



Famous Olympic Athletes

Jesse Owens



Jesse Owens in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany

Born in 1913 in Alabama, Jesse Owens' family moved to Ohio when he was young. He began running in junior high school. In high school, Jesse tied the world record for the 100 yard dash and the long jump.

Jesse attended Ohio State University. He was a track and field star there. In one meet in 1935 he broke three world records and tied another.

During the 1936 Olympics in Germany, Jesse won four gold medals. He broke the Olympic record for the 100 meters and broke the world record for the 200 meters. The 4x100 meters relay team, which included Jesse, also broke the world record.

Jesse's wins in 1936 also proved to the world that African American athletes could compete and win against the best in the world. German leader Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party had wanted the Olympics to show that white German athletes were better than everyone else. Jesse and his teammates proved this wrong.

Olympic Achievements

Country: United States

Sport: Track and field

Year: 1936 Summer Olympics
Berlin, Germany

Total of 4 gold medals:

100 meters

200 meters

Long jump

4x100 meters relay

Secret Code Word

Use the secret code to find a word about Jesse Owens. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

R	E	C	O	R	D
18	5	3	15	18	4

Secret code

1 = A	7 = G	13 = M	19 = S	25 = Y
2 = B	8 = H	14 = N	20 = T	26 = Z
3 = C	9 = I	15 = O	21 = U	
4 = D	10 = J	16 = P	22 = V	
5 = E	11 = K	17 = Q	23 = W	
6 = F	12 = L	18 = R	24 = X	

Q&A

Where was Jesse born?

Alabama

What year did Jesse participate in the Olympics?

1936

What Olympic record did Jesse break?

100 meters

How many gold medals did Jesse win at the Olympics?

four