

Marion Motley of the Cleveland Browns was the first black to lead the league in rushing in 1950, and Joe Perry of the San Francisco 49ers was the first to record a 1,000-yard season running the ball.

Jim Brown of the Cleveland Browns became perhaps the greatest runner ever after joining the league in 1957, leading the league in rushing 8 of the 9 years he played.

However, civil rights struggles did not end with breakdown of the color line. For years, pro teams resisted putting African-Americans in prominent decision-making positions like quarterback, center or line-backer. Even today most quarterbacks are white.

But where would the NFL be today without the performances of Randy Moss, Terrell Davis, Emmitt Smith, Deion Sanders or Warren Sapp?



Deion Sanders has used talent and style to become a star in both professional football and professional baseball.

That's Entertainment

Even though many singers and dancers initially performed under segregated conditions, African-American artists have had profound effects on American culture.

From blues to jazz to rap, black music has always found wide audiences and has had great influence on white musicians.

And some of today's biggest music stars are African-American. Boyz II Men is one of the most popular acts around. Michael Jackson has set recording records throughout his career.



Janet Jackson earned an \$80 million contract with Virgin Records that was one of the biggest in the history of the music industry.

Locked out of white entertainment, African-Americans developed their own vaudeville chains and movie theatres in the early years of this century.

Black concert halls like the Cotton Club and Apollo in New York and the Uptown in Philadelphia became attractions for both black and white audiences.

Josephine Baker was a world wide star in the 1920s. While performing at the Folies Bergere in Paris, she received 40,000 love

letters and 2,000 offers of marriage! She later starred in films, worked as a spy against the Nazis during World War II and won the French Legion of Honor award for her effort.

Jelly Roll Morton was the first great jazz composer in the early 1900s and Scott Joplin wrote the first ragtime opera. Trumpet great and singer Louis Armstrong introduced scat singing to wide audiences in 1926.

Lena Horne was the first African-American singer to perform with a white orchestra, joining Charlie Barnet's band in 1936. Marian Anderson was the first black opera singer to break the color line at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York in 1955.

Charley Pride was the first African-American to become a country music star, breaking into the mostly white field in 1960.

Aretha Franklin, the soul singer, made music history in 1967, when she became the first female singer inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of fame.

The development of television as home entertainment opened new opportunities for African-American performers. In the early years, as in other fields, the opportunities were limited because of race barriers.

But today black actors and actresses, singers and dancers, comedians and talk show hosts, are the key players in television programming.



Oprah Winfrey, the country's first national talk-show host among African-Americans, is one of the wealthiest U.S. entertainers.

Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is one of the most successful performers in all of entertainment, with wealth totaling more than \$675 million at the end of 1998.

Singer Nat King Cole, whose daughter Natalie Cole became a singing star herself, was the first African-American to host a network television show, in 1956.

Ethel Waters was the first black actress to star in a television series. The show was a comedy called "Beulah" in 1950.

Diahann Carroll was the first African-American

actress to have a long-running TV show, the successful "Julia" in the late 1960s.

Singer/actor Harry Belafonte was the first black to win an Emmy, for his 1960 variety special "A Night With Belafonte."

Today, the schedules of the television networks are rich in African-American talent—from "Oprah" to "The Wayans Brothers" to "Jamie Foxx."

TAKE A

What about it?

Jesse Owens was the first athlete to win four gold medals in one Olympic games—at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. Owens tied the world record in the 100 meter dash, set Olympic records in the broad jump and 200 meter dash and helped his team to a gold medal in the 440-meter relay, setting another world record. His accomplishments took on world wide importance because Germany was the host and its leader, Adolf Hitler, was intent on proving Germans were the world's "master race." America was thrilled Owens had put down Hitler. But what message should his performance have given America in 1936? Write three things taught by his performance, then and now.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



CHECK OUT THE PAPER!

1. Look through the television listings of your newspaper for a week. List all the regular shows that feature African-American families. Then list all the shows that feature white families. Compare the numbers. Then compare how each type of family is presented. Do the shows accurately present how people live?
2. Many sports seem dominated by one race or another. The best pro basketball players are mostly African-American. There are few African-American swimmers, golfers or tennis players. Look through the sports section and pick a sport that is written about. What things determine what sports people of different races play? See how many things you can list. Stretch your thinking.

1960 President Eisenhower signs the Civil Rights Act of 1960, giving federal government responsibility in civil rights issues.

Homes of Civil Rights activists in Nashville, TN, are damaged in a bombing.

1961 Thirteen Freedom Riders begin bus trip through South to force desegregation of terminals. The bus is bombed and passengers attacked.

1963 NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers is killed outside his home in Jackson, MS. In 1994 his killer is finally convicted.

More than 250,000 civil rights demonstrators march on Washington, D.C., where Martin Luther King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech.



1964 24th Amendment, which outlaws the poll tax requirement, is ratified and added to U.S. Constitution.

U.S. Congress passes Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination in public places, schools, lodging, federal programs and employment.

Martin Luther King Jr. receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

1965 King leads 200 marchers from Selma to Montgomery, AL to protest racial discrimination.

Malcolm X is assassinated.

Riots breakout in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles after a clash between black residents and white police.

1966 Civil rights activist James Meredith is wounded by a sniper during a voter registration march. The next day, nearly 4,000 blacks register to vote.



Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts elected first black U.S. senator since Reconstruction.

Barbara Jordan becomes first black to serve in Texas state senate since 1883. She later serves in U.S. Congress before death in January 1996.

1967 In Newark, NJ, delegates at the Black Power Conference call for partitioning the U.S. into two independent nations, one for whites and one for blacks.