



KANSAS LEGEND BIOGRAPHY

Maurice Greene (1974 – Present)

Celebrated as the world's fastest man and ranked first in the world in sprinting for seven consecutive years, Maurice Greene has achieved international recognition from the phenomenal race times he's turned in throughout his career. Due to his contributions to the sport during his most successful seasons, Greene is considered one of the greatest sprinters of all time.



Truly a hometown hero, Greene was born in Kansas City, Kan., on July 23, 1974. He began participating in track and field at age 8 and also competed in football while attending F.L. Schlagle High School. Greene stood out in track even then, and in his senior year, he won his third straight Kansas High School State meet double for the 100- and 200-meter races.

In 1995, Greene placed second in the 100-meter race at the USA Outdoor meet and beat Carl Lewis at the Texas Relays. That same year, Greene competed in his first major international competition in Gothenburg but failed to qualify for the World Championship finals. He also failed to qualify for the 1996 United States Olympic team after disappointing times in the Olympic trials.



These setbacks seemed to push Greene to train even harder, and he returned to competition for a breakthrough season. Greene left his longtime coach Al Hobson and Kansas City to train under John Smith, a former world-record holder, in Los Angeles. Greene won the 100 meters at the World Championships in Athens and at the USA Outdoor meet. He became the top-ranked sprinter in the nation and the second internationally.

The 1999 season proved to be Greene's most successful in his career. He successfully defended his 100-meter World Championship title and also won the 200-meter title, becoming the first athlete to win both races. He also set the world record in the 100 meters, running a 9.79-second time, and set the 60-meter indoor world record at 6.39 seconds, a record that still stands today.



Greene competed for the U.S. Olympic Team in Sydney in 2000, winning two gold medals for the 100-meter and the 4x100-meter relay. He followed these performances winning another gold at the 2001 World Championships for the 100-meter race before ending his season early due to injury. In addition to his success on the track, he received recognition as USA Track and Field's Visa Humanitarian of the Year, in part for the work he does with the Maurice Greene Finish the Race Youth Foundation based in his hometown.



At the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greene won the silver medal for the 4x100 and the bronze in the 100. In his career, he has run 52 sub-10 second 100-meter races, more than any sprinter in history. Greene came back from a serious injury after wrecking his motorcycle in 2002 but has been injury-plagued while trying to continue competing. Greene still holds 3 of the 4 fastest times in 100-meter history.