



Jackie Joyner-Kersey

at a glance...

Athletic Accolades

- Sports Illustrated: Greatest Female Athlete of the 20th Century
- Jackie still holds the World Heptathlon Record of 7,291 points – set on 9/24/88
- 1988 Olympic Gold Medalist – Heptathlon
- 1988 Olympic Gold Medalist – Long Jump
- 1992 Olympic Gold Medalist – Heptathlon
- 1984 Olympic Silver Medalist – Heptathlon
- 1992 Olympic Bronze Medalist – Long Jump
- 1996 Olympic Bronze Medalist – Long Jump
- 4-Time World Champion

Statistics

- Born: East St. Louis, IL
- Hometown: St. Louis, MO
- Birthdate: March 3, 1962

Points of Interest

- In 1988, Jackie established the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation, which provides youth, adults, and families with the resources to improve their quality of life with special attention directed to East St. Louis, IL.
- In 2000, the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation raised over \$12 million to build The Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center; a 41,000 square foot facility with 1,200-seat gymnasium on a 37-acre site. The center fulfills the largely unmet need for youth recreation and sports venues in East St. Louis.
- In 2007, Jackie, along with a number of well known pro athletes founded Athletes for Hope, a charitable organization, which helps professional athletes get involved in charitable causes and inspires millions of non-athletes to volunteer and support the community.
- Jackie attended UCLA, where in addition to track she also starred in basketball and has since been named one of the 15 greatest players in UCLA women's basketball history. In April '01, Jackie was voted the "Top Woman Collegiate Athlete of the Past 25 Years."

Having been dubbed ‘The Greatest Female Athlete of the 20th Century’ by Sports Illustrated, Jackie Joyner Kersee’s athletic accomplishments are literally second to none. By the conclusion of her career in the heptathlon and long jump events she had amassed six Olympic medals (3 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze) and four World Champion titles over four consecutive Olympic Games. Jackie was the first woman in history to earn more than 7,000 points in the heptathlon and today, over 20 years later, she still holds the world heptathlon record of 7,291 points. She continues to hold the Olympic and national records in the long jump and her 1994 performance in the long jump remains the second longest in history.

In addition to heptathlon and long jump, Jackie was a world class 100m and 200m runner and, after a decorated All-American career in basketball at UCLA, she eventually played professional basketball for a short time.

Jackie’s athletic accomplishments have been well documented and remain some of the best ever across all of sports. Less well known are her tireless efforts and remarkable accomplishments off the field as a philanthropist and an advocate for children’s education, health issues (in particular asthma from which she has suffered throughout her life), racial equality, social reform and women’s rights.

Jackie Joyner-Kersee

in depth...

Born in 1962, in East St. Louis, IL, Jackie came from very humble beginnings but despite the at times, very strained conditions she describes her early home life as being full of love, principle and discipline. These ingrained values have served Jackie well both on and off the field through her life. She has been described by the sports media as one of the warmest, most even-tempered, grace-filled persons in all of athletics.

One of four children to Mary and Alfred Joyner, Jackie’s older brother Al went on to become an Olympic Champion triple jumper and married Florence Griffith (Joyner), a five time Olympic medalist. In 1986 she married her long time coach, Bob Kersee.

Jackie is the author of both *A Kind of Grace* (1997), her autobiography, and *A Woman’s Place is Everywhere*. She is an active professional speaker and is widely considered one of the most inspiring motivational speakers in all of sports. Jackie speaks on topics of athletics, business success, living with the limitations of medical issues, nutrition, women’s issue and youth advocacy.

