

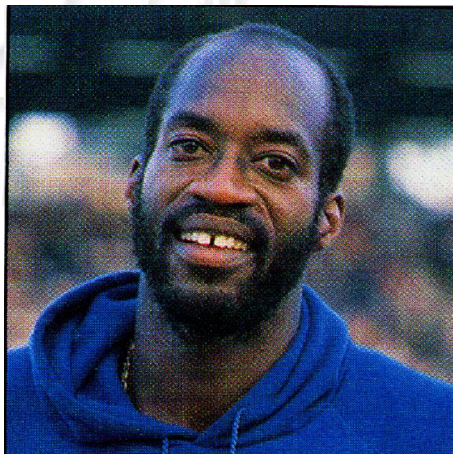
SPORTING LEGENDS: ED MOSES

SPORT: ATHLETICS

COMPETITIVE ERA: 1976 - 1988

Edwin Corley Moses (born in Dayton, Ohio August 31, 1955) is an American track and field athlete who won gold medals in the 400-meter hurdles at the 1976 and 1984 Summer Olympics.

Between 1977 and 1987, Moses won 107 consecutive finals (122 consecutive races). He set the world record in his event four times. In addition to his running, Moses was also an innovative reformer in the areas of Olympic eligibility and drug testing.



Born in Dayton, Ohio, Moses accepted an academic scholarship to Morehouse College in Atlanta and majored in physics and engineering while competing for the school track team. Morehouse did not have its own track, so he used public high school facilities around the city to train.

Initially, Moses competed mostly in the 180-yard hurdles and 440-yard dash. Before March, 1976, he ran only one 400-meter hurdles race, but once he began focusing on the event he made remarkable progress.

His trademark technique was to take 13 steps between all the hurdles (or even 12 between some hurdles), pulling away in the second half of the race as his rivals changed stride pattern. That summer, he qualified for the US team for the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal.

Though it was his first international meet, Moses won the gold medal and set a world record of 47.64 seconds. He was the only American male in Montreal to win an individual track and field gold medal.

SPORTING LEGENDS: ED MOSES



Moses' 13-strides between the Hurdles set the standard for all the others to follow.

After breaking his own world record the following year, Moses lost to Germany's Harald Schmid on August 26, 1977 in Berlin, his fourth defeat in the 400-meter hurdles. Beginning the next week, when he beat Schmid by 15 meters in Düsseldorf, Moses would not lose again for almost a decade.

In 1979, Moses took a leave of absence from his job with General Dynamics to devote himself full time to running. In the next two years, he was instrumental in reforming international and Olympic eligibility rules. At his urging, an Athletes Trust Fund program was established to allow athletes to benefit from government-or privately-supplied stipends, direct payments, and commercial endorsement money without jeopardising their Olympic eligibility.

Moses presented the plan to Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, and the concept was ratified in 1981. This fund is the basis of many Olympic athlete subsistence, stipend and corporate support programs, including the United States Olympic Committee's Direct Athlete Assistance Programs.

Moses was the first recipient of USA Track & Field's "Jesse Owens Award" as outstanding U.S. male track and field performer in 1981, and received the AAU's "Sullivan Award" as outstanding amateur athlete in the United States in 1983.

By the time American Danny Harris beat Moses in Madrid on June 4, 1987, Moses had won 122 consecutive races, set the world record two more times, won three World Cup titles, won two World Championships, and earned his second Olympic gold medal in Los Angeles, where he was selected to take the Olympic Oath.

After losing to Harris, he won 10 more races in a row, then finished third in the final 400-meter race of his career at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul.

SPORTING LEGENDS: ED MOSES



Graceful, athletic, and always cool - that was Ed Moses racing philosophy.

As a sports administrator, Moses participated in the development of a number of anti-drug policies and helped the track and field community develop one of sports' most stringent random in-competition drug testing systems.

In December, 1988, he designed and created amateur sports' first random out-of-competition drug testing program.

After his retirement from track, Moses competed in a 1990 World Cup bobsled race at Winterburg, Germany. He and long-time US Olympian Brian Shimer won the two-man bronze medal.

In 1994, Moses received an MBA from Pepperdine University and was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame.

SPORTING LEGENDS: ED MOSES



Scott Burton's Final Thought

Ed Moses is considered by many to be the greatest and most consistent 400m Hurdler of all-time.

His refuse to lose racing mentality helped him to achieve that incredible unbeaten run from 1977-1987.

Without question, he would've retained his Olympic title in 1980 had the US Boycott not prevented him from competing.

Even though he never ran the 400m Hurdles in under 47 seconds, the achievements throughout his career were astonishing. At one stage he owned the fastest ten times in history, and was unbeaten in all his World Championship races.

Always a gentleman on and off the track, Ed Moses also deserves credit for his contribution towards the establishment of season-long drug testing for athletes.

Over the years he has, for many, become the voice for athletes, both in terms of campaigning for their financial opportunities and drug-testing schedules.

Moses' fastest 400m Hurdles World Record was 47.02 secs, set back in 1984.

When you consider that the current World Record has been stuck at 46.78 secs (Kevin Young) since 1992, this gives you an idea of just how far Moses was ahead of his generation. He was streets ahead, and deserves his title as a true sporting legend.



Ed Moses took on all-comers and beat them all. He was the best of his generation.