648
Ed Swicegood 766-9595
Before March 1, 1984
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