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INTRODUCTION
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All across this wonderful land of ours, I have had the opportunity to meet thousands of young people who participate in athletics. Out of these vast numbers, only a few will reach acknowledgment and fame. But acknowledgment and fame do not tell the whole story of a sports champion.

Athletic excellence often results in beautiful trophies. The important thing, though, is not the trophy or banner we win. These are only symbols of what we have accomplished. The significant things are the lessons we learn from the competition.

In the course of life, win or lose, we must develop a Code of Ethics. And this Code is based upon learning the word respect. Respect the rights and properties of others, and learn to play the Game of Life, as well as the game of athletics, according to the rules of our society. Trophies, the symbols of winning, are made of metal. Banners, which hang upon the wall, are usually made of cloth. Within a short time that trophy will become so tarnished that you cannot read the year in which it was won. The banner will gather so much dust that you will not be able to read what it says. But if you can respect others and put it to use on the field of competition and in life, to me, you have won the greatest championship any person can ever win. This will not become tarnished or gather dust. This is one thing that will live with you as long as you live.

To make the mind and body work toward the ultimate achievement, be it in athletics, everyday life, the interest in your place of worship, or in your home, there are three main ingredients. Initially, there must be that dream, or goal, of where you want to go. In order to make that dream come true, there must be a great deal of determination, dedication, and discipline. These three things will begin to stir the feeling of the will to win, mixed with the ability to take losses when they come. To me, these are the controlling factors that will make for a greater person and a greater life.

In The Lincoln Library of Sports Champions, there are stories of great champions and their accomplishments, designed for the highest level of reading motivation.

But the importance of these volumes does not revolve around mere victories, but rather the three D's—determination, dedication, and discipline—the ingredients, which made all of these sports personalities, true champions.



Jesse Owens (1913–1980)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Lincoln Library Press is proud to introduce the eighth edition of *The Lincoln Library of Sports Champions*. First published in 1974, this 14-volume set covers great sports figures from around the world from 1880 to the present.

From the time of Homer, writers and readers have found much of interest in sports and the people who play them. The entries in *The Lincoln Library of Sports Champions* tell universal stories. Struggling against great odds; living through impoverished early lives; learning to live in a world of widespread prejudice; learning to live with defeat and victory; knowing love and understanding; wrestling with one's self; and the importance of confidence, courage, desire, and determination, are lessons for all.

Organized from A to Z, the 307 entries tell the stories of 311 athletes from 31 countries who have competed in 49 sports, from auto racing to wrestling. Both team and individual sports are included, with the athletes' stories told in words and pictures (many in full color). Profiles appearing in previous editions have been reviewed and updated with new facts and are current as of December 2006. Some 28 profiles are new to this eighth edition.

Features

Each entry begins with a summary of the athlete's life and career. Set in larger type, this summary provides the details required to complete most biography homework assignments.

Less proficient readers appreciate this feature. The athlete's head shot accompanies the summary. Opposite the summary, an action photo draws the reader into the athlete's story. Stories are written to motivate all readers, with photos and captions accompanying the full text to keep the reader interested.

New features to enhance the entries were introduced with the seventh edition: Career Highlights sidebars recognize major milestones in each athlete's career; inspiring or noteworthy quotes by or about the athlete are offset from the text in larger type; a listing of resources for further study (including books, periodicals, and Web sites) appears at the end of each entry. The Record Book, a listing of current statistics, has been added to selected entries to place the athlete's achievements in relation to others through history.

The Lincoln Library of Sports Champions is written in a style meant to make reading easy and enjoyable. There are more than 1600 pictures to sustain interest—over 500 of them in color. Owners of editions previous to the seventh will notice that the volumes have been downsized slightly. The new page size fits nicely on standard photocopy machines and optimizes efficiencies of modern printing presses.

Sports Covered

Participants in both team and individual sports are included. Sports range from auto racing, boxing, bowling, horse racing, and rodeo to badmin-

ton, chess, cricket, horseshoes, riflery, rugby, weightlifting, and volleyball. A complete listing of athletes by sport is included in Volume 1.

Reflecting the ever-changing world of sports, champions in lacrosse, snowboarding and curling (a surprise hit at the 2006 Olympics) are included for the first time in this edition. Readers will also find profiles of champions in Extreme Sports—skateboarding (Tony Hawk), in-line skating (Cesar Mora), bicycle motocross (Mat Hoffman), and motorcycling (Travis Pastrana). Notable athletes in women's hockey (Cammi Granato) and women's pole vaulting (Stacy Dragila) are also included. Profiles of wheelchair athletes (Jean Driscoll and Randy Snow) introduce students to this aspect of athletic competition.

Selection

Athletes were carefully selected by the editors for inclusion in the eighth edition. Sheer ability was not the only criterion, nor are the men and women selected necessarily the absolute best in sports. The editors sought to balance historic perspective with contemporary achievement. Most of the champions profiled have secured a place in history. About ten percent of the entries profile athletes "at the top of their game" as of 2006. Not all of these contemporary athletes will achieve true historic champion status—but some will. Some examples of contemporary athletes are baseball's Barry Bonds, Derek Jeter, and Albert Pujols; basketball's Carmelo Anthony, LeBron James, Steve Nash, Lisa Leslie, and Sue Bird; football's Peyton

Manning, Terrell Owens, and Ben Roethlisberger; soccer's Freddy Adu, Ronaldinho, and Mia Hamm; golf's Annika Sörenstam, Tiger Woods, and Michelle Wie; hockey's Sidney Crosby, Jaromir Jagr, and Cammi Granato; Olympians Stacy Dragila, Shaun White, Apolo Anton Ohno, Michael Phelps, and Chris Witty.

Some athletes are included because their achievements mark a milestone, a first. Firsts may relate to athletic achievement or to the breaking down of a social barrier. Some examples include Suzanne Lenglen (first woman tennis player to play in less restrictive dress); Dick Fosbury (creator of the Fosbury Flop technique for high jumping); and Don Hutson (first wide receiver in football).

Indexes

To help users in locating sports personalities, a number of specialized indexes are included. Readers can locate athletes by place of birth and by the decade (or decades) in which they excelled. These indexes will prove invaluable for biography assignments related to historical decades or country of origin. An index of women athletes aids readers in selecting a female champion.

Other Features of Interest

The Lincoln Library of Sports Champions includes over 70 African-American athletes, making it a perfect resource for Black History Month (February). In addition to profiles on well-known African-American athletes like Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, Wilma Rudolph,

and Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the set contains profiles on lesser-known champions. Some examples are Isaac Murphy, one of the African-American jockeys who rode in the late 1800s and early 1900s, considered by many as the greatest jockey who ever lived; the superstars of the Negro Leagues (James "Cool Papa" Bell, Josh Gibson, and Satchel Paige); Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe, first African-American tennis champions who opened the doors to professional tennis to current stars like Venus and Serena Williams.

Contemporary issues in sport are touched on in many profiles. Although steroid use among professional athletes is commanding front-page attention in newspapers, the problem is not new to sports. In 1976, the "doping" of East German swimmers likely cost swimmer Shirley Babashoff her place in Olympic history. Whether some home run hitters deserve their place in the record books is explored in both the Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire profiles.

The Chicago "Black Sox" scandal is well covered in *The Lincoln Library of Sports Champions*. Interest in "Shoeless Joe" Jackson and the Chicago "Black Sox" was rekindled by the feature films, *Eight Men Out* and *Field of Dreams*. But was Joe Jackson as innocent as Hollywood claims? Have your students judge for themselves by reading his profile and the profile of the man who banned him from baseball, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis.

Readers can relive the glory days of Notre Dame football. For many

football fans, nothing compares to Knute Rockne and Notre Dame's Fighting Irish football team of the 1920s. Some may argue that every American child should know the story (or myth) of George Gipp. The entry on the Four Horsemen can lead researchers to the entry on the man who gave them their name—famous sportswriter, Grantland Rice.

Home Run Kings have battled for first place throughout baseball history. *The Lincoln Library of Sports Champions* can put the race into historical perspective. Reading the entries on Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth, Jimmie Foxx, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, Hank Aaron, Mark McGwire, and Barry Bonds, a researcher will travel from the 1920s to 2006. But there are home-run hitting champions in Japan, too. By reading the entry on Sadaharu Oh, the "Japanese Babe Ruth," readers will learn that Oh hit more home runs in his career than Hank Aaron.

The editors set out in 1974 to create a work that is highly interesting, entertaining, and informative. In *The Lincoln Library of Sports Champions*, a straightforward form of prose was used to appeal to the target audience. No other source provides young readers with as many exciting sports stories, written just for them. With the help of sports authorities and librarian advisors, the editors of the eighth edition continue the tradition that has made *The Lincoln Library of Sports Champions* one of the most popular references in school and public libraries.

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CONTENTS BY SPORT

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