

Last Name	First Name	Event	Story Overview
Ashford	Evelyn	Sprints	17 year running career and four Olympic Games
Balas	Iolanda	Jumps	Won over 140 straight high jump competitions
Batten	Kim	Hurdles	Overcame injuries to make multiple Olympic teams
Benoit	Joan	Distance	Overcame injury before Olympic Trials to win first women's Olympic marathon
Bergmann	Grettel	Jumps	Hitler used her as a pawn to host Olympics, removed from team because she was Jewish
Blankers-Koen	Fanny	Sprints/Hurdles	Missed two Olympic Games because of WWII
Boulmerka	Hassiba	Distance	Faced death threats because of her religion
Brisco-Hooks	Valerie	Sprints	Only woman to win 200 and 400 meters in one Olympics
Brown	Earlene	Throws	Only American woman to win a gold in Olympic shot put
Brown-Heritage	Doris	Distance	Lost opportunity to run longer distances because women were not permitted to at the time
Brown-Trafton	Stephanie	Throws	Overcame injuries to be surprise winner of Olympic discus throw
Budd	Zola	Distance	Ran barefoot, involved in controversial race at 1984 Olympics when Mary Decker was tripped
Buford-Bailey	Tonya	Hurdles	Found motivation from her little sister, who has muscular dystrophy
Cheng	Chi	Sprints/Hurdles	Set three world records in one week
Clark	Christine	Distance	Won Olympic Trials marathon at age 37
Clark	Joetta	Mid-Distance	Made four Olympic teams, promotes good health and work ethic
Coachman	Alice	High Jump	First African American to win a gold medal in the Olympics, overcame difficult childhood
Copeland	Lillian	Throws	Sacrificed Olympic glory to take a stand against Nazi Germany in boycotting the 1936 Games
Cuthbert	Betty	Sprints	Recovered from injuries to win a gold medal
Decker-Slaney	Mary	Distance	Overcame a series of injuries, unable to win Olympic medal, considered one of best U.S. distance runners ever
Devers	Gail	Sprints/Hurdles	Overcame thyroid problems and nearly had her foot amputated, won Olympic 100 meters twice
Dibaba	Tirunesh	Distance	Defended her Olympic 10,000 meters title despite injuries
Didrickson	Zaharia	Heptathlon	Derided for not fitting the traditional ideas of femininity
Dragila	Stacey	Jumps	Overcame death of coach to become a pioneer in women's pole vaulting
Felix	Allyson	Sprints	Overcame asthma to be a great role model
Frederick	Jane	Multis	First world record holder in heptathlon
Freeman	Cathy	Sprints	Overcame discrimination to become first Aborigine to win an Olympic gold medal
Goucher	Kara	Distance	Overcame injuries to capture an Olympic medal
Guevara	Ana	Sprints	Turned to track after she failed to make Mexico's national basketball team
Harper	Dawn	Hurdles	Surprise gold medal winner after she overcame knee injury
Harrison	Queen	Hurdles	Had to hurdle fallen athlete in her lane to become youngest member of U.S. team
Hayes	Joana	Hurdles	Returned from injuries to win Olympic gold
Holmes	Kelly	Mid-Distance	Pressure was so great, she cut herself and considered suicide
Jennings	Lynn	Distance	Won more U.S. cross country titles than any other woman
Joyner-Kersey	Jackie	Multi-Events	Overcame a challenging childhood, asthma, and injuries to become greatest female athlete
Kastor	Deena	Distance	Known for her persistency and commitment to becoming an Olympic medalist in marathon
Larrieu-Smith	Francie-Larrieu	Distance	Versatile runner who set 35 American records
Manning-Mims	Madeline	Distance	Made four Olympic teams, despite her event, the 400 meters, not being contested in the Olympics
Miles-Clark	Jearl	Mid-Distance	Made five Olympic teams

Mutola	Maria	Distance	Left her home country to seek better training and competed in six Olympics
Ottey	Merlene	Sprints	Made eight Olympic teams
Quirot	Anna	Distance	Country boycotted two Olympic Games, came back from severe burns in explosion
Pickett/Stokes	Tidye/Louise	Sprints/Hurdles	First African American female athletes in Olympics
Radcliffe	Paula	Distance	Overcame injuries
Richards-Ross	Sanya	Sprints	Deals with Behcet's syndrome
Ritter	Louis	Jumps	Overcame rheumatic fever and injuries to win Olympics despite being an underdog
Robinson	Betty	Sprints	Badly injured in plane crash, came back to win gold
Rudolph	Wilma	Sprints	Had polio as a child and was told she would never walk again, won three gold medals
Runyan	Marla	Distance	First legally blind athlete to compete in Olympic Games
Schmidt	Kate	Throws	Denied an opportunity to compete because of Olympic boycott when she was at her best
Smith-Carson	Janelle	Sprints	Overcame lack of women's track programs to set American record at 400 meters
Stephens	Helen	Sprints/Throws	Never lost a race
Switzer	Katherine	Distance	Overcame discrimination against women's running
Torrence	Gwen	Sprints	Grew up in poverty and around drugs
Tyus	Wyomia	Sprints	First person to repeat as Olympic 100 meter champion
Vlasic	Blanka	Jumps	Competed in her first Olympics at age 16
Williams	Lauryn	Sprints	Only 5-3, proved that hard work counts more than size
White	Willye	Sprints	Worked in cotton fields as a child, made five Olympic teams
Whitebread	Fatima	Throws	Grew up in poverty and faced cruelty