


The “Olympics at Sports Reference” Website

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29:3; 137-141, 2014

Introduction

The “Olympics at Sports Reference” website (www.sports-reference.com/olympics/) is a sports statistics website that gives details of all Olympic competitors, including date and place of birth, height, and weight, plus details of all results of Olympic competitions, preliminary and final.

Site Philosophy

The creation of the Olympics at Sports Reference website was based on the following principles:

- **The site should be well organised** – The information looked for should be located without wasting a lot of time.
- **The site should be fast** – Most of the pages are static, so you don’t have to wait for information to be pulled from a database before viewing a page.
- **There should be as many links as possible** – Visiting Carl Lewis’ page may lead to a question about the 1988 Summer Olympics, or a question about the USA’s performance at the 1996 Summer Olympics, or a question about Olympic athletes that share a birthday with Lewis. In most cases it takes only one click to find the answer to your question.
- **The HTML and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) used to create the site should adhere to the standards set forth by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)** – This means that the page renders properly in all browsers. In spite of this, the recommended browser for the

Olympics at Sports Reference website is Firefox.

- **The site should be fun** – So, if you visit the page looking for the results of men’s 100 meters sprint at the 1972 Summer Olympics, there is a good chance you will end up on a page that has nothing to do with your original query.

A closer examination of the website shows that all these principles not only apply in theory but do so in practice as well.

Contributors and Sources

The data provided in the Olympics at Sports Reference website is the result of over 120 years of research by a combined group of Olympic historians and statisticians. The group, termed the OlyMADMen, reflecting their maniacal devotion to the project, began in the late 1990s. Its members, who come from at least seven countries, all (or at least most of them) are members of the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) and have been working on compiling databases of complete Olympic results and a database of all Olympians for many years. They found each other via e-mail and discovered that they were independently working on the same, or at least very similar, projects.

Much of the early data came from the publications of ISOH founder Bill Mallon, especially two of his books, *The Golden Book of the Olympic Games*, and *Total Olympics*. Also useful was his series of books on the earliest Olympic Games (1896-1920). This was supplemented by a data-

base of all Olympians developed by Arild Gjerde and Magne Teigen. Apart from these books and databases, sources have included virtually every known book on the Olympic Games, including all the Official Reports and Official Results, data in books and websites on National Olympic participation, and in books and websites on various Olympic sports.

Since 1998, the method of the group's work has been for each of member to work on one of the various aspects of the database and then send the work out for editing to all of the oth-

ers. In this way, they have put in an estimated 100,000 man-hours of work to compiled the most complete and most accurate database of Olympic athletes yet known, comprising over 50 million records of data.

Homepage Form

The structure of the Olympics at Sports Reference homepage is very clear, with hardly any advertising distracting the user's attention, and the navigation through the website is very easy.

Sports-Reference: Baseball - Basketball (college) - Football (college) - Hockey - Olympics - S-R Blog - Question or Comment?

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Leaders *career and more*
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Frivolities *fun stuff and more*
 Birthdays, Birthplaces, Medal Finder, ...

About *about this site*
 Contributors and Sources, Site Philosophy, The Names of Athletes, What Events are Olympic?, ...

Athlete	Country	Sport	Total
Michael Phelps	USA	Swim	22
Larisa Latynina	URS	Gym	18
Nikolay Andrianov	URS	Gym	13
Wilem van de Loo	NED	Biatl	13
Benji Seligson	USA	Gym	13
Edoardo Mangiarotti	ITA	Fenc	13
Takashi Ono	JPN	Gym	13
Paavo Nurmi	FIN	Atle	12
Berni Gamba	URS	Coc	12
Rolf Fischer-Schmidt	GDR/GER	Coc	12
Saeko Kato	JPN	Gym	12
Jenny Thompson	USA	Swim	12
Dora Torres	USA	Swim	12
Aleksandr Nemov	RUS	Gym	12
Natalia Savchenko	USA	Swim	12

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
USA	1088	867	734	2707
URS	472	376	355	1204
GER	301	333	328	962
GDR	256	294	290	840
FRA	283	245	317	835
ITA	248	213	233	694
URS	197	209	239	645
RUS	183	166	181	529
URS	213	166	147	526
GDR	182	165	163	510

Year	Season	City	Country
2016	Summer	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
2018	Winter	Pyeongchang	South Korea
2020	Summer	Tokyo	Japan

Figure. 1: The Olympics at Sports Reference entry page

Content Search

Starting from the website's entry page, users have various search options:

1. They can type, for example, the name of an athlete they look for in the Search field;
2. They can click one of the buttons in the top bar (e.g. "athletes") and proceed from there.
3. They can start by clicking one of the buttons in the left side bar (e.g. "Sports").

When using the third possibility and clicking "Athletics" in the list of sports, you will get the following overview shown in Figure 2.

When clicking now, for example, the Men's 100 metres, you will get a list of the Men's 100 metres medallists, starting with the most recent edition of the Games (Figure 3).

Athletics
 Games: 26 games in 19 countries
 Events: 43 Sports: Athletics

Participants: 20,623 (14,780 men and 5,843 women) from 233 countries
 Youngest Participant: Calistine Higgs (13 years, 4 days), 1976 Summer Games
 Oldest Participant: Hale Satyan (53 years, 136 days), 2008 Summer Games
 Top Athlete Medalist(s): ERIKSON NEDZIC (12 medals)
 Top Country Medalist(s): United States (788 medals)

Country Medal Leaders

Rk.	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	322	224	202	748
2	Soviet Union	76	64	40	180
3	Soviet Union	44	29	14	87
4	United Kingdom	19	20	12	51
5	East Germany	28	24	25	77
6	Germany	25	43	48	116
7	Sweden	21	23	40	84
8	Russia	24	21	24	69
9	Russia	24	27	23	74
10	Australia	20	24	27	71
11	Jamaica	17	20	19	56
12	France	14	23	20	57
13	Italy	19	13	29	61
14	Canada	14	19	24	57
15	United Kingdom	23	18	13	54
16	Russia	22	7	17	46
17	Australia	12	15	18	45

Athlete Medal Leaders

Rk.	Athlete	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Erikson Nedzic (SRB)	9	0	0	12
2	Shaunae Miller (USA)	11	0	0	11
3	Carl Lewis (USA)	9	1	0	10
4	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	7	3	1	11
5	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	8	2	0	10
6	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	8	2	0	10
7	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	3	2	4	9
8	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	3	2	4	9
9	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	3	1	3	7
10	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	6	0	3	9
11	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	4	2	3	9
12	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	4	2	3	9
13	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	4	0	2	6
14	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	3	2	1	6
15	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	3	2	1	6
16	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	3	1	2	6
17	Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA)	3	2	2	7

Events

Event
Men's 100 metres
Men's 150 metres
Men's 200 metres
Men's 300 metres
Men's 400 metres
Men's 500 metres
Men's 600 metres
Men's 700 metres
Men's 800 metres
Men's 900 metres
Men's 1000 metres
Men's 1100 metres
Men's 1200 metres
Men's 1300 metres
Men's 1400 metres
Men's 1500 metres
Men's 1600 metres
Men's 1700 metres
Men's 1800 metres
Men's 1900 metres
Men's 2000 metres
Men's 2100 metres
Men's 2200 metres
Men's 2300 metres
Men's 2400 metres
Men's 2500 metres
Men's 2600 metres
Men's 2700 metres
Men's 2800 metres
Men's 2900 metres
Men's 3000 metres

Figure 2: Athletics overview

Medalists

Year	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2012	Jason Bolt	Yohan Blake	Justin Gatlin
2008	Jason Bolt	Michael Thomas	Walter Dix
2004	Justin Gatlin	Francis Obikwole	Maurice Greene
2000	Maurice Greene	Ian Baker	Wendell Thomas
1996	Donovan Bailey	Frankie Fredericks	Deon Robinson
1992	Jeffrey Christie	Frankie Fredericks	Dennis Mitchell
1988	Carl Lewis	Jeffrey Christie	Calvin Simms
1984	Carl Lewis	Sam Stovall	Ben Johnson
1980	Alan Wells	Alvin Harrison	Peter Dinklage
1976	Jesse Owens	Don Quance	Jackie Jones
1972	Jackie Jones	Robert Taylor	Leonard Miller
1968	Jim Hines	Leonard Miller	Charles Brantley
1964	Bob Hayes	Emory Douglas	Jack Jelenc
1960	Jim Hines	Gene Sims	Felix Satterfield
1956	Bob Hayes	Thayne Baker	Neil Milroy

Figure 3: List of the Men's 100 metres medallists

Clicking the year 2012, will provide a summary and the final standings of this event (Figure. 4).

When clicking, for example, the winner, Usain Bolt (JAM), you will get a biography of the athlete and a complete overview of his results at all Olympic Games in which he participated in (Figure 5).

This is only one string of possible searches that can be used to obtain information from the huge amount of data made accessible by the website. Readers are invited to play around with other search strings and will perhaps come up with surprising results which originally they did not look for.

Summary

Usain Bolt won the race in 2008, along with the 200 metres and a gold in the 4x100 metre relay. At the 2009 World Championships, Bolt repeated his triple titles, and was considered by many as the greatest sprinter in history. But 2011 and early 2012 had not been as strong for him as he struggled with injury problems. At the 2011 World Championships, he false started in the final of the 100 and was disqualified, the title going to his countryman, Yohan Blake. Blake had beaten Bolt one other time in the 100, at the 2012 Jamaican Olympic Trials, and was considered a strong challenger to his title in London. Also challenging the two Jamaicans were Americans Tyson Gay and Justin Gatlin. Gay was the 2007 World Champion at both 100 and 200 metres, but hip injuries had since limited his effectiveness. Gatlin had won the gold medal in this event at the 2004 Olympics, but later had a doping positive and had only returned to competition in 2011.

All four of the favorites made the finals, where they were joined by the third Jamaican, Asafa Powell, former world record holder in the event, but one who seemed to struggle in the biggest international meets; the third American, up-and-comer Ryan Bailey; Dutch runner Charonda Martin, who had formerly competed for the Netherlands Antilles, before the dissolution of that nation in 2010; and Trinidadian Richard Thompson.

The final had an early problem when crebrous spectator Ashley Gill-Webb of Leeds threw a beer bottle onto the track just before the race was to start. Gill-Webb did not know he was seated next to Dutch Olympian judoka Edith Bosch, who quickly subdued him before the authorities arrived to escort him from the stadium. He was later charged with causing harassment, alarm or distress, and pleaded not guilty, although he was found guilty of public disorder in January 2013, and was sentenced to eight weeks of community service in February 2013.

Once the runners were away Gatlin, Blake, Powell, and Gay were out quickly, as Bolt is not known for his starts. But this was better than usual for him and he was in the lead by 40 metres. Powell pulled up from a groin pull although he would finish the race, barely and in last place. In the final 40 metres Bolt pulled away to win in 9.63, the second-fastest time ever, with Blake trailing for silver in 9.75, and Gatlin getting bronzes in 9.79. Gay just missed the medals in fourth in 9.90.

Bolt became the third man to defend his Olympic 100 metres title, after Archie Hahn in 1904-06, and Carl Lewis in 1984-88. But both came with an asterisk as Hahn had the always-present 1906 problem, while Lewis only won in 1988 after the disqualification of Ben Johnson for stanozolol use. A few days later, Bolt would also defend his Olympic gold medal in the 200, becoming the first runner ever to defend the 100-200 Olympic double, and he would again win three Olympic sprint gold medals, leading Jamaica to a world-record in the 400 relay in London.

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Rank	Athlete	Age	Team	WOC	Medal
1	Usain Bolt	22	Jamaica	2011	Gold
2	Yohan Blake	22	Jamaica	2011	Silver
3	Justin Gatlin	30	United States	1984	Bronze

Figure 4: Summary and the final standings of the Men's 100 metres at the 2012 London Summer Games

Biography

Together with Michael Phelps, Usain Bolt was the star of the Beijing Games, in which he won three gold medals. His first victory came in the 100 metres, winning with ease in a world record time of 9.69, despite easing down in the final metres to celebrate. He added golds in the 200 metres, breaking Michael Johnson's 1995 world record in the process, and the 4x100 metres relay, breaking another world record with his team mates. Bolt, having become the icon of track & field athletics, repeated his performance at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin, winning the same three events and recording world records in the 100 metres (9.58) and 200 metres (19.19).

Personal Bests: 100 - 9.58 (2009); 200 - 19.19 (2009).

Results [Glossary](#) [SHARE](#) [Embed](#) [CSV](#) [Export](#) [PRE](#) [LINK](#) [?](#)

Games	Age	City	Sport	Event	Team	WOC	Rank	Medal
2008 Summer	17	Athens	ATHLETICS	100 METRES	Jamaica (JAM)	2008	1	1.000
2008 Summer	17	Athens	ATHLETICS	200 METRES	Jamaica (JAM)	2008	1	1.000
2008 Summer	17	Athens	ATHLETICS	4x100 METRES RELAY	Jamaica (JAM)	2008	1	1.000
2012 Summer	23	London	ATHLETICS	100 METRES	Jamaica (JAM)	2012	1	1.000
2012 Summer	23	London	ATHLETICS	200 METRES	Jamaica (JAM)	2012	1	1.000
2012 Summer	23	London	ATHLETICS	4x100 METRES RELAY	Jamaica (JAM)	2012	1	1.000

Men's 100 metres [Event History](#) [Glossary](#) [SHARE](#) [Embed](#) [CSV](#) [Export](#) [PRE](#) [LINK](#) [?](#)

Games	Age	City	Sport	Country	Phase	Heat	Rank	(A)	(B)	(C)
2008 Summer	17	Beijing	Athletics	Jamaica	Final	1	WR	9.58	0.169	4
2008 Summer	17	Beijing	Athletics	Jamaica	Semi-Finals	Heat One	1	10.0	0.161	7
2008 Summer	17	Beijing	Athletics	Jamaica	Quarter-Finals	Heat Four	1	10.0	0.162	7
2008 Summer	17	Beijing	Athletics	Jamaica	Round One	Heat One	1	10.20	0.186	3
2012 Summer	23	London	Athletics	Jamaica	Final	1	1	9.62	0.165	
2012 Summer	23	London	Athletics	Jamaica	Semi-Finals	Heat Two	1	9.87	0.182	
2012 Summer	23	London	Athletics	Jamaica	Round One	Heat Four	1	10.04	0.179	

Figure 5: Biography and Olympic result list of Usain Bolt

Wolfgang Killing

Full name: Wolfgang Paul August Killing
Gender: Male
Height: 6-1 (186 cm)
Weight: 159 lbs (72 kg)
Born: February 12, 1953 (Age 61-219) in [Eickelscheid, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany](#)
Affiliations: [Bamer TV 1846, Wuppertal \(GER\)](#)
Country: [West Germany](#)
Sport: [Athletics](#)

Biography

Wolfgang Killing was one of the best West German high jumpers in the 1970s, placing third at the European Indoors in 1978. He later became a sport and social scientist, and in 1987 became German national coach for high jumping, publishing two scientific training books: *Gekannt nach oben* in 1995 and *Leistungsvorleistung: Sprungen: Handbuch des Sprungkrafttrainings für alle Sportarten* in 2008. Killing is also the organizer of the indoor high jump meeting at Wuppertal, which now also includes pole vaulters, and which attracts some of the world's best in the events.

Personal Best: HJ - 2.23 (1977), 2.26 (1978).

Results [Glossary](#) - [SHARE](#) - [Embed](#) - [CSV](#) - [Export](#) - [RSS](#) - [Link](#) - ?

Games	Age	City	Sport	Event	Team	NOC	Rank	Medal
1978 Summer	25	Barcelona	Athletics	Men's high jump	West Germany	ESP	23	QR

Men's High Jump [Event History](#) - [Glossary](#) - [SHARE](#) - [Embed](#) - [CSV](#) - [Export](#) - [RSS](#) - [Link](#) - ?

Games	Age	City	Sport	Country	Phase	Mark	Rank	SB	SB%	ENBC	ENBC%	TARBC	C/F/R
1978 Summer	25	Barcelona	Athletics	West Germany	Qualifying Round		23	2.05	0	0	0	1	
1978 Summer	25	Barcelona	Athletics	West Germany	Qualifying Round	Group A	17	2.05	0	0	0	1	
1978 Summer	25	Barcelona	Athletics	West Germany	Qualifying Round	Group A 2.00 metres	69	2	0	0	0	0	SR

Figure 6: Biographical entry for the German high jumper Wolfgang Killing

The topicality of the information provided by the Olympics at Sports Reference website is best symbolised by the athlete's age, which is always up-to-date to the day of the search. As far as the degree of detail is concerned, there is no difference between current and past athletes or between top ranked and low ranked athletes. This makes it quite interesting to look for less known Olympic athletes and recall their performances. This is illustrated in Figure 6 with one of the best German high jumpers of the 1970s, Wolfgang Killing, who is also an NSA contributor.

Conclusion

In summary, the Olympics at Sports Reference website is a treasure trove for information about the results and biographies of Olympic athletes. It is a website for both Olympic historians and non-experts interested in Olympic sports in general and athletics in particular. The website is clearly structured and easy to handle. The data is very complete, up-to-date, and detailed. All in all, the Olympics at Sports Reference website is ideal for getting lost in and having fun with!

Reviewed by Jürgen Schiffer