

1968 Black Power



The 1968 Olympic Games took place during the turmoil of the civil rights struggle, a few months after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1967, Harry Edwards, professor at San Jose State College, announced a Black boycott of the Olympic Games that, if successful, would deprive the U.S. team of almost 20 percent of its medal-winners. Edwards' threat of boycott was heightened when the International Olympic Committee announced that South Africa would be allowed to compete. The African nations and the U.S.S.R. joined the boycott.

When the IOC reversed its position and banned South Africa, the Black boycott was called off.

Some of the Black athletes chose to make their protest of indignities and discrimination suffered by Black people in the U.S. in another way.

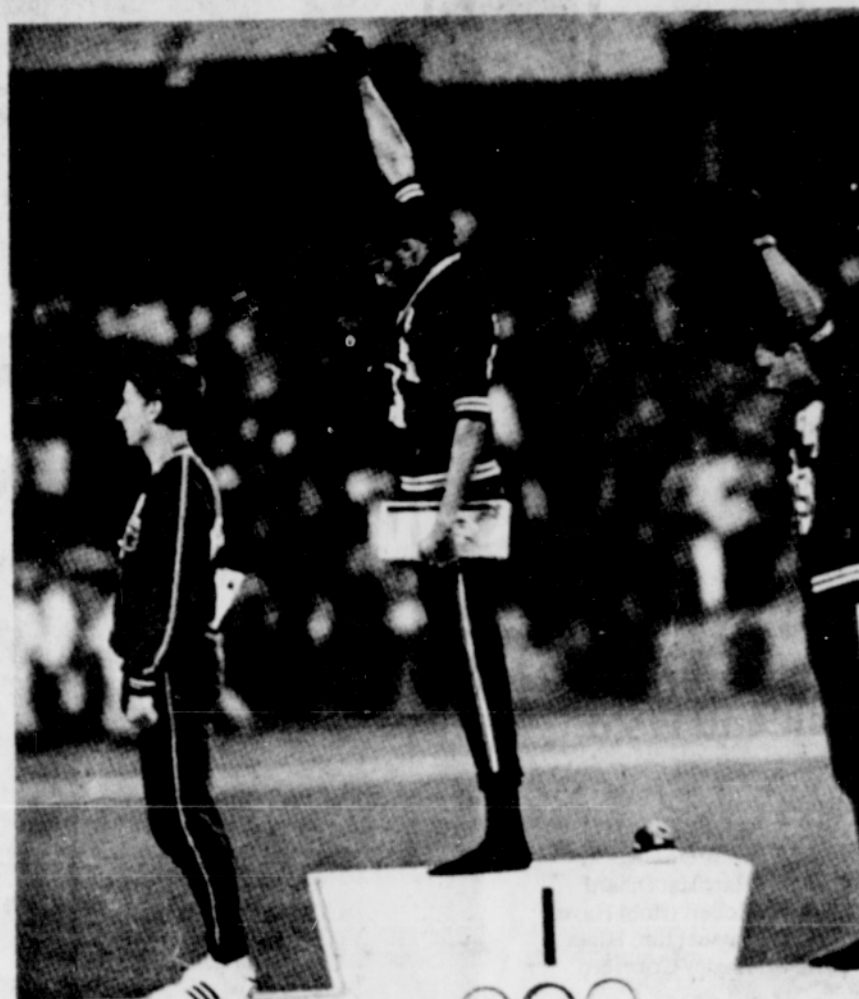
Tommie Smith, 24, held the recognized world record for the 200-meter dash; 20 seconds flat. John Carlos, 23, held the pending world record of 19.7 seconds, set in the U.S. Olympic trials. During preliminary heats, both wore long black socks. When the U.S. coach asked the men to "take pride" in the U.S. uniforms, Carlos said, "Coach, I think I'll run barefoot just to show my poverty."

In the final, Carlos took the lead and held it until 50 meters from the finish. Then he turned to his teammate and yelled, "Come on up here, Tommie." Smith flew by him to set a new record at 19.8 seconds. At the finish line, Peter Norman of Australia nipped Carlos for second.

Smith tied a black scarf around his neck; Carlos wore a black T-shirt. They walked to the victory stand barefoot, carrying their track shoes in one hand, the other hand in their pockets.

As they stood on the victory stand to receive their medals, their pants legs were rolled up to show their black socks, they stood with one gloved fist held high and head bowed, ignoring the flag.

"This was a victory for Black people everywhere," Smith said later.



MARGARET CARTER

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Portland's early Black Physician overcame barriers.

In 1930, amidst the setting of the Great Depression and racial segregation, everywhere people struggled to be somebody. That was the year DeNorval Unthank, M.D., came to Portland.

He came from Kansas City, Missouri to practice medicine. When he arrived, he was greeted not with open arms, but with rocks through the win-

dows of his family's home, and threatening phone calls. Dr. Unthank was a Black man, and Black physicians were almost unheard of in Portland in 1930.

Dr. Unthank soon changed all that.

As a Black physician in Portland's history, he treated his patients at his office on 6th Avenue and W. Burnside. From there he began a 20-year fight to overcome racial barriers that threatened to stifle his career.

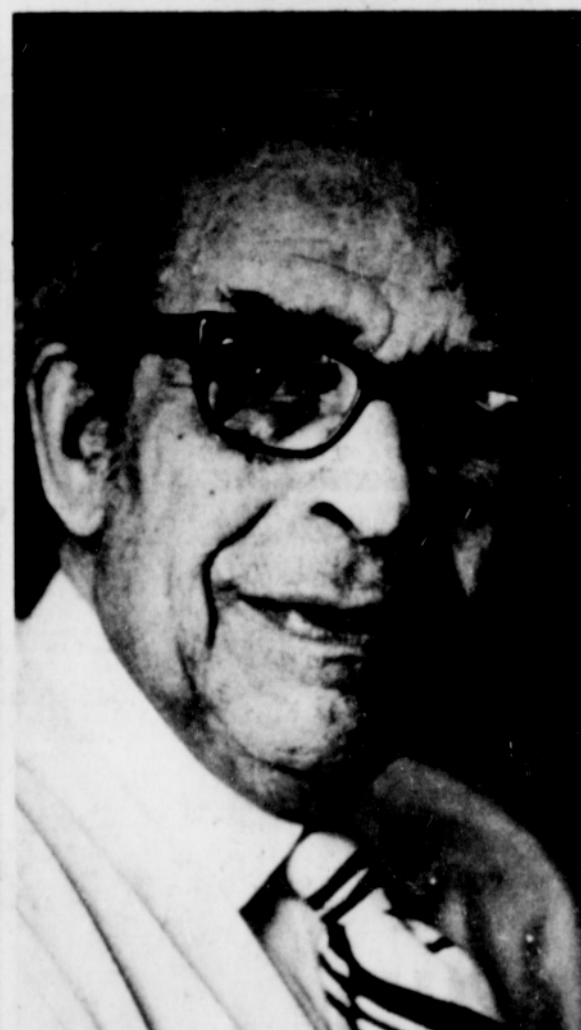
Despite the initial lack of acceptance in the Portland community, Dr. Unthank consistently demonstrated the skills and knowledge of an accomplished physician, and the qualities of a true humanitarian. Eventually, the Portland medical community came to realize and appreciate the attributes of Dr. DeNorval Unthank.

In June of 1955, Dr. Unthank was appointed to the Emanuel Hospital Medical Staff. Three years later, the Oregon State Medical Society named him Doctor of the Year.

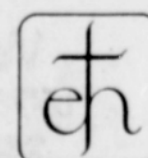
Dr. Unthank's contributions extended beyond the medical field. He was a man who served the community—not only the Black community, but the entire community. He helped found the Urban League and was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Governor's Committee on Child Welfare.

In 1962, he was named Citizen of the Year by the Portland Chapter of the National conference of Christians and Jews. And in 1969, DeNorval Unthank Park was dedicated. Nearly 40 years before that, Portland had tried to run him out of town.

In November of 1970, Dr. Unthank retired from his large 40-year practice and joined the medical staff of the Workman's Compensation Board. He died in 1977—one of the City's most honored citizens.



Black History Month
Emanuel Hospital



A member of Metropolitan Hospitals, Inc.