

A LONG TALK

ABOUT THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH

The Frontline

Alongtalk.com

Volume 12 (August)

Sports Re-Illustrated: The Olympic Edition



Blacks Athletes and the Olympics

Many people have historically asked Black Olympians, "How can you give your blood, sweat, and tears to represent a country that doesn't love you back?" Sports has always been the great equalizer in many ways for Black Americans. Some would say, at one point in time, that it was the only way for a Black person to be successful in America. As a general rule, the athletic playing field is leveled and each competitor has a fair shot at winning the game. In other words, when it comes to individual sports, "may the best man win." This scenario also plays out in team sports. Athletes are forced to see past any differences to form a team that works together toward a common goal. The best way for a team to succeed, is for the individual parts to operate in unison through collaboration, communication, and a shared purpose. Blacks have been not only been accepted, but often revered for their success on the athletic field, which has opened doors and created opportunities that would otherwise not exist.

The Olympics is a world stage that has been used to shed light on social injustices and bring awareness to the challenges of equality faced by Blacks in America and people around the world. As we celebrate and recognize the athletes during the 2020 Summer Olympic games, let's be sure to honor those who stood up for justice and used this global platform to fight for change.

~Shawn D. Brown
Team Member, A Long Talk

Community Call to Action



We need some A Long Talk community volunteers to help with grant writing, funding procurement, and small project management. The time requirement will be no more than 2 - 4 hours per week.

If you are willing to use your talents and skills to assist in this area, please email kyle@alongtalk.com and we will follow up with you to see how we can work together.

One of the Most Iconic Pictures in Olympic History



Tommie Smith and John Carlos gave the the Black Power salute during the 1968 Olympics. Their fists stayed raised during the playing of the National Anthem. The Gold and Bronze winning athletes, along with the Silver medalist, Australian Peter Norman, all wore Human Rights Badges on their jackets. As a result of this demonstration, all three athletes faced consequences.

Click the image to learn more about their story.

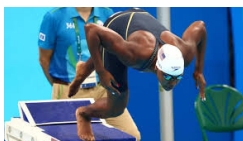
Naomi Osaka is an Advocate for Mental Health



Naomi Osaka's dream of winning a gold medal in the 2020 Olympics has ended, but her willingness to prioritize mental health will positively impact sports and athletes forever.

Click the image to learn more.

First Black Swimmer to Win an Individual Gold Medal



At the 2016 Olympics Games, Simone Manuel became the first Black woman swimmer to win an individual gold medal. She

[Click the image to learn more.](#)

[Sisters on Track](#) is a Must See Netflix Documentary



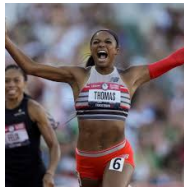
This documentary chronicles three track star sisters who overcame adverse odds to become Junior Olympic champions. [Click the image to learn more.](#)

[Before Usain Bolt, there was Carl Lewis](#)



During the 1980's and 90's Carl Lewis was the biggest name in Track and Field; winning multiple gold medals and representing the U.S. in multiple Olympic games. [Click the image to learn more.](#)

[Harvard Speedster Making an Impact at the Tokyo Olympics](#)



Olympic success is only a small part of the impact Gabby Thomas wants to have on the world. [Click the image to learn more about this sprinter's incredible story.](#)

[Perseverance Personified](#)



U.S. sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson was suspended for one month after qualifying for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. She failed a drug test due to testing positive for THC, the active ingredient in cannabis.

Shout-Outs From The Frontline



**BALTIMORE CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



The Frontline would like to give shout-outs to **Baltimore City Public Schools**, **The Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition**, **University of Michigan**, and **Brigham Young University**. We commend you on your commitment to become an ally in the fight to dismantle white supremacy. Your participation in A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth is only the beginning. We look forward to continuing this conversation as we get to work on the task of putting "an anti-racist at every dinner table in America." We salute you for your groundbreaking work on the frontlines of the War on Ignorance!

We stand with you as you stand with us!
Together we can!

Click the images to visit their websites.

Culture Corner



Soul Cap Banned

The International Swimming Committee bans the swim cap designed for people of color with natural hair. What implications does this have on access to help encourage swimming in underserved communities?

Click the image to



Anthony Nesty Shocks the World

This Olympic swimmer's 1988 Gold medal in the 100-metre butterfly expanded the possibilities for many kids of color. He is currently the head coach of the University of Florida swim team.



Gwen Berry Olympic Hammer Thrower

This "Activist Athlete" is bringing attention to the racial wealth gap, voter suppression, the lack of resources in Black communities, and other racial disparities in order to make "a better America for

[Click the image to learn more.](#)

State of the Union

Current Events History Matters



Ashleigh Johnson is the goalie of the 2020 US Olympic women's water polo team.

[Click the image to learn more.](#)



Simone Biles is the most decorated gymnast in US history. Her accomplishments in the arena are unmatched and she is also willing to lend her voice and star power to support positive mental health.

[Click the image to learn more.](#)

[Like our Facebook Page](#)

[Join our Facebook Group](#)



Jesse Owens' made history during the 1936 Olympics in Germany.

[Click the image to learn more.](#)



William Dehart Hubbard was the first Black Olympian to win an individual gold medal.

[Click the image to learn more.](#)

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