

ALBERT COOPER

b. 1904 - d. 1993

1928 Amsterdam Summer Olympics Soccer



Albert Cooper was born in Trenton. A 1921 graduate of Trenton High School, he was the first Trenton resident to be selected and compete in the Olympics. He was an all-around athlete who excelled in many sports. Cooper was the goalie on the 1928 US Olympic soccer team where he won two caps. The US team lost to Argentina 11-2 followed by a tie with Poland 3-3.

He was the goalie for the Trenton Highlanders soccer team, which won the 1937 National Amateur Championship and he was selected to play in the Pan American Games that year. In 1985 he was inducted into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

He was a pitcher on various baseball teams and played in the minor leagues for the Brooklyn Dodgers. The highlight of his baseball career was playing with and pitching to Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Later in life, Cooper would become an attorney at law, NJ assemblyman, and sheriff of Mercer County. He was appointed as a judge in Trenton Municipal Court, a position he held until he retired in 1973.

PETER PIETRAS

b. 1908 - d. 1993

1936 Berlin Summer Olympics *Soccer*



Peter Pietras was born in Trenton. At the 1936 Berlin Olympics Pietras earned a cap playing midfielder for the US soccer team, losing to Italy 1-0 in the first round. Italy would eventually win the gold medal, defeating Austria.

Pietras began his professional career with the Philadelphia German-Americans of the American Soccer League in 1933.

In 1934 Pietras earned two caps with the US national team. His first was a US victory over Mexico 4-2 in a World Cup qualifier. His second was the lone US game at the 1934 FIFA World Cup, losing to Italy in the first round.

He spent five seasons with Philadelphia, winning the 1935 league title and the 1936 National Challenge Cup championship. He retired from playing professionally in 1938.

GEORGE NEMCHIK

b. 1915 - d. 1988

1936 Berlin Summer Olympics *Soccer*



George Nemchik was born in Superior, PA and graduated in 1932 from Trenton High School where he was a star athlete. At the 1936 Berlin Olympics Nemchik was injured playing forward for the US soccer team, losing to Italy 1-0 in the first

round. Italy would eventually win the gold medal, defeating Austria.

Nemchik graduated from Temple University with a bachelor of arts in health and physical education, where he was also an All American soccer and baseball player.

Nemchik spent twelve season in the American Soccer League and later won the National Challenge Cup with the amateur Chicago Vikings.

He spent five season with Philadelphia, winning the 1935 league title and the 1936 National Challenge Cup championship. He retired from playing professionally in 1938.

Nemchik would later become director of the Trenton Boys Club and operated a local tavern. He retired in 1978 as Trenton's recreation director.

JULIUS CHIMIELEWSKI

b. 1915 - d. 1962

1936 Berlin Summer Olympics *Soccer*



Julius Chimielewski, from Trenton, played forward for the US soccer team at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The US lost a heavily contested game against Italy, in which the German referee frequently was forced to warn the Italians for rough tactics.

The climax of the bitter struggle was reached early in the second half when George Nemchik was kicked in the stomach by one of the Italians. A few minutes later, after the Italians had scored the lone goal of the game, William Fiedler suffered torn ligaments in his knee when pushed roughly by Piccini of the rival team.

The referee “put the thumb” on the Italian, ordering him from the game. Three times he tried to get Piccini to leave but finally gave up. A dozen Italian players swarmed over the referee, pinning his hands over his mouth. The game was formally finished with Piccini still in the lineup. The crowd jeered the Italians and cheered the Americans most of the way.

Chimielewski later played for the Trenton Americans in the American Soccer League.

GAIL PETERS (-ROPER)

b. 1929 - d.

1952 Helsinki Summer Olympics *Swimming*



Gail Peters was born in Trenton and graduated in 1947 from Trenton High School where she was co-captain of the girl's swimming team and a NJ state champion. In Helsinki Peters swam in the qualifying heats of the 200-meter breaststroke and finished sixth.

In 1951 Peters moved to Washington, D.C. to work as a military geology draftsman for the US government. She joined the Walter Reed Swim Club and started setting records in the breaststroke and individual medleys. Peters was AAU champion outdoors in 1953 in the 110 and 120 yard breaststrokes and the 330 yard individual medley. Indoors she won AAU titles in 1952 in the 100 and 200 yard breaststroke and the 300 yard IM, adding breaststroke titles in 1953 at 100 and 250 yards.

After marrying and raising children, Peters left the pool for 18 years. When she returned in 1973 at 44 years old, she became one of the most dominant master swimmers ever. She raced until 1986, when diagnosed with spinal stenosis and was advised to restrict swimming. In 1991 she returned to completion and resumed her prior dominance.

She won over 135 US masters championships and set over 650 American masters records. Internationally Peters set 42 individual masters world records and won 30 world masters championships.

She was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1997.

LAWRENCE LOW

b. 1920 - d. 1996

1956 Melbourne Summer Olympics *Yachting*



Larry Low was born in Trenton and lived in Green Pond, NJ. At the 1956 Melbourne Olympics Low crewed for helmsman [Bert Williams] in the boat *Kathleen* to win the Star class gold medal. Seven races were scheduled. 24 sailors, on 12 boats, from 12 nations competed. Italy won the

bronze and the Bahamas won the silver.

Low, who was a builder by trade, was a frequent winner of races in the New York Metropolitan area. Low was runner-up in the Comet class international championships in 1948-49, 1952, and 1954. He was a three-time winner of the National Sweepstakes in Red Bank, NJ, twice won the Long Island Bowl for the Comet class, and was a six-time winner of the North Jersey Comet class.

He served several years as President of the Comet Class Yacht Racing Association and as secretary of the International Star Class Yacht Racing Association.

SUSAN PITT (-ANDERSON)

b. 1948 - d.

1964 Tokyo Summer Olympics *Swimming*



Susan Pitt was born in Trenton and lived in Highland Park, NJ. As a 16-year old she represented the US at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, swimming for the gold medal winning US team in the preliminary heats of the women's 4x100 meter medley relay. She was not eligible for a medal under the 1964 international swimming rules (as they do today) because she did not swim in the final event.

At the close of the 1965 school year, the NJ High School Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSAA), and the virtually all male sportswriter contingent, selected Pitt as the High School Athlete of the Year.

In 1966 she began her freshman year at the University of Vermont and retired from swimming for a year. After reviewing the results of the 1967 summer nationals, she decided she had a chance to make the 1968 Olympic Team. Pitt transferred to Rutgers and trained with the men's team. At 20 she became the second-oldest woman on the USA's 1968 Olympic Team and was voted team captain, although she did not get to compete.

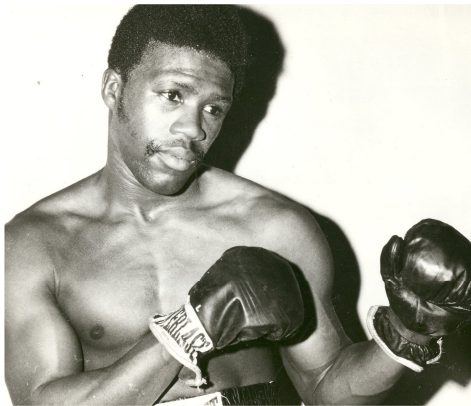
After retiring from competition, Pitt married a swimmer and they spent two years together coaching swimming in Tunisia as Peace Corps volunteers. She then coached for 28 years, founding the Scarlet Aquatic Club in 1991, and serving as head coach of that club for the next decade. Pitt later became Director of Programs and Services at USA Swimming.

SAMMY GOSS

b. 1947 - d.

1968 Mexico City Summer Olympics

Boxing



Sammy Goss was born in Trenton and graduated from Trenton High School in 1965. Goss was the US Olympic representative in the 119-pound boxing division at the 1968 Games in Mexico City. Goss had won five NJ Golden Gloves titles, two national ones (1965 National AAU Flyweight champion and 1968 National AAU bantamweight champion), and five straight victories in the Olympic Box-Offs to make the team.

“I lost in the first round against a Romanian (Nicolas Giju) boxer. My coach jumped all over me for boxing and not just going out there and throwing punches. When I did, I got out hit and it cost me the next two rounds.”

As a pro Goss fought from 1969 to 1981, winning the North American Featherweight title in 1971 and the North American Jr. Lightweight Championship in 1973.

By the end of 1973 Goss became the number one contender for the world title but he never fully reached his life time dream of a ‘World Championship because of major eye injuries that cost him dearly.

Goss fought professionally from 1969 to 1981. Goss was inducted into the NJ Boxing Hall of Fame in 1991.

THOMAS HARDIMAN

b. 1947 - d.

1972 Munich Summer Olympics Handball



Thomas Hardiman was born in Trenton and graduated in 1965 from Cathedral High School. At the 1972 Munich Olympics Hardiman was part of the American handball team which finished 14th. He had played one match against Yugoslavia.

At Cathedral High Hardiman was captain of the basketball team and second-team All-State in basketball. Hardiman later played basketball for Canisius College, graduating in 1969. Hardiman became interested in the team handball sport while serving in the Armed Forces. In handball he played circle runner and was on the US team from 1970-72.

Hardiman later became a pastor with the MorningStar Fellowship of Ministries, serving at the MorningStar's church in Fort Mill, South Carolina. He had started as a minister in New Jersey before joining MorningStar in 2003. He also coached and did inspirational and motivational speaking.

ANDREW STROUKOFF

b. 1950 - d.

1976 Innsbruck Winter Olympics

Ice Dancing



Andrew Stroukoff was born in Trenton. At the 1976 Innsbruck Olympics Stroukoff competed in the paired ice dancing with partner Susan Kelley, representing the Boston Skating Club. They placed 17th.

Stroukoff and his partner Kelley won the 1975 Eastern Championship, and placed third at the US Championships in 1975, 1976, and 1978, and second in 1977. In addition to their Olympic appearance, they competed twice at the

World Championships, placing 18th in 1976 and 12th in 1977.

Stroukoff later became a coach, often working with Kelley. Among his current and former students are Cathy Reed & Chris Reed and Maria Shibutani & Alex Shibutani. He currently teaches figure skating as well as conditioning and training for power skating and hockey skating at the William G. Mennen Sports Arena in Morris Township, New Jersey.

WENDY VEREEN (-CHRISTOPHER)

b. 1966 - d.

1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics Athletics



Wendy Vereen was born in Trenton and a 1984 graduate of Trenton Central High School. She is a former track and field sprinter who specialized in the 100 and 200-meter dashes. She was the top ranked national runner in high school in 1983 and 1984. She set personal records of 11.17 seconds for the 100m and 22.63 seconds for the 200m.

Wendy was named as a 4x100m relay alternate for the 1984 American Olympic team, but ultimately did not compete.

She gained an athletic scholarship to Morgan State University, where in 2014 she was inducted into the Morgan State University Hall of Fame.

Her career was highlighted by three relay medals—a 4x100 meter relay silver medal at the 1993 World Championships in Athletics, a medley relay gold medal at the 1993 IAAF World Indoor Championships, and a bronze at the 1999 IAAF World Cup.

Settling in Indiana, Wendy worked for the Department of Workforce Development, as well as taking up coaching with the Indiana Racing Cheetah Track Club.

CYNTHIA STINGER

b. 1958 - d.

1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics

1988 Seoul Summer Olympics

1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics

Handball



Cynthia Stinger was born in Trenton and later her family moved to Lawrence after she had grown up in Willingboro. Stinger played handball for the US Olympic teams in Los Angeles

(ranked 5th), Seoul (ranked 7th) and Barcelona (ranked 6th).

Stinger was an all-around sports star at Davis & Elkins College in West Virginia, winning nine varsity letters: four in hockey (field), four in basketball, and one in softball. She was named the school's Athlete of the Year in 1979 and 1981 and is their first female inducted into their Athletic Hall of Fame. She became the US handball player of the year in 1978, 1982-83 and 1987. Stinger was named the MVP of the gold medal winning US team at the 1987 Pan American Games where she was honored by being asked to recite the Athlete's Oath at the Opening Ceremony.

Stinger went on to work for the US Olympic Committee, starting out with the drug control program from 1987-96. She later became manager of youth and community programs, and eventually manager of the US Olympians Association for the USOC. She has also served as a board member with Sportswomen of Colorado, and a board member and treasurer of the Olympians for Olympians Relief Fund.

GWYNNETH COOGAN [HARDESTY-]

b. 1965 - d.

1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics

Athletics



Gwynneth Coogan was born in Trenton. At the 1992 Barcelona Olympics Coogan ran in the 10,000 meters race, placing 13th in Heat 1.

Coogan attended Phillips Exeter Academy for two years, where she played squash and field hockey. She then attended Smith College graduating in 1987, where she majored in

math and took up running for the first time. She became the two-time NCAA Division III champion in the 3,000 meters and she qualified for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, where she competed in the 10,000 meters. Four years later, she was an alternate for the women's marathon for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Coogan went on to earn her Ph.D. in math from the University of Colorado in 1999, working primarily in number theory. She did post-doctorate work with Ken Ono at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, taught at Hood College, and currently teaches math at Phillips Exeter Academy. She is married to fellow Olympian Mark Coogan, who ran the marathon for the US in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

ROCKY MARVAL

b. 1965 - d.

1992 Albertville Winter Olympics

Pairs Skating



Rocco Marvaldi was born in Trenton and came from New Egypt. At the 1992 Albertville Olympics Marval and his skating partner Calla Urbanski finished tenth.

Marval teamed up with Urbanski in 1990. They were coached by Ronald Ludington in Wilmington, DE. The media dubbed the pair “The Waitress and the Truck Driver” because of their occupations. In the 1991-92 season, the pair won gold at the 1991 Skate America and the 1992 US Championships. While at the event in Albertville, both developed chest colds and waited a day for medications because the approved type had initially run out. The pair placed seventh in the final event of the season, the 1992 World Championships.

Marval teamed up with Natasha Kuchiki in late 1993. They finished fourth at the 1994 US Championships, missing the 1994 Olympic team. Marval then reunited with Urbanski and turned professional. In 1998, the pair placed third at the World Professional Championships.

Marval is the general manager and director of skating at the Igloo Ice Rink in Mount Laurel, NJ.

TERRANCE CAUTHEN

b. 1976 - d.

1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics

Boxing



Terrance Cauthen was born in Trenton and graduated from Trenton High School in 1995. Cauthen trained in Philadelphia and his nickname was “Heat”. At the 1996 Atlanta Olympics Cauthen won his first three matches before losing a controversial decision to Bulgarian Tontcho Tonchev and settling for a Lightweight bronze medal.

Cauthen began his professional career in 1996 and built up a 15 fight winning streak heading into a 1999 showdown against the powerful Teddy Reid. Reid won via TKO in the 4th and Cauthen set forth on an 11 fight winning streak to rebuild his credibility. This came to a abrupt end with a split decision loss to journeyman Dairo Jose Esalas followed by a unanimous decision loss to rising star Paul Williams. Cauthen had yet to fight for a title, and another 5 fight winning streak came to an end with a loss to contender Sechew Powell in an IBF title eliminator. Following the loss to Powell, Cauthen lost two of his next three fights.

In 2014 Cauthen became a NJ Department of Corrections officer, assigned to the custody staff at the Central Assignment and Reception Facility (CRAF).

CURT CLAUSEN

b. 1967 - d.

1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics

2000 Sydney Summer Olympics

2004 Athens Summer Olympics

Race Walk



Curt Clausen was born in Trenton. It is unclear where he lived locally or when he left the Trenton area. He attended high school in Stevens Point, Wisconsin where he ran cross country and track.

Clausen is a three time Olympian. He finished 50th in the 20km walk at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games in 1:31:30. He finished 22nd in the 50km walk at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games in 3:58:39. He finished 32nd at 50km walk at the Athens Olympic Games in 4:11:31.

Clausen has a masters degree in public administration from Duke University appeared in an episode of the FOX sitcom "Malcolm in the Middle" on January 5, 2003. Clausen served as technical adviser for the race walk-oriented episode, as well as appearing as an extra.

Clausen currently resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

Career Highlights: 1999 World Championships 50 km bronze medalist; 2000, 2004 Olympic Trials 50 km champion, 3-time Olympian; 7-time U.S. 50 km and four-time 20 km champion; 2005 USA 30 km champion; 2005 USA Indoor runner-up; 2005 USA 50 km champion.

BOBBY SANQUINETTI

b. 1988 - d.

2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics *Ice Hockey*



Bobby Sanquinetti was born in Trenton. He grew up in Lumberton Township, NJ and attended the Lawrenceville School. Sanquinetti is an American professional ice hockey defenseman who is currently playing for HC Lugano in the National League. At the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics, the US team was eliminated in the quarter finals by the Czech team's 3-2 victory. With 35 seconds left in overtime, it was Sanquinetti's shot that hit the Czech goalie, but the goalie was able to cover up.

Athletes from Russia would get the Gold, followed by Germany with Silver and Canada with Bronze.

Sanguinetti previously played for EHC Kloten and within the New York Rangers, Carolina Hurricanes, Buffalo Sabres and Vancouver Canucks organizations in the National Hockey League (NHL). He was originally drafted 21st overall by the New York Rangers in the 2006 NHL Entry Draft.

CARLIJN SCHOUTENS

b. 1994 - d.

2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics Long Track Speedskating



Carlijn Schoutens was born in Trenton in December 1994 to Dutch parents who were living abroad. When she was 7 months old her family returned to the Netherlands and she grew up in the town of Heemstede.

Shoutens started speedskating in Haarlem and participated in the Dutch national all-around speed skating championships in 2012/2013 as well as Junior National Championships, where she won multiple medals. Holding two passports, she moved to Salt Lake City after contacting Matt Kooreman, a US Speedskating coach, where she elected to compete for the United States over the Netherlands. Carlijn studies medicine remotely at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

At the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics, Carlijn Schoutens was selected to race in the Team Pursuit where she won a bronze medal after skating in the semi-final race to help her team.

ATHING MU

b. 2002 - d.

2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics *Athletics*



Athing Mu (uh-thing moe) was born in Trenton. Her parents emigrated from Sudan. She is the second youngest of seven siblings. She graduated from Trenton Central High School in 2020 as an honors student. She is a middle-distance runner that chose not to compete for her high school but instead to run for the Trenton Track Club, with coach Al Jennings. Mu was named the 2020 National High School Indoor Athlete of the Year by Track and Field News. She now attends Texas A&M.

Mu holds the U-20 Indoor 400m NCAA record of 49:57 and 800m (1:57:73). On June 27, Mu destroyed the field in the final 200m of the 800m to win her first US outdoor title in 1:56:07, a world leader and the second-fastest time in American History. The mark also broke the Olympic Trials record.

Athing Mu won the 800m gold medal after leading almost from start to finish. Mu was never seriously challenged down the homestretch as she strode away to win in 1:55:88. It was the first time an American held the title in 53 years.

Mu won a second gold medal when she ran anchor leg of the 400m relay. It was a runaway victory for the United States team consisting of Sydney McLaughlin, Allyson Felix, Dalilah Muhammed, and Mu.

CURTIS THOMPSON

b. 1996 - d.

2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics *Athletics*



Curtis Thompson was born in Trenton. He graduated from Florence High School in 2014. While in high school, Thompson joined the athletics team to keep fit for football, but he did not want to run, so he threw the javelin.

Thompson was a four-time first team All-American javelin thrower at Mississippi State where he majored in mathematics. He won the 2016 NCAA championship and the 2018 USA Track & Field (USATF) title.

In 2020 Thompson joined other post-collegiate throwers at the USA Javelin Project in Birmingham, Alabama, where he began working as a substitute teacher at a local high school.

At the Tokyo Olympics Thompson finished 10th in the Group B qualifying round, throwing the javelin 78.20m.