

Famous Deaf Athletes

HOW TO USE THIS PAGE

Twenty Deaf and hard-of-hearing athletes across fourteen sports. Post the sheets whole, or cut along the card edges for a bulletin board.

WRESTLING / MMA

Matt Hamill

Deaf UFC fighter and three-time NCAA Division III wrestling champion. Competed in the UFC and is featured in the biopic "The Hammer."

FOOTBALL

Derrick Coleman

First Deaf offensive NFL player. Played for the Seattle Seahawks, Atlanta Falcons, and Arizona Cardinals. Super Bowl XLVIII champion.

BASKETBALL

Lance Allred

First Deaf player in the NBA. Played for the Cleveland Cavaliers and several international teams. Also a motivational speaker.

SWIMMING

Gertrude Ederle

First woman to swim across the English Channel. Won gold and bronze medals at the 1924 Olympics. Became Deaf due to illness.

VOLLEYBALL

David Smith

Deaf Olympic volleyball player for Team USA. Won bronze in 2016 (Rio) and silver in 2020 (Tokyo).

BOXING

Terry Norris

World champion light-middleweight boxer with hearing loss. Fought and defeated Sugar Ray Leonard.

MOTOCROSS

Ashley Fiolek

First Deaf female motocross champion. Won multiple AMA Motocross titles and competed in X Games.

BASKETBALL

Miha Zupan

Deaf Slovenian basketball player. Played professionally in Europe and represented Slovenia in EuroBasket.

JUDO

Gerardo Villalobos

Deaf Costa Rican judoka. Competed in Deaflympics and promotes Deaf sports in Latin America.

TRACK AND FIELD

Sophia Smith

Deaf sprinter and Deaflympics gold medalist. Competed in 100m and 200m events.

SWIMMING**Marcus Titus**

Deaf swimmer who nearly made the U.S. Olympic team. Strong advocate for captioning and Deaf athletes.

BOXING**Gavin Lilley**

British Deaf boxer who competed in the Deaflympics and national championships.

BASEBALL**Curtis Pride**

Played Major League Baseball for teams including the Montreal Expos and Detroit Tigers. Later became a college baseball coach.

SWIMMING**Reed Gershwind**

Holds the most medals for any American Deaflympian. Excelled in multiple Deaflympic Games.

WRESTLING**Valery Rukhledev**

Soviet Deaf wrestler, coach, and former president of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf.

BODYBUILDING**Shelley Beattie**

Deaf professional bodybuilder and actress. Competed as a top female bodybuilder and appeared in TV's "American Gladiators."

BASKETBALL**Tamika Catchings**

WNBA legend with hearing loss. Played for the Indiana Fever and won four Olympic gold medals.

SWIMMING**LeRoy Colombo**

Deaf lifeguard and swimmer who set world records for lifesaving, credited with saving over 900 lives.

SWIMMING**Terence Parkin**

Deaf South African swimmer who won a silver medal at the 2000 Olympics. Won 30+ Deaflympics medals.

FENCING**Frank Bartolillo**

Australian Deaf fencer who competed in the 2004 Olympics in Athens.