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# Black History Month

# Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was an American civil rights activist and is famously known for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, beginning the Montgomery bus boycott. She was an inspiration to many during the civil rights movement.





# Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a religious leader and American civil rights activist during the mid-20th century. He was a key figure in ending racial segregation in the South and various areas of the United States.

# Beyoncé Knowles

Beyoncé is a widely known

American singer, songwriter, and businesswoman. She's most well known for being the lead singer of R&B group *Destiny's Child*.



# Simone Biles

As the most decorated gymnast in history, Simone Biles represents Black excellence through both her unmatched skill and her advocacy for mental health. Holding a record 41 combined Olympic and World Championship medals and 7 Olympic golds Simone has redefined the boundaries of the sport.



# Michael Jackson

The "*King of Pop*" was an American singer, songwriter, dancer, and philanthropist born in 1958. He was the first artist in America to have Top 10 singles in five different decades.





# Terry Crews

American actor and TV host Terry Crews was cast to play himself, Terry Jeffords in the Fox/NBC sitcom *Brooklyn 99*. He is also known for playing in the NFL for multiple different teams.

# Amanda Gorman

Gorman is the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate. She is an activist, mainly focusing on issues of oppression, gender, race, minorities, and the African diaspora.



# Laila Edwards



Laila Edwards is a historic figure in sports, having become the first Black woman to compete for Team USA in Olympic ice hockey at the 2026 Winter Games. A two-time NCAA National Champion with the Wisconsin Badgers and a 2025 World Championship gold medalist, she entered the Olympics as an elite force on the ice. During Black History Month, she is celebrated as a trailblazer who became the youngest American ever named MVP at the senior World Championships.

# James Earl Jones

James Earl Jones was an actor, known for the voice of Darth Vader, Mufasa in the Lion King, and the king in Coming to America.



# Mae C. Jemison



Jemison is famous for being the first African American woman in space.

She also served as a doctor in the Peace Corps, and currently runs a medical technology company.

# Cynthia Erivo

Cynthia Erivo is an actress, and has a Tony, Emmy, and a Grammy. She was in *Wicked*, *Harriet*, and *The Color Purple* on Broadway.

# WICKED



# Janelle Monáe

Janelle Monáe has released four albums, acted in movies like *Hidden Figures* and *Knives Out: Glass Onion*. Monáe has used her popularity to advocate for social activism and support for the LGBTQ+ community.



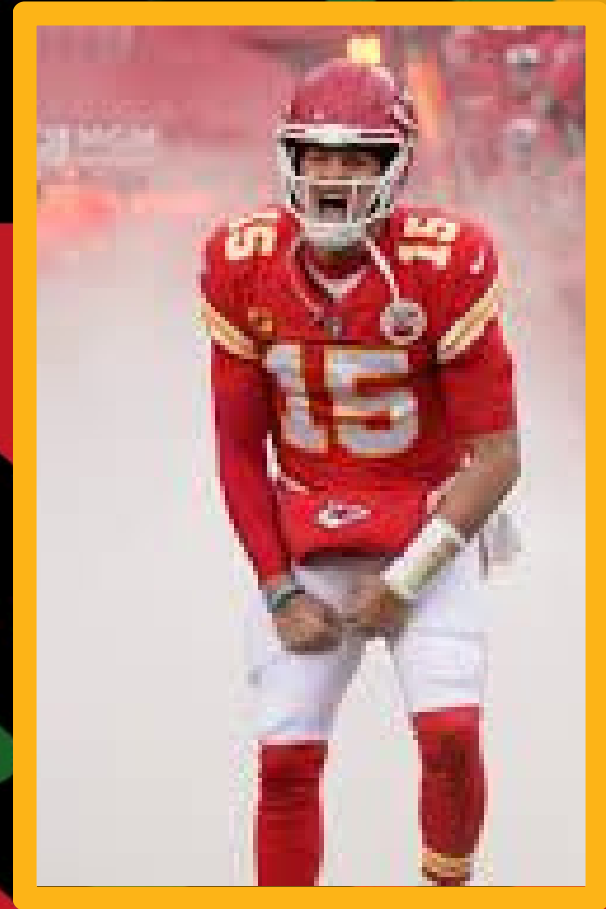
# Zendaya



As of 2026, Zendaya has made history as the youngest two-time Emmy winner and the first Black woman to win twice in the Outstanding Lead Actress in Drama category for Euphoria. A powerhouse producer and actress, she is now the highest paid Black actress in television history and has been named one of Time's 100 most influential people.

# Patrick Mahomes

By 2026, Mahomes has led the Chiefs to three Super Bowl titles and three MVPs before age 30. Holding the record for most passing yards per game, he is the fastest player to reach 80 career wins. He stands as a premier leader in sports, redefining the quarterback position for a new generation.



# Whoopi Goldberg

Whoopi Goldberg is an actor, comedian, and author. She has starred in the movies *The Color Purple*, *Till*, *Sister Act*, and *Ghost*. She has contributed to support efforts for child rights, HIV/AIDS, education, housing, and substance abuse.



# Maya Rudolph

Maya Rudolph is an actress, comedian, and cast member on Saturday Night Live. She has also acted in *The Good Place*, *Disenchanted*, and *50 First Dates*. She supports the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Free Arts for Abused Children, and many more charities.



# Victor Wembanyama

Standing 7'4" with guard-like skills, "Wemby" is a global icon transforming the NBA. As a multiple All-Star and All-Defensive First Team selection, he is the only player to record 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds, and 200 blocks in his first two seasons, proving Black excellence has no limits.



# Neil deGrasse Tyson

Neil deGrasse Tyson is an astrophysicist, science communicator, and author. He has popularized concepts and discoveries and he has hosted a television show called *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*. He has also contributed research to conclude that Pluto is a dwarf planet.



# Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong was a trumpeter and vocalist, making him one of the most influential figures in jazz. His career lasted five decades and he famously canceled a tour to protest the Vietnam War. He also criticized Eisenhower for refusing school desegregation in Little Rock, Arkansas.



# Coco Gauff

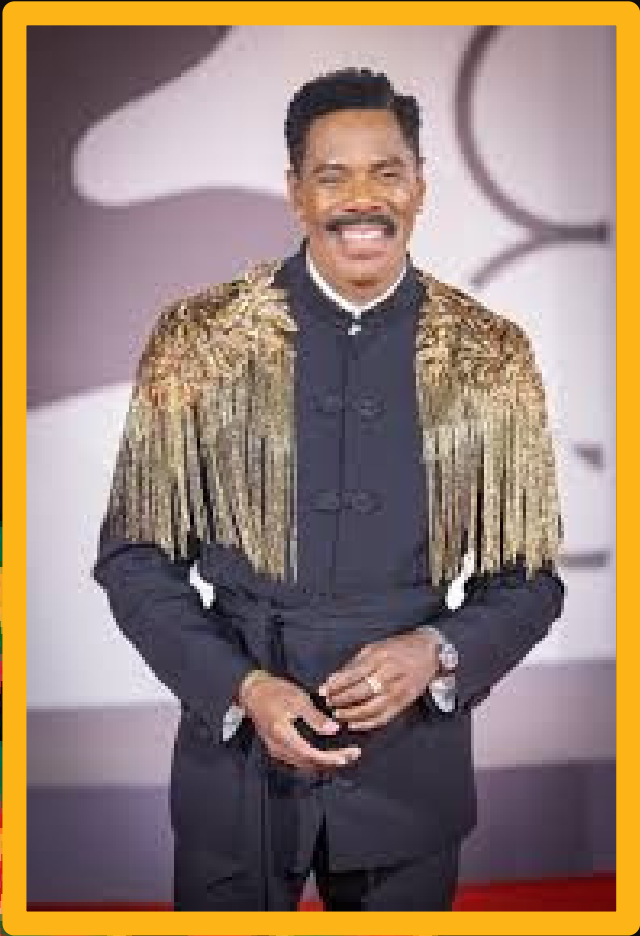


By 2026, Gauff has won two Grand Slam singles titles and reached a career-high of World No. 2. As a top global athlete, she uses her platform to fund HBCU scholarships and advocate for social justice. She continues a powerful family legacy of activism and dominance on the tennis court.

# Ketanji Brown Jackson

In 2022, Jackson made history as the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. A graduate of Harvard Law, she is also the first former federal public defender to reach the nation's highest court, bringing a unique perspective on criminal justice to the bench.





# Colman Domingo

Domingo made history as the first Afro-Latino nominated for Best Actor at the Oscars for his role in *Rustin*. With an Emmy and multiple Academy Award nominations, he is a powerhouse in cinema. He represents modern history by bringing authentic, intersectional Black stories to the global stage.

# Zaila Avant-garde

Zaila became the first African American to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee in 2021. Also a basketball prodigy, she holds three Guinness World Records for her dribbling skills. She represents a new generation of excellence, proving you can be a world-class scholar and athlete simultaneously.



# Bubba Wallace

The only Black driver in NASCAR's top series, Wallace is a trailblazer who recently won the prestigious Brickyard 400. He has broken barriers in motorsports by setting career highs in top-ten finishes. He is honored during Black History Month for leading both on the track and in the fight for diversity.





# Alena Analeigh Wicker

At just 13, Wicker became the youngest Black person ever accepted into medical school in the U.S. after graduating high school at 12. By 2026, she has already earned dual undergraduate degrees in biological sciences and completed an internship at NASA. She founded Brown STEM Girl to provide scholarships and mentorship for other girls of color pursuing careers in science.

# Ryan Williams

In 2024, Williams became the youngest FBS player in the nation after reclassifying to join the Alabama Crimson Tide at age 17. An elite wide receiver, he dominated his freshman season with 857 yards and 10 touchdowns. By 2026, he is a top Heisman contender.



**Gold Standard:**  
**Black Icons of Milano**  
**Cortina 2026**

# Elana Meyers Taylor



**Sports:** Bobsled (Olympics), Softball (College)

**Hometown:** Douglasville, Georgia

**Education:** George Washington University

**Legendary Factor:** At 41 years old, 5'7", Taylor just won her first ever Olympic gold medal in the women's Monobob. With a total of 6 Olympic medals, she is the most decorated Black athlete at the Winter Olympics. She is the oldest U.S. Woman to win a Winter Olympic medal and the oldest gold medalist in bobsled history ever.

**Quote:** "View a stumbling block as a learning opportunity"



# William Dandjinou



**Sport:** Speed Skating - Short Track

**Height:** 6'3" **Age:** 24

**Hometown:** Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada

**Education:** Collège de Maisonneuve

**Legendary Factor:** At the 2026 games William won a silver medal in the mixed relay as the words top overall skater. He also made history in 2025 as the first athlete ever to win five gold medals in a single World Tour weekend."

**Quote:** "One day, I will be Olympic champion. Mark my words."

# Erin Jackson



**Sport:** Speed Skating - Long Track

**Height:** 5'5" **Age:** 33

**Hometown:** Ocala, Florida

**Education:** University of Florida

**Legendary Factor:** At the 2026 games Jackson was the Flag Bearer for Team USA. She is the first Black woman to ever win individual Winter Olympic Gold and an incredible athlete for starting ice skating at age 24 after a career in roller skating!!

**Quote:** "Pressure helps me find that fire"



# Global Firsts

## Nathan Tchibozo

Sport: Alpine Skiing

Age: 22

Hometown: Paris, France ( Representing Benin)

Education: SC 2 Alpes

Legendary Factor: Nathan became the first athlete in history to represent Benin at the Winter Olympics when he competed at Milano Cortina 2026. He served as the flag bearer for Benin during the Opening Ceremony. He competed in the Giant Slalom and Slalom events

Quote: “A lot of work, and believing in your dreams”



## Samuel Ikpefan

Sport: Cross-Country Skiing

Age: 34

Hometown: Annemasse, France

Education: SC 2 Alpes

Legendary Factor: Samuel is the first Nigerian to compete in two Winter Olympic Games. He was Nigeria's sole representative at the 2026 Milano Cortina games. He competed in the men's sprint classic and the 10km interval start

Quote: “Always put forth the best of yourself, success follows in pursuit”



# Laila Edwards



**Sport:** Ice Hockey (PWHL, Olympics)

**Height:** 6'1" **Age:** 22

**Hometown:** Cleveland Heights, Ohio

**Education:** University of Wisconsin

**Legendary Factor:** Laila made history at the 2026 Milano Cortina Games as the first Black woman to play for Team USA's Olympic ice hockey. She scored 2 goals and provided 6 assists during the 2026 tournament helping the US triumph over Canada in a highly competitive, 2-1, gold medal game.

**Quote:** "Representation matters; to be a role model... is awesome and a privilege"



**Who was your favorite  
Olympic Athlete?**