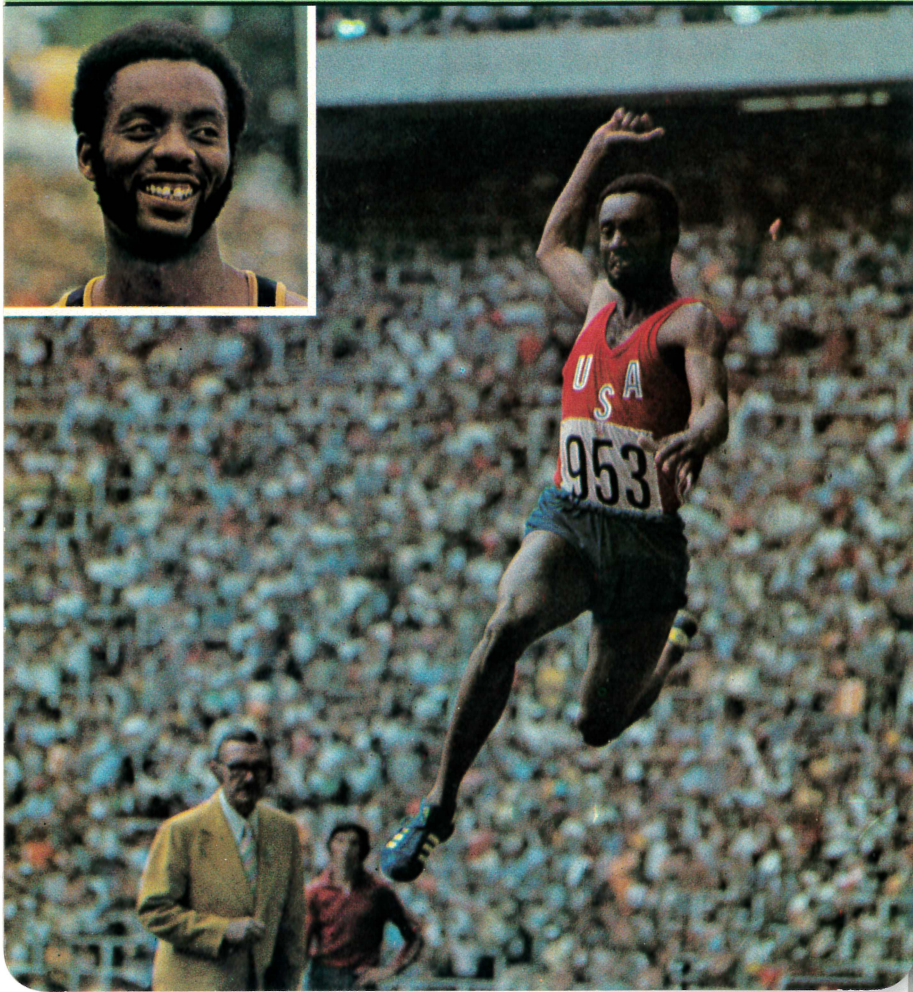


Track and Field



Arnie Robinson



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Even on a Bad Day

Figuring among the top long-jumpers in the world since 1970, the American Arnie Robinson failed at the 1972 Olympic Games. At Munich, where he was the favorite, he was beaten by his young countryman Randy Williams and had to be content with the bronze medal. A very emotional man, he had difficulty in judging his take-off. Having eaten too early, he had arrived at the final with an empty stomach and legs like jelly. He was a soldier at the time and as he was not due to leave the army until the following year, he only continued to jump to avoid the square-bashing and gun-slinging. But his heart was no longer in it.

Finally he overcame his big disappointment: he was to secure the title which had escaped him at Munich four years later at Montreal. In agreement with his wife Cynthia, who spurred him on, he worked only part-time as a physical education teacher in a grammar school so as to be able to train seriously. If need be, when the athletics season was over, he did not hesitate to drive a dust-cart in San Diego, California, to earn a bit of money. He made a great effort to control his emotions on important occasions. In short, he worked to such good purpose in three years that, even on a bad day, he

was sure to clear 8.20 m (26 ft 11 in) at Montreal. And, in fact, in spite of the abdominal pain which prevented him from training during the last few weeks before the competition and a mediocre take-off track, Arnie Robinson jumped 8.35 m (27 ft 5 in) at his first attempt. Arnie Robinson's speed has always been his principal trump-card: he can run 100 yards in 9.5 sec and 100 meters in 10.3 sec. He has also cleared 2.08 m (6 ft 10 in) in the high jump. In the long jump, his 8,35 m jump at Montreal constituted the best performance of his career. Before that, this progression had been from 7.77 m (25 ft 6 in) in 1969, 7.87 m (25 ft 10 in) in 1970, 8.04 m (26 ft 4 1/2 in) in 1971, 8.14 m (26 ft 8 1/2 in) in 1972, 7.78 m (25 ft 6 in) in 1973, 8.30 m (27 ft 3 in) in 1974 and 8.28 m (27 ft 2 in) in 1975.

ARNIE ROBINSON

Born April 7, 1948, in San Diego, California

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1971 Panamerican Champion with 8.02 m (26 ft 4 in)
(2nd in 1975)

1972 OG: bronze medal with 8.03 m (26 ft 4 1/2 in)

1976 OG: gold medal with 8.35 m (27 ft 5 in)

Winner of the 1977 World Cup with 8.19 m (26 ft 10 1/2 in)

Arnie Robinson: 45 cm (nearly 18 in) behind Bob Beamon's record at the 1976 OG