

Jim Thorpe
The Greatest Athlete Ever?

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Racism and cultural bias were difficult obstacles for Native Americans in the realm of sports in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Often times these athletes met racial slurs the moment they stepped on the field: nicknamed “Chief,” taunted with “war whoops,” and told to go “back to the Reservation!”¹ Native Americans who played professional sports were often seen as “lazy” and “different.” Jim Thorpe became one of the first Indians whose ancestry did not diminish his fame in the eyes of the public. Despite being born before the Indian Wars had ended, the public romanticized him as the “ideal Indian,” due to his outstanding accomplishments in sports. However, despite this favor, there is evidence that he was subject to discrimination after the Olympics. Never the same after losing his Olympic medals, he tragically died before their restoration. Jim Thorpe, a pioneer for minority athletes, struggled against racial prejudice for his entire career, and during his lifetime he never regained the honor stripped away by one mistake and those prejudices. ²

James Francis Thorpe was born on May 28, 1888 in Prague, Oklahoma. Born into the Sauk and Fox “Thunder clan” he received the name Wa-tho-huck, which means “Bright Path,” bestowed by his mother after she “saw the path to the cabin illuminated by a ray of sunlight at dawn just after his birth.”³ His mother, No-ten-o-quah or “Wind Woman,” was three-fourths Native American and one-fourth French, while his father, Hiram P. Thorpe was one-half Indian and one-half Irish. Thorpe also had a twin brother, Charlie, with whom he was extremely close. Being on the western frontier, the Thorpes faced white prejudice because they owned land and property much desired by white settlers. Despite this, they kept and maintained their land using Indian methods, but wore white-men’s clothing and used guns. In 1896, Charlie caught a fever and died from pneumonia at age 8, leaving Thorpe with a deep emotional scar. The rest of Thorpe’s young life was marked with loss. His mother died from blood poisoning when Thorpe

was 12, and at the same period of time his father almost died from a gunshot wound. Four years later, Hiram P. Thorpe died from blood poisoning, leaving his son an orphan. ⁴

Until he lost his family, Thorpe had been greatly influenced by his father, who had loved sports. As a child, Thorpe questioned his athletic abilities. He recalled,

“When I was a kid, I didn’t expect to get very far in sports. I wasn’t big enough for one thing. And the way we lived—way off from everything—made it hard to learn. We didn’t have a coach and most of the time we played barefoot. We made our own balls out of whatever was handy, used sticks for bats, flat rocks for bases, and made up our own rules.”⁵

The sports they played as children were merely recreation, but “they lay the foundation for future big performance.”⁶ Thorpe grew even more as an athlete when he began attending school. ⁷

Thorpe’s academic career began at the Sac and Fox Agency. A good student, he often neglected his studies and enjoyed being a class clown. This held true for his entire academic career. Thorpe was intelligent and highly observant, but he resisted the “regimentation and physical restriction of the Indian education at the time.”⁸ In 1898, at age 11, Thorpe’s father sent him away to the Haskell Indian Junior College, an Indian boarding school in Lawrence, Kansas, to further his education. It was there that Thorpe developed his love of football. He watched the varsity practices when he was too small to play, but when he was older, he joined the team. After his mother’s death, Thorpe came home and “attended a nearby Garden Grove school for the next three years, playing baseball after school with friends.”⁹ At Garden Grove, Glen “Pop” Warner, the Carlisle Indian Industrial School’s athletic director, saw Thorpe and recruited him. ¹⁰

Established in 1879 by Richard Henry Pratt, Carlisle, a Federal, coeducational institution, taught Native Americans the ways and skills of the white man. Pratt believed “that Native Americans faced extinction if they did not learn how to stand up, through education, to the dominant white culture.”¹¹ Carlisle emphasized military discipline, and offered vocational

training with a system where students could go into the community and work. Athletics formed a major component of the culture at Carlisle, with athletes known for their skill and power. Other teams referred to them as “the Indians,” and said that “these athletes owned the games they played and made them part of their own culture.”¹² Football and baseball formed part of the process to assimilate into white culture, and in turn they brought the school national recognition. Despite being considered a high school, Carlisle accepted students as old as twenty-three and competed on a collegiate level in athletics. Jim Thorpe arrived at Carlisle in 1904, at age 16.¹³

Urged to attend the school by his father, who thought that Carlisle would curb his son's distaste for education, Thorpe was too small, at first, to play varsity football despite the fact that he had played at Garden Grove. He attended Carlisle very briefly, and then went into the community to live with a white family for two years. He returned to the school in 1907, and began his athletic career. At Carlisle, Thorpe grew as an athlete and was noted as a natural leader, generous, tolerant, and funny. Unfortunately, his excessive drinking also began there, the start of an addiction that followed him all of his life.¹⁴

Around this time Thorpe's relationship with Glen “Pop” Warner began. Warner, the football and track coach, credited the Indian athletes' success to early training taught by their elders. He stated that they “know that people regard them as an inferior race, unable to compete successfully in any endeavor with the white man, and as a result they are imbued with a fighting spirit. When pitted against their white brethren, that carries them a long way toward victory.”¹⁵ Thorpe caught Warner's eye in the broad and high jumps, but nothing made Thorpe stand out.¹⁶

His track career began in the spring of 1907, when Thorpe, in street clothes, casually cleared the high bar on his way across campus to an intramural football game. At 5 feet, 9 inches, Thorpe's jump broke the school record, and he immediately joined the track team. He

also competed in high hurdles, shot put, broad jump, and the 100-yard dash. In 1908, Thorpe won a gold medal in the high jump at the Penn Relays, clearing 6 feet, 1 inch to win. In this same year, he took five first place medals while competing against Syracuse University, and broke the school record for the 220-yard hurdles. As 1909 rolled around, Jim Thorpe had become a dominant figure in collegiate track. ¹⁷

Thorpe's football career began in 1907 as well. Upon his return to Carlisle, Thorpe insisted on playing football, despite Warner's strong disapproval of his track star partaking in such a dangerous sport. In his first season on the team, Thorpe sat on the bench for all but two games. Always highly perceptive, he took this opportunity to watch the other players and to learn from them. In 1908, Thorpe returned to Carlisle, and he "weighed 175 pounds and was in great shape to start at left halfback."¹⁸ That year the team finished with ten wins, two losses, and one tie, outscoring opponents 212 to 55, and Thorpe made third-team All-American. ¹⁹

Thorpe's triumph marked the beginning of his outstanding athletic career. In football, Thorpe's "shoulder pads were illegally lined with sheet metal, and if you tried to tackle him you would likely end up with a knee in your face."²⁰ After taking a couple of years off to work on the family ranch, he returned to Carlisle in 1911, and that year the football team won eleven of its twelve games. As team captain, Thorpe was named a first-team All-American. ²¹

In 1912, Thorpe led the team to twelve wins, one loss, and one tie, as Carlisle outscored opponents 504 points to 114, and Thorpe became a first-team All-American for the second time but this would be Thorpe's last season for the Carlisle Indians. During this season, Carlisle beat Navy 27-6, as Thorpe scored all of Carlisle's points, and repeatedly outplayed Navy's All-American tackle. The game became one of the greatest moments of Thorpe's life. ²²

Carlisle's baseball team folded in 1910 because it could not compete with most of its players either running track or playing semipro-ball. Thorpe never played baseball for Carlisle, but in 1909 he played minor league ball team in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. This was a common practice among many athletes at Carlisle, but most knew not to use their real names, so as to protect their eligibility as collegiate athletes. In his first season in the league, Thorpe pitched and played first base; in his second season, in Fayetteville, North Carolina, he pitched, finishing with 10 wins and 10 losses and a batting average of .236.²³

Thorpe did not know to use an alias when he joined the league. He used his real name, and received fifteen dollars a week as meal money, making him a professional athlete, and two incidents drew a spotlight onto him during his time in North Carolina. The first was when Thorpe was so intoxicated that he fell through a plate-glass window, suffered severe cuts, and remained in the hospital for several weeks because of the incident. The second happened in 1910, when four police officers tried to arrest him, and Thorpe, one-by-one, placed them in a nearby trashcan. Despite these incidents, he remained in the league until it went bankrupt in 1910. For many Indian athletes, Thorpe included, the distinctions between amateurism and professionalism were unclear, and he "saw no harm in playing baseball and earning a little honest money."²⁴ This decision to play summer ball would greatly affect the rest of his life.²⁵

As the 1912 Olympic Games approached, Thorpe easily qualified to compete in the pentathlon, decathlon, high-jump, and the long jump, with "Pop" Warner his coach for the games. Rumors circulated that Thorpe never trained because he was such a natural athlete. However, other American athletes aboard the SS *Finland* en route to the games observed Thorpe trained just as hard as the rest of them. Before and during the Olympics, Warner knew of Thorpe's "professional" career, but hoped that it would never be discovered.²⁶

The pentathlon took place on the second day of the Olympics, and consisted of the running broad jump, the javelin throw, the 200 meter-dash, the discuss throw, and the 1500 meter-run. Scoring for the event was one point for first place in each event, two for second, and so on, and the lowest score would take the gold medal. Thorpe expected to do well, with a chance to take third place. In the running broad jump, Thorpe leapt seven feet and seven inches, taking first place in the first event. The javelin followed, and despite the fact that Thorpe had only learned how to throw it two months earlier, he took fourth place. In the 200 meter-dash, Thorpe took first with a time of twenty-three seconds, then threw the discuss 116 feet, 9 inches to place first. In the final event, Thorpe ran the 1500 meters in 4 minutes and 45 seconds, again taking first place. In an unexpected victory, Thorpe took the gold medal with a total score of seven points; the silver medalist scored twenty-one points.²⁷

Thorpe's next major event was the decathlon, where whoever tallied the highest score of 10,000 possible points would win the gold. The 100 meter-dash, the broad jump, and the shot put took place on the first day of competition, and Thorpe placed third in the 100 meters, second in the broad jump, and first in the shot put at 42 feet, 5 inches. The next day, Thorpe took first place in the high jump, fourth in the 400 meters, and first place in the 110 hurdles with a time of 15.6 seconds, a time that remained until the 1948 Olympics. On the third day of the decathlon, Thorpe took second in the discuss throw, third in both the pole vault and javelin throw, and first place in the 1500 meters with a time of 4 minutes, 46 seconds. His total score was 8,412.95 points, a record that stood for over two decades, and Thorpe finished nearly 700 points ahead of silver medalist Hugo Wieslander of Sweden.²⁸

Between the pentathlon and the decathlon, Thorpe took fifth in the high jump and seventh in the long jump, but Thorpe remains the only athlete ever to win both the pentathlon and the

decathlon. Along with the gold medals, Thorpe received “a bronze bust in the King’s likeness for his Decathlon victory and a jeweled model of a Viking ship for his Pentathlon triumph.”²⁹ While awarding Thorpe’s second gold medal, Sweden’s King Gustav V said, “Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world.” Thorpe replied, “Thanks, King.”³⁰ At the age of twenty-four, Thorpe appeared to be a little overwhelmed with the new status of a national hero. He once said, “I heard people yelling my name, and I couldn’t realize how one fellow could have so many friends.”³¹ Upon his return to the United States, white society completely accepted and loved Thorpe, despite his ethnicity. At the time, most Native Americans were ostracized and denied their constitutional rights, but Thorpe’s triumphs outshined people’s prejudices.³²

In early January, 1913, the *Worcester Telegram* printed a story claiming Jim Thorpe had, played professional baseball. Reporter Roy Johnson, who interviewed Charley Clancy, the owner of the Rocky Mountain League, saw Thorpe in one of the pictures on Clancy’s wall. Johnson realized Thorpe had violated the Olympic mandate that athletes be amateurs, which had been established because athletes often turned violent when they competed for compensation. Amateurism dated back to the creation of the Olympics, and it remained the hallmark of the Olympic Games.³³

Once the discovery became public, the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) demanded an explanation. In an apology written to the AAU and the nation, Thorpe said, “I was not wise in the ways of the world and did not realize this was wrong and that it would make me a professional in track sports.”³⁴ The AAU was furious, as many members of the AAU had helped select the Olympic team, and dealt out a very harsh punishment. On January 29, 1913, the AAU called for Thorpe to have his medals stripped, to have the silver medalists declared the true winners, and to have his name removed from the Olympic record. This was much harsher than

the International Olympic Committee had preferred. This may have been due to racial prejudice and fear of harsh criticism from European countries. The AAU President, James E. Sullivan, said, “While it had probably ‘come naturally’ to a man like Thorpe to violate the gentlemanly code of amateurism, his ‘strange origin’ was no excuse for his failure.”³⁵ The statement suggested Sullivan expected Native Americans to be ignorant and deceitful. His tone hinted of a prejudice against Native Americans to which Thorpe may have been subjected, since Sullivan presided over the hearing and had an influential role in deciding the “correct” punishment.³⁶

Despite rumors that the silver medalists refused to accept the medals and gifts, and that they sent them back to Thorpe on principle, it is not true. They “expressed regret at what had happened—and kept the booty.”³⁷ Thorpe, greatly shaken by the outcome, he stated, “I was only an Indian school boy and did not know such things.”³⁸ Despite this truth, members of the AAU judged him severely. However, Thorpe did not lose the public’s favor in the U.S. or Europe. British athletes saw Thorpe as a victim of ignorance, not as a fraud, and that was the general feeling of most of the public. Many newspapers accused the AAU of doing this because of Thorpe’s low social status, but all efforts to reverse the issue failed, and the public outcry did not sway the AAU. Internally, it was a crushing blow to Thorpe, but on January 30, the day after receiving his punishment, he left Carlisle and signed with the New York Giants baseball team for an annual salary of \$6000.³⁹

Thorpe signed a three year contract to play for the Giants under famed manager John McGraw, beginning a mediocre six year career in major league baseball. McGraw and Thorpe clashed over Thorpe’s lack of motivation about fitness. Thorpe played for New York from 1913 to 1915, and then was traded to a minor league team in Milwaukee in 1916. He played the 1917 season for the Cincinnati Reds, and then played one more season for the Giants. Thorpe left the

Giants for good after an argument with McGraw, who called Thorpe a “dumb Indian.” He then played his last major league season for the Boston Braves in 1919. For the next nine summers, Thorpe played minor league ball until 1928, finishing his career in the sport in Akron, Ohio at age 40. Thorpe was never a very prominent baseball player, and he “spent more time on the bench than on the field.”⁴⁰ Thorpe’s Giants roommate, Chief Meyers, stated that Thorpe was not nearly as good in baseball as he was in track and football, where “he was in a class all by himself.”⁴¹ Thorpe’s batting average for six years in the major leagues was .252, and while in his last season he batted .327, his overall statistics were mediocre. ⁴²

Professional football was disorganized until 1920, and it suffered from internal issues. Players often “jumped from team to team during the season to maximize their pay.”⁴³ Pro football could not match the respectability of the college game, and was popular mostly in the Midwest. In 1915, Thorpe began his long professional football career when he signed with the Canton (Ohio) Bulldogs to play for \$250 a game. Thorpe’s name drew large crowds, and he remained the star of the sport for an entire decade. The Bulldogs were highly successful, winning “league” titles in 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1919. Thorpe played the 1920 season for the Cleveland Tigers, after which he and a hunting buddy created the Oorang Indians in 1921. Originally a publicity stunt for the Oorang Airedale Kennels, the team consisted of Native American players who “spiced their games with Indian dances and hunting exhibitions.”⁴⁴ Thorpe remained with the Oorang team until 1924, when he left, at age 36, to play for the Rock Island Independents, followed by the New York (football) Giants, and then Canton in 1926. In 1928, Jim Thorpe played his last game for the Chicago (now Arizona) Cardinals. ⁴⁵

In the midst of this career, in September, 1920, the American Professional Football Association was formed, and Thorpe was named president, because the founders hoped that his

name would bring the league some recognition. The Association consisted of seven teams from the Midwest, and the main point of its creation was to prove that professional football was legitimate. Thorpe remained a figure-head president for several years before retiring. In 1922, the league reorganized to what it is still known as today, the National Football League (NFL).⁴⁶

Thorpe was a proud man, but not conceited. Chief Meyers commented that Thorpe "never forgot when the King said he was the greatest athlete ever. When they took away his medals, it broke his heart. He came in crying [one night] saying, 'they took them away from me, even though the guy who finished second refused to take them. They're mine Chief, I won them fair and square.'"⁴⁷ Thorpe was happiest when he was playing sports, so after he retired he had a hard time adjusting to a non-athletic life, and became obsessed with the loss of his medals. He earned a modest living, but Thorpe's main goal in life was to regain his medals.⁴⁸

Throughout his life Thorpe struggled to maintain successful marriages. In 1913, he married Carlisle classmate, Iva Miller. They had a son and three daughters, but in 1918 their son died of polio. Thorpe's addiction to alcohol increased after the death of his son, and he began spending longer periods of time away from home. Miller and Thorpe divorced in 1924, and in 1925, Thorpe married Freeda [sic] Kirkpatrick. They had four sons, but, once again, Thorpe's heavy drinking and absence from home led to a divorce in 1941. Four years later, he married Patricia Gladys Askew, and remained with her until he died. During his second marriage, Thorpe wrote letters to Freeda, many portraying how desperate a man he was, speaking of his dwindling professional football career and the loss of his medals.⁴⁹

The medals became the focal point of his life, and he could never hold a steady job. After plans for a movie about his life fell through in 1930, he became a laborer in Los Angeles. From 1932 to 1937, Thorpe became a Hollywood extra in westerns and short football features. After

that, he toured schools “advocating better living conditions for American Indians.”⁵⁰ Too old to fight in World War II, he joined the Merchant Marine and worked on an ammunition ship.⁵¹

In November, 1951, Thorpe underwent surgery for cancer of the lip, which gave the nation a look into his ruined life. Thorpe was penniless and working as a greeter at a bar. This sparked a group in Congress to push for his medals to be restored in February, 1952, but Thorpe died of a major heart attack on March 28, 1953 in his trailer in Lomita, California. His wife, Patricia Askew, had often said, “Jim wants to be vindicated as an honest athlete before he goes to his happy hunting ground.”⁵² Unfortunately, this was not the case.⁵³

Thorpe, highly esteemed as an athlete during the later years of his life and after his death, had many major movements to have his medals restored, including one in 1943 that began in the Oklahoma State Legislature. All of them met resistance, and failed. In 1950, Thorpe was named the “Greatest Male Athlete of the First 50 Years” by Associated Press, a great honor, but it paled in comparison to winning his Olympic medals. After his death, he had been buried in Oklahoma, but his wife arranged for two small towns in Pennsylvania to rename themselves in Thorpe's honor. The towns of Mauch Chunk and East Mauch Chunk became “Jim Thorpe,” and his body was reburied there. When the Professional Football Hall of Fame was created in 1963, Thorpe was a charter member, and in 1963 he was named to the All-Time All-Professional squad by the Professional Football Hall of Fame selection committee.⁵⁴

All of these awards and honors would have meant nothing in comparison with the restoration of his medals. In 1972, the longtime president of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), Avery Brundage, stepped down, and that same year the USOC restored Thorpe's amateurism, stating one could be a professional in one sport and not be disqualified for competing as an amateur in another. In 1982, the IOC restored Thorpe's medals to his sons and

put his name back on the record books. At the next Olympics, professional athletes competed, and the issue of amateurism ended. It began and ended with Jim Thorpe, a man who cared more about reputation than money.⁵⁵

In 1951, Warner Brothers made a full length movie depicting Thorpe's life called *Jim Thorpe: All American*. The movie was relatively typical of most sports movies and filled with historical errors. Thorpe's real career had been one long series of athletic triumphs that were studded with setbacks, but the Hollywood film moved too quickly through his life and focused mainly on Thorpe's social interactions. The few reenactments of his athletic career were credible, but brief. The soundtrack for the film consisted of generic "Indian film music," with steady drum beats throughout. The film ended on an upbeat note, unlike Thorpe's actual life, and, as a whole, *Jim Thorpe: All American* created no lasting impression. Despite the poor representation of Thorpe in the movie, it helps Thorpe's legacy live on.⁵⁶

The story of Jim Thorpe's life consisted of triumphs and defeats, competing constantly, both in athletics and the fight to regain his honor. The loss of his medals destroyed Thorpe and the likelihood that racial prejudice played a part in the punishment should not have happened in the "nation of equality." Ignorance is no excuse, but there can be no plea of ignorance for an unjust punishment. Thorpe died a national hero, but he died poor, desperate, and a shell of his former self. He never recovered from losing his honor, but the loss never hindered the public's view of this great American hero. The king of Sweden did not lie when he called Thorpe "the greatest athlete in the world." He had no equal, and that is how he shall always be remembered.⁵⁷

¹ Jeffery Powers-Beck, "Chief," *The American Indian Quarterly*, September 22, 2001, <http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/HistRC/hits?docNum=A93009072&tab=2&rto=A.D.&nop=contains&locID=santacatalina&rfr=A.D.&origSearch=false&hdb=ALL&t=KW&s=sP&r=d&items=0&bop=&secondary=false&o=DocTitle&sortOrder=PubTitle&n=10&l=dJ&dop=&c=4&tabMap=51&bucket=iac&NA=Jim+Thorpe&AI=U13309158&NR=Thorpe%2C+Jim%2BOR%2BThorpe%2C+James+Francis%2BOR%2BWa-tho-huck%2BOR%2BBright+Path>, September 20, 2008.

² Powers-Beck, "Chief."; Joseph D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," *American Heritage*, (July/August, 1992), p. 96.; Dr. Eric Mayer, "Native Americans in the 20th Century," *Emayzine*, 2001, <http://emayzine.com/lectures/native>.

³ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*, January 1, 2004, Biography Resource Center, <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb?cause=http%3A%2F%2Fgalenet.galegroup.com%2Fservlet%2FBioRC%3FfinalAuth%3Dtrue&cont=&sev=temp&type=session&sserv=no>, September 19, 2008; Mayer, "Native Americans in the 20th Century"

⁴ Franklin Watts, *The Olympic Story: Pursuit of Excellence*, (New York, Associated Press and Grolier, 1979), p. 68.; "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*.; D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 94.; "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*.; Kenneth T. Jackson, "Thorpe, James Francis ("Jim")," *The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives Thematic Series: Sport Figures*, January 1, 2000, Biography Resource Center, <http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioRC?vrsn=149&OP=contains&locID=santacatalina&srcht=name&ca=1&c=2&AI=U13309158&NA=Jim+Thorpe&ste=12&tbst=prp&tab=1&docNum=K3436500567&bConts=43>, September 20, 2008.

⁵ Watts, *The Olympic Story: Pursuit of Excellence*, p. 68.

⁶ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*.

⁷ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figure*; D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 94.

⁸ Jackson, "Thorpe, James Francis ("Jim")."

⁹ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*

¹⁰ D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 94.; Marc S. Maltby, "Jim Thorpe," found in *American National Biography*, (New York, Oxford University Press, 1999), p. 614.

¹¹ Jackson, "Thorpe, James Francis ("Jim")."

¹² Powers-Beck, "Chief."

¹³ Jackson, "Thorpe, James Francis ("Jim")."; Powers-Beck, "Chief."; D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 94.

¹⁴ D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," 94.; "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*; Jackson, "Thorpe, James Francis ("Jim")."; Maltby, "Jim Thorpe," p. 615.

¹⁵ Powers-Beck, "Chief."

¹⁶ D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 94.; "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*; Jackson, "Thorpe, James Francis ("Jim")."; Maltby, "Jim Thorpe," p. 615.; Arthur Daley, "Pop Warner Discusses Jim Thorpe," *New York Times*, November 20, 1947, <http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?set=searchera&start=51&rendition=x-article-image&inmylist=false&urn=urn%3Aproquest%3AUS%3BPQDOC%3BHNP%3BPQD%3BHNP%3BPROD%3Bx->

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¹⁷ Jackson, "Thorpe, James Francis ("Jim")."; "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*; Maltby, "Jim Thorpe," p. 615.

¹⁸ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*

¹⁹ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*; Jackson, "Thorpe, James Francis ("Jim")."

²⁰ D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 98.

²¹ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*; Jackson, "Thorpe, James Francis ("Jim")."; D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 98.

²² "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*; Jackson, "Thorpe, James Francis ("Jim")."; Daley, "Pop Warner Discusses Jim Thorpe," 43.

²³ "Jim Thorpe," found in *Encyclopedia of World Biography* 2nd Edition (Detroit, Michigan, Gale Research, 1998), p. 210.; Matlby, "Jim Thorpe," p. 615.

²⁴ D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 100.

²⁵ Watts, *The Olympic Story: Pursuit of Excellence*, p. 70.; David C. Large, *Nazi Games: The Olympics of 1936*, (New York, W.W. Norton & Company, 2007), p. 31.; "Jim Thorpe," found in *Encyclopedia of World Biography* 2nd Edition (Detroit, Michigan, Gale Research, 1998), p. 210.; Matlby, "Jim Thorpe," p. 615.; "Case Against Jim Thorpe Seems to be Fully Proved," *The Washington Post*, Jan 26 1913, <http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?set=searchera&start=51&rendition=x-article-image&inmylist=false&urn=urn%3Aproquest%3AUS%3BPQDOC%3BHNP%3BPQD%3BHNP%3BPROD%3Bx-article-image%3B250210852&mylisturn=urn%3Aproquest%3AUS%3BPQDOC%3BHNP%3BPQD%3BHNP%3BPROD%3Bx-citation%3B250210852>, January 30, 2009, p. S1.

²⁶ D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 95.; Watts, *The Olympic Story: Pursuit of Excellence*, p. 70.; "Indian Thorpe in Olympiad," *New York Times*, April 28, 1912, <http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?set=searchera&start=1&rendition=x-article-image&inmylist=false&urn=urn%3Aproquest%3AUS%3BPQDOC%3BHNP%3BPQD%3BHNP%3BPROD%3Bx-article-image%3B100362435&mylisturn=urn%3Aproquest%3AUS%3BPQDOC%3BHNP%3BPQD%3BHNP%3BPROD%3Bx-citation%3B100362435>, January 30, 2009, p. C9.

²⁷ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*

²⁸ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*; "Jim Thorpe," *Encyclopedia of World Biography* 2nd Edition, p. 210.

²⁹ Watts, *The Olympic Story: Pursuit of Excellence*, pp. 68-69.

³⁰ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*

³¹ "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figure*; Mayer, "Native Americans in the 20th Century.

³² D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 95.; "Jim Thorpe," *Notable Sports Figures*

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- ³⁴ D'O'Brian, "The Greatest Athlete in the World," p. 96.
- ³⁵ Large, *Nazi Games: The Olympics of 1936*, p. 32.
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