



Pappy Gault also recalls the exciting episode in Mexico City when Foreman won the heavyweight Olympic title and he handed George a tiny American flag to hold over his head on the victory stand.

The incident came several days after Tommie Smith and John Carlos, medal winners in the 200 meters, had used black-gloved, clenched-fists to give a Black Power salute as the Star-Spangled Banner was played and they stood on the victory stand.

Gault said he simply felt that "That was not the time or place to wash our dirty linen...I had compassion for Smith's and Carlos' feeling, and they understood it, but it was just the wrong place."

Carlos, who is now working in Los Angeles as a member of the Olympic Organizing Committee for the 1984 games is still a friend and frequently calls him, Gault says.

The first Black Olympic competitor to win the light-heavyweight championship did not cash in on his boxing talent. He is Washingtonian Norvell Lee, former Howard University boxer, who captured the light-heavyweight Olympic crown at Helsinki, Finland, in 1952.

Significantly, Lee was awarded the Val Barker Trophy, as the outstanding performer in boxing division, winning over such fighters as Davey Moore, Floyd Patterson and Sweden's Ingemar Johansson, who later became world heavyweight champion.

Prior to his Olympic triumph, Lee had been CIAA champion in 1949, and scored big wins in the Golden Gloves in 1950-52 and the National AAU tournaments in 1950-51.

Lee did keep up with boxing activities, however, as he served as member of Columbia Boxing Commission for 14 years, and utilized his spare time to serve as coach of several community teams in the amateur ranks.

Currently Lee is employed in the Radiology Defense Office of the District of Columbia and resides in Northwest Washington.

Another Washingtonian was on the team with Lee. He was James (Jim) Braddock, who competed in the weightlifting class, winning a runner-up medal. Braddock works at the Library of Congress.

Other Olympic gold medal winners in the boxing competition include Nat Brooks, flyweight, 1952; Leon Randolph, flyweight, 1976; Rody Harris, lightweight, 1968; Howard Davis, lightweight, 1976; Chuck Atkins, 1952; Ray Seals, 1972, welterweight; and the Spinks brothers, Leon and Mike, 1976.

While boxing and track and field have produced the bulk of Black Olympic gold medalists, other sports, especially basketball, have produced some of the more popular athletes who have signed lucrative professional basketball contracts.

Perhaps the best known is Bill Russell, the great Boston Celtics player and coach. Russell, now 49, last year completed a four-year run with CBS-TV during which he was a regular announcer with Dick Stockton covering NBA games.

Russell, who was the standout member of the Olympic winning U.S. basketball team in 1956, dominated pro basketball after his collegiate days and Olympic experience. He starred as a player and coach for the Boston Celtics and was known as a student of the game as well as a teacher. He proved to be both a coach and an outstanding sportscaster. He led Boston to 13 World Championships as a player/coach, and now devotes his time to a variety of business interests.

Also on that victorious Olympic team as a teammate of Bill Russell was K.C. Jones, the current coach of the Boston Celtics. Jones, who played in the NBA with the Celtics had a previous coaching experience with the Washington Bullets for three seasons beginning in 1974. K.C. Jones carried the Bullets to the finals of the NBA against Golden State after a 60-22 season after compiling a 47-35 mark in his initial coaching year. He had a 48-34 record the year the Bullets let him go. He had been an assistant coach with the Celtics before he was elevated to his present post.

There are scores of other Olympic basketball stars now playing in the National Basketball Association, others who have played are now retired (Oscar Robertson, for instance), but only a few of them were gold medal winners.

Robertson, the three-time All-American, who was a member of the Olympic Championship team in 1960, signed a contract with the Cincinnati Royals one day after returning from Rome and went on to become one of the great stars in the NBA before his retirement four years ago.

Some of the others would include Carl Gain, who was with Russell and K.C. on the victorious team at Melbourne; Walter Bellamy, 1960 team; Walter Hazzard, 1964; Spencer Haywood and Adrian Dantley, the latter still active in the NBA.

Among other gold medalists who are still active in sports although not on the cinderpaths or in the boxing ring, are John Woodruff who dominated the 800 meters as no other runner has in his heyday. Woodruff won the 800 meters at Berlin, being a member of the same Olympic team with Jesse Owens.

Woodruff, formerly of the University of Pittsburgh, set world records indoors and outdoors, was three-time champion and a spotlighted figure at the annual Penn Relays where he led Pitt to four championships 1938. He annually returns to the Penn Relays to serve as a finish judge.

Charley Jenkins, a track star at Villanova in his collegiate day, won the 400 meters in the Olympics at Melbourne in 1956, and is doing what few Olympians get an opportunity to do. Jenkins, after teaching and traveling abroad as a track coach, is back at Villanova as head track coach, seeking to maintain the high record the wildcats achieved under his old coach Jumbo Elliott.

Rod Milburn, who earned a gold medal in the hurdles in 1972 at Munich, is still competing and may be a candidate for the 1984 team. Last April, Milburn breezed to victory in the 110-meter hurdles in the open competition of the 25th annual Pelican Relays in Baton Rouge, La., in 13.3, which is an indication he is still in shape.

Bob Hayes was another of the famed Olympic gold medal sprinters. Bob won the 100 meters at Tokyo and turned to pro football upon his return, playing with the Dallas Cowboys in the National Football League for several years.

One of the great track and field stars of the Olympics whose record has stood the pressure of time is Bob Beaman, who set a world record long jump of 29 feet, 2½ inches, in October, 1968, at Mexico City. The record still stands although experts think Carl Lewis, the current cinderpath comet, may break it before his career fades.

Beaman is 37 now and works as director of sports development for Dade County Parks and Recreation in Miami, Florida. Recalling his 1968 jump, he said he merely wanted to jump "as far as I could with little thought about breaking a record."



Ralph Boston of Laurel, Miss. shown setting an Olympic broad jump record of 26 ft. 7½ inches at the 1960 games in Rome.



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