Famous Sports Personalities in The World

1. Pele (1940 –) (Brazil, footballer) Winner of three World Cups for Brazil. He scored 1281 goals in 1363 games. Since retirement Pele has become a global ambassador for sport and is a well-known advocate of overcoming poverty.


3. Carl Lewis (1961 – ) US, Athletics Nine time Olympic gold medalist, Carl Lewis won gold over three Olympics and was the star of 1980s track and field events.

4. Jesse Owens (1913-1980) Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics helping to break Hitler’s pride. Despite suffering discrimination in his own country, he remained a great ambassador for the sport.

5. Sir Donald Bradman (1908 – 2001) Australia, Cricket. Donald Bradman was by far the greatest batsman the game of cricket has ever produced.

7. **Usain Bolt** (1986 – ) Jamaica, Athletics Usain Bolt smashed the world record for 100m and 200m. Bolt won triple Olympic gold at both the 2008 and 2012 Olympics

8. **Eddy Merckx** (1945 – ) Belgium, Cycling. Eddy Merckx is the most successful cyclist ever. He dominated the sport winning both classic one day races and the major three week tours, including five Tour de France victories.


11. **Lionel Messi** (1987 – ) Argentina, Football. One of the most spectacular footballers of the modern game. Messi has led Barcelona FC to unprecedented domestic success and has been voted footballer of the year (FIFA Ballon d’Or) four times.

12. **Michael Jordan** (1963 – ) (US, basketball) 6 time NBA champion. considered as the greatest basketball player.

13. **Larisa Latynina** (1934 – ) (Soviet Union, Gymnastics) Between 1956 and 1964 she won 14 individual gymnastic gold medals and 4 team medals a record for a female at the Olympics.


17. Roger Federer (1981 – ) (Switzerland, Tennis) Has won 17 single Grand Slam titles. Held no.1 world ranking for 302 weeks overall. Many consider him to be the greatest tennis player of all time.

18. Martina Navratilova (1956 – ) (Cz, US, Tennis) 18 grand slam titles 31 major doubles titles. 177 titles in total. Navratilova is the most successful tennis player of the open era.


22. Johan Cruyff (1947 – ) (Netherlands, Football) – One of Europe’s greatest footballers and pioneers of ‘total football’ a style of playing that mesmerized the public during the 1970s. He led the Netherlands to the final of the 1974 World Cup and was voted best player.


24. Sonja Henie (1912 – 1969) (Norway, Figure Skating) Henie was a triple Olympic Champion ’28, ’32 and ’36. She was also a ten times World Champion and highest paid Hollywood actress.


28. Wayne Douglas Gretzky (1961 – ) (Canada, Ice Hockey) Gretzky is considered greatest hockey player of all time. Holds 61 NHL records, including most points scored.

29. Emil Zatopek (1922 – ) (Czechoslovakia, Athletics) Won four Olympic gold medals – including an unprecedented three at the 1952 Olympics – 10,000m, 5,000m and marathon.

30. Manny Pacquiao (17 Dec. 1978 – ) Filipino World Champion Boxer. Pacquiao rose from humble beginnings to one of the greatest boxers – winning ten titles in eight different divisions.

31. Imran Khan (1952 – ) (Pakistan, Cricket) Khan was an allrounder and a key member of the Pakistan cricket team from 1971 to 1992. He came back from retirement to lead Pakistan to victory in the World Cup ‘92.

32. Fanny Blankers-Koen (1918-2004) (Netherlands, Athletics) In 1948 Olympics won four gold medals at 100m, 200m, 80m hurdles and 400m relay.

33. Shane Warne (1969 – ) (Australia, Cricket) One of the greatest leg-spin bowlers of all time. Warne took over 1,000 wickets in international cricket and became one of the five ‘Cricketers of the Century’.

34. Dhyan Chand (1905 – 1979) (India, Hockey) Chand is considered the greatest field hockey player of all time. He won three Olympic gold medals for India in ‘28, ‘32 and ‘36
35. **Fred Perry** (1909 – 1995) (GB, Tennis) 8 grand slams (in short amateur career). Also was table tennis world champion.

36. **Lin Dan** (1983 – ) (China, Badminton) Dan is one of the greatest stars of badminton. Double Olympic Champion and Five times World Champion, he became the first player to win the Grand Slam of all major 9 championships.


38. **Clara Hughes** (1972 – Canada, cycling, speed skating) Won 2 Olympic medals at 1996 summer games (cycling) Won Olympic gold at 5,000m speed skating (2006 Winter Olympics).

39. **Jan-Ove Waldner** (1965 – ) (Sweden, Table Tennis). Waldner has been at the pinnacle of table tennis for over two decades. He won a medal at every World Championship from 1983 to 2001. Olympic gold medallist in 1992.


41. **Bjorn Borg** (1956 – ) (Sweden, Tennis) During a relatively short career, he won 11 Grand slam titles. (he won 89% of Grand slam games he participated in).
42. Karch Kiraly (1960 – ) (US, Volleyball) Triple Olympic gold medalist. Only player to win gold in both beach volleyball and indoor volleyball.

43. Bradley Wiggins (1980 – ) Olympic Track cyclist who 6 gold medals on the track, before making rare transition to win Tour de France. Also, Olympic and World time trial champion.

44. Seve Ballesteros (1957 – 2011 ) (Spain, Golf) One of greatest European golfers of all time. He won 90 international tournaments and five majors.


46. Michael Schumacher (1969 – ) (Germany, Motor racing) Seven times World Champion holds many Formula One records for most wins and most podium placings.

47. Greg Lemond (1961 – ) (US, Cycling) Only American to win the Tour de France. Lemond won the Tour three times and also won the world road race championship twice.

49. Jacques Anquetil (1934 – 1987) (France, Cycling) Anquetil won the Tour de France five times, helped by his strong time-trialling ability. Also won the Giro d’Italia and Vuelta Espagne.

50. Jack Nicklaus (1940 – ) (US, golf) Jack Nicklaus ‘The Great Bear’ won 18 major championships and was widely considered the greatest golfer of all time. PGA player of the year five times.

51. Steve Davis (1957 – ) (England, snooker) Davis dominated snooker throughout the 1980s, holding the number one slot from 1983-1989. Seven times world champion.

52. John McEnroe (1959 – ) (US, tennis) McEnroe won 9 Grand slam singles titles and 77 career titles. McEnroe was also famous for his on court antics and rivalries with great players such as Jimmy Connors.


54. Magic Johnson (1959 – ) (US, Basketball) Point Guard for Los Angeles Lakers, Johnson was one of the greatest basketball players winning 5 NBA titles and 3*most valuable player.

56. **Roger Bannister** (1929 – ) (Great Britain, athletics) Roger Bannister achieved sporting fame by becoming the first athlete to run a sub-four minute mile in Oxford, 1954.

57. **Mo Farah** (1983 – ) (GB, athletics) 2012 – Olympic champion – Gold at 5000, and 10,000. 2011 – World Championship Gold at 5,000. Silver in 10,000m

58. **Mark Spitz** (1950 – ) (US, Swimming) Won seven gold medals at the 1972 Olympic games. Also set new world records at seven different distances in the same year.

59. **Chris Evert** (1954 – ) (US, Tennis) 18 grand slam single titles. 3 double titles. She had a win % in singles matches of 89.9% – the highest in the open era.

60. **Al Oerter** (1936 – 2007) (US, Athletics) Four time Olympic champion in the discus throw. Winning Olympic gold from 1956 to 1968. First to break 200 feet for the discus

61. **Jimmy Connors** (1952 – ) (US, Tennis) Won eight Grand Slam titles, including three in one year (1974). Connors had the third best win percentage of games played (81.8%) during his career.

62. **Michael Johnson** (1967 – ) (US, Athletics) Four times Olympic gold medallist at 200m, 400m and 400m relay. Eight times World Champion. Held World record at 200m and 400m.
63. Ian Botham (1955 – ) (England, Cricket) A great all rounder. Botham took 383 test wickets and scored 5,200 test runs at an average of 33.4

64. Jim Thorpe (1888 – 1953) (US, Athletics, American Football, baseball and basketball) One of the greatest all-round sportsman, Thorpe won Olympic gold in the decathlon and pentathlon (1912). Also, had successful career in the NFL.

65. Sir Steve Redgrave (1962 – ) (Great Britain, Rowing) Won five consecutive Olympic gold medals in rowing (Coxless pair, Coxed pair and Coxed Four). Also, won nine world championships.

66. Steffi Graf (1969 – ) (Germany, Tennis) Graf won 22 Grand Slam singles titles – the highest number in the Open era. Was world number one for a record 377 weeks.


68. Hicham El Guerrouj (1972 – ) (Morocco, Athletics) Double Olympic gold medallist in 2004 – at 1500m and 5,000m. Set World Record for mile at 3.43.13 and 1500m of 3.26.00.

69. Eric Liddell (1902 – 1945) (Scottish, Athletics) Represented Scotland at Rugby Union and GB athletics. Olympic gold medalist at 400m (1924). Dropped out of 100m due to religious beliefs. Life made into film ‘Chariots of Fire’

71. **Kenenisa Bekele** (1982 – ) (Ethiopia, Athletics) Triple Olympic gold medalist at 5000m and 1000m. Set new World Record for 5000 meters: 12:37.35 – 10,000 meters: 26:17.53

72. **Bernard Hinault** (1954 – ) (France, Cycling) Great all round cyclist. Hinault won the Tour de France five times. Also won Vuelta, Giro and one day classics, such as Paris-Roubaix.


74. **Paavo Nurmi** (1897 – 1973) (Finland, Athletics) Dominated middle distance running in 1920s, winning nine Olympic gold medals and setting 22 new world records from 1500m to 20km.

75. **David Campese** (1962 – ) (Australia, Rugby Union) One of the most entertaining rugby players of all time. Holds record for most international tries (64) and won World Cup of 1991 with Australia.

76. **Kelly Slater** (1972 – ) (US, Surfing) ASP World Tour Champion 11 times. The most successful surfer of all time, also known for his style and prowess.
77. **Haile Gebreselassie** (1973 – ) (Ethiopia, Athletics) 2* Olympic gold in 10,000m. Held world record for marathon for 3 years with 2.03.59.


79. **Brian Lara** (1969 – ) (West Indies, Cricket) Lara scored nearly 12,000 Test runs, including setting a new world record high score of 400.

80. **Chris Hoy** (1976 – ) (Great Britain, Cycling) Six times Olympic gold medalist over three Olympics, including 1km time trial, Sprint, Team Sprint and Kierin.

81. **Serge Blanco** (1958 – ) (France, Rugby Union) Played 93 times for France as winger, known for his flair and try scoring ability.

82. **Cristiano Ronaldo** (1985 – ) (Portugal, Football) Rated one of the greatest football players of all time. He has achieved unprecedented club success with Manchester United and Real Madrid. Has played 118 times for Portugal.

83. **Sir Gary Sobers** (1936 – ) (West Indies, Cricket) One of greatest all-rounders in the game.


86. **Sir Viv Richards** (1952 – ) (West Indies, Cricket) Considered one of the greatest batsmen of all time. He captained West Indies during their period of dominance in the 1970s and 80s.

87. **Fausto Coppi** (1919 – 1960) (Italy, Cycling) The dominant cyclist before and after WWII. Coppi won the Giro d’Italia five times and the Tour de France twice. Also excelled in one day classics, such as Milan San Remo (*3) and World championship *2.

88. **Eusebio** (1942 – 2014) (Portugal, Football) One of the greatest forward players in football, Eusebio had a unique strike rate of 749 goals in 745 matches. Represented Benfica and Portugal.

89. **Rod Laver** (1938 – ) (Australia, Tennis) Laver won 11 grand slams including winning all the four Grand Slams (in 1962 and 1969).

90. **Grete Waitz** (1953 – 2011) (Norway, Athletics) First women to run the marathon under two and half hours. Won nine NY marathons and five gold medals at the World Cross Country championships.


92. **Tegla Laroupe** (1973 – ) (Kenya, Athletics) Held world record for marathon and won five world championships at the half-marathon.
93. **Gareth Bale** (1989 – ) (Wales, Football) Left back noted for dribbling skills and freekicks. Played for Tottenham Hotspur and Real Madrid where he helped them to win UEFA champions league.


98. **Wilma Rudolph** (1940 – 1994) (US, Track and Field) Rudolph won three Olympic gold at the 1960 Olympics at the 100m, 200m and 4*100m relay.

99. **Alberta Tomba** (1966 – ) (Italy, Skiing) Tomba was the dominant skier of the 1980s and 90s. Three times Olympic gold medallist and two times World Champion.

100. **Bo Jackson** (1962 – ) (US, Baseball and American Football) Played American Football for Los Angeles Raiders and later baseball for MLB teams. He was only person to be picked in All Star team for both sports.
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### Basic Static GK

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