

BOB BEAMON

Track & Field



Born in Queens, New York, Bob Beamon is an Olympic record-holder who rose from humble beginnings to become one of the greatest long jumpers in the sport's history.

Beamon's track career took off in high school when the talented long jumper was discovered by renowned track coach Larry Ellis.

Ellis mentored Beamon, who set a national high school triple jump record and finished second in the nation in long jump during his senior year. Beamon's electric performances helped earn him a place on North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's track and field team.

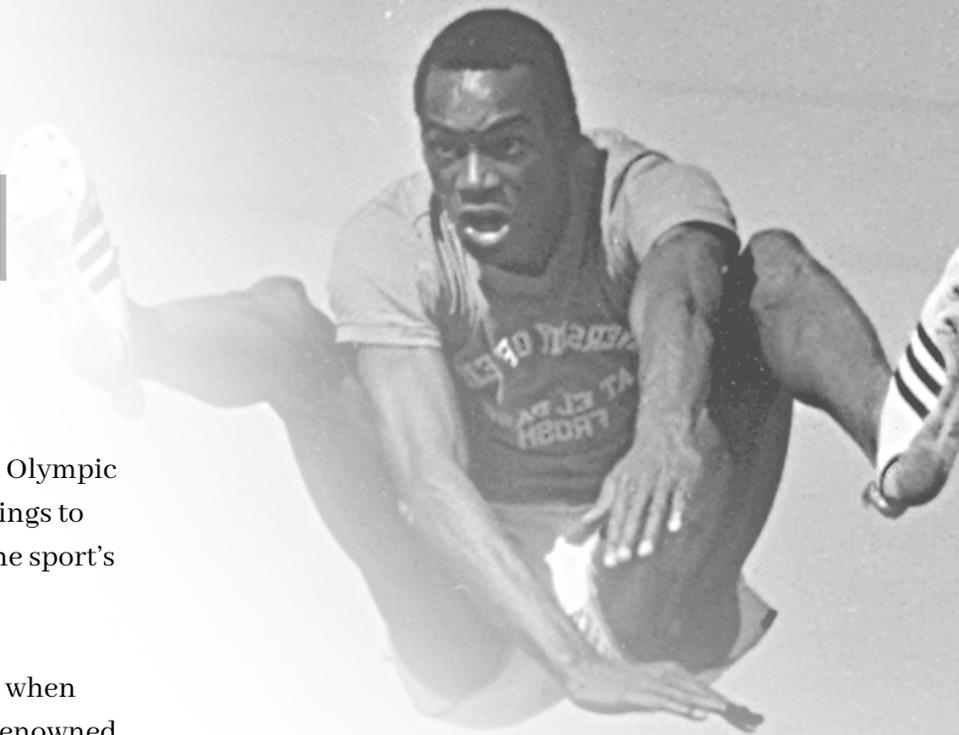
After a brief stint at NCA&T, Beamon transferred to the University of Texas at El Paso. Beamon's time with the Miners' track and field team helped prime him for success on the international stage. In 1967, Beamon won the AAU indoor title and earned a silver medal at the Pan American Games, both in the long jump. Only competing one season with the Miners, Beamon left a lasting legacy at UTEP.

In 1968, Beamon qualified for the 1968 Mexico City Olympics in the long jump event. At the long jump final, Beamon produced one of the greatest moments in Olympic history. With a jump of 8.90 meters (29 ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.), Beamon shattered the previous world record for long jump, eclipsing it by almost 2 feet. Beamon's record stood for 23 years until it was surpassed by Mike Powell, who jumped 8.95 meters (29 ft. 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.) in 1991 at the World Championships in Tokyo.

Beamon still holds the Olympic record for long jump and has the second-longest wind-legal jump in long jump history. Beamon's jump at the 1968 Olympics was so great that it coined a new term, "Beamonesque" which is used to describe spectacular feats.

In 1969, Beamon was drafted by the Phoenix Suns, but he never played an NBA game. Beamon spent time as the head track coach at Alliant International University in San Diego as well.

Beamon is a member of The National Track and Field Hall of Fame, the United States Olympic Hall of Fame, and the Texas Track and Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame.



CHRIS BOSH

Basketball



One of the most dominant frontcourt players of his time, Chris Bosh, easily cemented his name as one of the greatest competitors in the game of basketball. Throughout his illustrious 13-year professional career, Bosh appeared in 893 games while starting 881. He is an Olympic gold medalist (2008), an 11-time NBA All-Star, and a two-time NBA Champion with the Miami Heat.

Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Bosh started winning titles back in high school.

He attended Lincoln High School, where he excelled both athletically and academically. On the court, Bosh led Lincoln to a perfect 40-0 record and the title of No. 1 high school basketball team in the nation in 2002. Bosh proved himself as an elite player and earned the titles of High School Basketball Player of the Year by Basketball America, Mr. Texas Basketball by Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, Player of the Year in Texas by Powerade, and a McDonald's All-American. Off the court, Bosh was a member of the National Honors Society and involved in numerous engineering groups. His skills both on and off the court led him to choose Georgia Tech. Bosh only spent one season at Georgia Tech, averaging 15.6 points, 9 rebounds, and 2.2 blocks in just 31 games as a Yellow Jacket. At the age of 19, he declared for the NBA Draft and was drafted fourth overall to the Toronto Raptors in 2003. Leading all in rebounding and blocks in his inaugural season with the Raptors, Bosh was named NBA All-Rookie First Team. During the 2005-06 season, Bosh earned his first NBA All-Star selection after averaging 22.5 points and 9.4 rebounds per game. It would also start a streak of 11 straight All-Star selections for Bosh.

Bosh followed up his first All-Star appearance in 2005-06 with one of his best statistical seasons, averaging a double-double with 22.6 points per game and 10.7 rebounds per game which earned his Second-Team All-NBA. In 2008, Bosh's career reached the international stage at the Beijing Summer Olympic Games. Bosh, along with Kobe Bryant, Dwayne Wade, Jason Kidd, and LeBron James, led Team USA to a gold medal, going undefeated throughout the entire Olympic games. After seven years with the Raptors, Bosh went on to sign with the Miami Heat in 2010. Expectations were high, as Bosh reunited with former Olympic teammates, James and Wade to form what was thought of by many as the greatest super team in NBA history.

This iconic trio did not disappoint in the 2012 season when Bosh and the Miami Heat won the NBA Title over the Oklahoma City Thunder—the second in franchise history. The following season in 2013, Miami Heat made another appearance in the NBA Finals this time against the San Antonio Spurs. The Heat found themselves down in the series 3-2 in Game 6. In what has become one of the most famous plays in NBA history, Bosh grabbed a clutch rebound as time was expiring and passed the ball to Ray Allen, who hit the go-ahead game-winning three-pointer to keep Miami's championship alive and won their second consecutive NBA Title over the Spurs. Bosh would only play two more seasons after winning his second championship, retiring due to a blood clot condition in 2016. He is still the Raptor's all-time leader in total rebounds (4776) and blocks (600) in franchise history. Bosh's No. 1 was retired by the Miami Heat in 2019 and was recently inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2021. Today, Bosh is the founder of Daddy Jack Records and author of Letters to a Young Athlete.



ROBERT GRIFFIN III

Football



The most electric athlete in Baylor history, Robert Griffin III, known by many as RG3, was a multi-sport phenom for the Bears and the only Baylor player to ever win college football's ultimate award, the Heisman Trophy.

Born in Okinawa, Japan, but raised in Copperas Cove, Texas, Griffin made a name for himself at Copperas Cove High School. He was not only a star athlete in football but in basketball and track as well. In his two seasons as the starting quarterback for the Bulldawgs, Griffin threw for 3,357 yards and 41 touchdowns while rushing for 2,161 yards and 32 touchdowns and led Copperas Cove to two state championship games. On the track, Griffin set two state records in the 110-meter and 300-meter hurdles for the Bulldawgs. As a junior, Griffin was ranked the No. 1 high school 400-meter intermediate hurdler in the nation and was named the Gatorade Texas Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

A four-star recruit out of high school, Griffin committed to play football and run track at Baylor University in 2008. After graduating a semester early, Griffin enrolled at Baylor and made an immediate impact on the track and field team under legendary coach, Clyde Hart. During his freshman season, Griffin proved to be one of the best hurdlers in the nation, winning the 400-meter hurdle event in the Big 12 Conference Championship, the NCAA Midwest Regional Championship meets and breaking the NCAA Midwest Regional 400-meter record in the process. Griffin would go on to compete in the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials, in which he advanced to the semi-finals.

College football came just as easy as the collegiate track did for Griffin. The true freshman won Big 12 Freshman of the Year honors after leading the Bears in passing and rushing touchdowns in 2008. . After missing the majority of the 2009 season with a torn ACL, Griffin bounced back in 2010 to lead the Bears to its first bowl game since 1994.

Griffin reached the national stage during his junior year in 2011, throwing for a ridiculous 4,293 yards and 37 touchdowns while also rushing for 699 yards and 10 touchdowns. He led the Bears to upset wins over No. 15 ranked TCU and No. 5 Oklahoma, helping Baylor post its best record in 21 years at 10-3. Baylor's 67-56 win over the Washington Huskies in the Alamo Bowl was Baylor's first bowl victory since 1992. Griffin took home a long list of awards that season, including the Heisman Trophy, the Davey O'Brien Award and the Manning Award. He was also named a consensus All-American and the Associated Press College Football Player of the Year.

The Washington Redskins would take RG3 with the second overall pick in the 2012 draft. Griffin enjoyed a successful rookie season, leading the Redskins to the playoffs, won NFL Rookie of the Year honors and earned a Pro Bowl Selection.

Griffin would go on to carve out a successful eight-year career in the NFL, playing for the Redskins, Cleveland Browns and the Baltimore Ravens. Today, Griffin is an NFL and college football analyst for ESPN.

TONY PARKER

Basketball



One of the best point guards in the league, Tony Parker is a six-time NBA All-Star, four-time NBA Champion and San Antonio Spurs legend. The Frenchman played 18 years in the NBA, 17 with the Spurs, and is considered by many to be one of the greatest foreign players to ever play in the NBA.

Parker began his professional playing career in Paris, playing for Paris Basket Racing in the Ligue Nationale de Basket (LNB) from 1999 to 2001. In 2001, Parker had a breakout season and was named LNB Pro A Most Improved Player, Pro A Best Young Player and an LNB All-Star.

His stellar performances garnered attention from the NBA, leading to Parker being selected by the San Antonio Spurs with the 28th overall pick in 2001. Parker started 77 games his rookie season, leading the Spurs in steals and assists, earning All-Rookie First Team honors.

In 2002-'03, Parker was fully cemented as a starter his second season, starting all 82 games for the Spurs. He was an integral member in the Spurs' playoff run, as San Antonio beat the New Jersey Nets 4-2 in the 2003 NBA Finals.

The Spurs went on to win their second NBA title with Parker at point guard in 2005, beating the defending champions Detroit Pistons. Parker would follow up the triumph with the first of his six career NBA All-Star selections the following season, where he averaged an impressive 18.9 points per game.

During the 2006-07 season, Parker continued to perform at the All-Star level, earning another NBA All-Star selection. The Spurs made another run to the NBA Finals, facing off against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. Parker was instrumental in the 4-0 sweep of the Cavaliers, averaging a series-high 24.5 points per game, which was enough to earn him NBA Finals MVP. Parker was the first-ever European-born player to win 2007 NBA Finals MVP.

In 2014, Parker and the Spurs rebounded the following season, reaching the NBA Finals a second consecutive year to set up a rematch against LeBron James, Chris Bosh, Dwayne Wade and the Miami Heat. Parker would not be denied, and the Spurs prevailed, winning Parker his fourth career championship.

After four more seasons with the Spurs, Parker would leave the Spurs after 17 incredible seasons. During his time in San Antonio, Parker averaged 15.8 points per game and 5.7 assists per game. Parker joined the Charlotte Hornets, where he spent one season before retiring from basketball in 2019. At the time of his retirement, he was ranked fifth all-time in career playoff assists. The Spurs honored Parker's legacy in 2019, retiring his No.9 jersey.



CARLY PATTERSON

Gymnastics



Olympic gold medalist Carly Patterson was one of the greatest gymnasts of her time, known for her signature dismount, the Double Arabian, which won her all-around gold in the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Patterson began her gymnastics career when she was just six years old at a cousin's birthday party. Less than a decade later, she joined World Olympic Gymnasts Academy in Plano, Texas, and began competing on the international stage at 12 years old.

In 2000, Patterson medaled in her first international competition in Belgium, winning silver in the all-around and bronze on the balance beam at the Top Gym Tournament. She became the U.S. junior national all-around champion in 2002, launching her career to the senior level.

Patterson began her senior career in winning fashion, claiming gold at the 2003 American Cup as the youngest competitor there. After missing the 2003 U.S. National Championships due to injury, Patterson successfully petitioned for inclusion in the 2003 World Gymnastics Championships. She would go on to win a silver medal in the World Gymnastics Championships, becoming the first American woman to medal in the event in ten years.

2004 cemented Carly as one of the best talents in gymnastics. She won the all-around gold medal in the American Cup and subsequently qualified for the 2004 Athens Olympics via the Olympic Trials.

The 2004 Athens Olympics would end up being Patterson's career-defining moment. After winning silver in the team finals, Patterson took the stage in the individual all-around championship.

In a historic performance, Patterson would defeat three-time world all-around champion Svetlana Khorkina from Russia. Patterson delivered near-perfect performances on the uneven bars, balance beam, and floor exercises to claim her first Olympic gold medal. She employed her signature dismount, the Double Arabian, which had never been performed in an Olympic Games before, to secure the gold medal. She was only the second-ever American woman to win the Olympic all-around gold medal and the first to do so in a non-boycotted Olympic Games.

The 2004 Athens Olympics was the last professional competition Patterson competed in. Patterson was forced to retire in 2006 following injury complications. Nevertheless, Patterson's impact on American gymnastics is impossible to forget. Patterson began an era of dominance for American gymnastics that is still ongoing.

MIKE RENFRO

Football



Born and raised in Ft. Worth, Texas, Mike Renfro is one of the greatest wide receivers to ever play in the Southwest Conference, holding the record for career receptions. A Texan through and through, Renfro spent his entire career in The Great State, playing at Texas Christian University and professionally with the Houston Oilers and the Dallas Cowboys.

His success on the gridiron didn't exactly come as a surprise to Renfro's family. Both Renfro's father and uncle played in the NFL. Ray and Mike Renfro are one of the greatest father-son wide receiver duos in NFL history, with the pair combining for 604 receptions for 10,216 yards and 78 touchdowns throughout both of their careers.

Renfro began his playing career at Arlington Heights High School before staying in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for college, accepting a football scholarship from Texas Christian University. He hit the ground running at TCU, becoming a starter during his freshman season.

Renfro had his breakout season his sophomore year, racking up 49 receptions for 810 yards and earning his first of three All-SWC selections. Renfro continued to impress his junior year, leading the Horned Frogs with 42 receptions for 773 yards and earning another All-SWC selection.

1977, Renfro's senior season, set Renfro apart in the annals of SWC-history. Renfro caught 50 receptions for 794 yards and set a TCU and SWC single-season record for receiving touchdowns with 10. His stellar play earned him his third All-SWC selection and his first second-team All-American selection. Renfro's 2,739 career receiving yards is the most by any SWC player.

The following year, Coach Bum Phillips and the Houston Oilers selected Renfro with the 98th pick in the NFL Draft in the fourth round, keeping him in Texas. Renfro would play six years with the Luv Ya Blue Oilers, starting 50 games and catching passes from the likes of Dan Pastorini, Kenny Stabler and Archie Manning. Renfro's TD catch at the 1979 AFC Championship game vs Pittsburgh Steelers is still recognized as one of the worst calls in NFL playoff game history. Mike's catch-incorrectly ruled "no catch" - was the enduring symbol for instant replay advocated and why today, it is a major part of the game.

In 1984, Renfro was traded to the Dallas Cowboys. The next season, Renfro proved his worth, being named the team's most valuable player in 1985. Renfro had the best season of his career, leading the team in touchdown receptions with 8 while hauling in 60 receptions for 955 yards. His outstanding play helped lead the Cowboys to an NFC East Division Title.

After 11 seasons in the NFL, Renfro retired in 1988. He ended his career with an impressive 323 receptions for 4,708 yards and 28 touchdowns. Renfro is a member of both the TCU Athletics Hall of Fame and the Southwest Conference Hall of Fame.

SUZIE SNIDER EPPERS

Basketball



Multi-sport phenom, Suzie Snider Eppers, was one of the most prolific scorers in women's college basketball history and a talented track and field athlete for Baylor University. Eppers was the first woman to hold an athletic scholarship in Baylor history and was a trailblazer for women's athletics at the university.

Born and raised in Robinson, Texas, Eppers began her sporting career at Robinson High School, where she played basketball and threw shot put for the track and field team. She was versatile at both sports, winning numerous track and field medals and setting the Central Texas shot put record with a throw of 50 feet and 10 inches. In 1970, she led the Robinson Rockets to their first-ever basketball state championship.

After receiving offers from UCLA, UT-Arlington and Tarleton State, Eppers decided to stay close to home, choosing Baylor University who awarded her an athletic scholarship that allowed her to be a multi-sport athlete.

Eppers excelled in college, despite it being the first time she had ever played 5-on-5 basketball (Texas women's basketball played 6-on-6 until 1978). Eppers became a superstar on the basketball court for the Bearettes. She amassed a whopping 3,861 career points in her four years at Baylor. Her 3,861 points still top the current NCAA record for career points scored in both men's and women's, which is only 3,667 points, held by Pete Maravich. For her efforts, Eppers was named an All-American, the first in Baylor women's basketball history. Throughout her years with the Bearettes, they never failed to win less than 30-games,

Eppers holds the record for most career points scored in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, the organization that Baylor women's sports played under at the time Eppers also leads Baylor women's basketball in career points and rebounds (2,176).

After her collegiate career, Eppers went on to coach women's basketball, even returning to coach her alma-mater, Robinson High School. Her No. 23 jersey is retired by the Lady Bears



STACY SYKORA

Volleyball



A three-time Olympian and two-time NCAA All American, Stacy Sykora was one of the best American volleyball players of the 2000s.

Born and raised in the suburbs of Fort Worth, Texas, Sykora grew up as a multi-sport athlete at Burleson High School. She showed promise not only as a volleyball player but also as a basketball and track and field athlete.

Sykora would eventually head to College Station, Texas, on a volleyball scholarship to Texas A&M University. She'd end up playing for the Aggies in volleyball, basketball and track and field. In 1996, her freshman year, Sykora won the Big 12 Championship in the heptathlon.

Volleyball, however, was where Sykora truly made her name at Texas A&M. She had an immediate impact, playing in all but one of A&M's 30 volleyball matches her freshman year. She'd continue to excel her sophomore year, leading the Big 12 with 4.01 digs per game. A defensive stalwart, Sykora was named Texas A&M Volleyball defensive player of the year. In an NCAA Tournament game against Michigan State, Sykora would set the Aggie record for most digs in a game with 24.

As a junior and senior, Sykora continued to lead Texas A&M in digs. For her efforts, Sykora was named First-Team All-Big 12 twice and AVCA Second-Team All-American.

In 1999, Sykora joined the U.S. Women's Volleyball team and became the first to ever play the Libero position, setting a high standard for those who followed. She'd make her Olympic debut in the 2000 Sydney Olympics, where Team U.S.A. placed fourth.

The U.S. women's volleyball team and Sykora found international success in the lead-up to the 2004 Athens Olympics. In 2001, the U.S. won the World Grand Prix, at which Sykora earned the Best Digger award. The team went on to win a silver medal at the Women's Volleyball World Championships in 2002 and won the gold medal at the Pan American Cup in 2003. Sykora earned her second Olympic appearance at the 2004 Athens Olympics, where the U.S. finished fifth and Sykora was named the 2004 Olympic Games Best Digger.

Following the 2004 Athens Olympics, Stacy continued to play professionally overseas in Italy, Russia, Spain and Brazil. In 2007, Sykora was once again named to the U.S. Women's Volleyball team ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In her third Olympic appearance, Sykora helped lead the team to a silver medal, marking the first Olympic medal of her career.

After playing professionally for thirteen years, Sykora retired from volleyball in 2012. She is a member of the Texas A&M Athletic Hall of Fame and now runs the Sykora Academy in Las Vegas, NV.

