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An “Extra-Ordinary” Man: Tennessee State University and U.S. Olympic Women’s Track and Field Coach Edward S. “Ed” Temple (1927-2016)

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An “Extra-Ordinary” Man: Tennessee State University and U.S. Olympic Women’s Track and Field Coach Edward S. “Ed” Temple (1927-2016)

During the year of 2016, America and the world noted the departures of a number of inimitable figures in various fields of endeavor, from politics to arts and entertainment to sports, which embodies aspects of all the aforementioned areas. In particular, the passing of Muhammad Ali (nee Cassius Clay) on June 3 garnered worldwide attention, media coverage, and numerous tributes and reflections on the life of as the three-time heavyweight boxing champion. Ali, who proclaimed himself to be “The Greatest”, convinced many that this was indeed the case, not just during the early years of his boxing career, but in his principled activism against military service during the Vietnam War that caused him to sacrifice his title and profession during his prime; his return to the ring after nearly four years of litigation before securing a legal victory from the U.S. Supreme Court; regaining, losing, and regaining his title before ending his career in 1980; and his international work as a humanitarian which continued for decades after his affliction with Parkinson’s Disease.

In contrast to Ali, who up until his death remained one of the most famous persons in the world, we consider the life of Edward S. Temple, a man who for the most part “flew under the radar” and achieved greatness through the development of potential and greatness in others. Temple’s primary vehicle was coaching as opposed to personal athletic achievement, and his primary students were the most unlikely group imaginable: African American women athletes during the age of segregation at a small “Negro college” in Tennessee.

The personal story of Edward Temple began in another setting far removed from the South, as he was born the only child of Christopher and Ruth (Ficklin) Temple on September 20,

1927 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. During his formative years his mother hoped that her son would take an interest in and/or demonstrate talent in music, secured a trumpet, and paid for music lessons. Young Ed played the trumpet up to his high school years, when his athletic talent came to the forefront in the integrated setting of John Harris High School.

Temple experienced racial slurs in athletic competition settings, yet distinguished himself as his high school's first black captain of the basketball and track teams and gained all-state honors in three different sports (football, basketball, and track). With his abilities and versatility Temple hoped to attend Pennsylvania State University or another college in his home state, but remained uncertain as to his future until he and one of his chief track rivals, Leroy Craig, were both recruited by Tom Harris, a Harrisburg neighbor who had just become coach of the men's track team at Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial (A&I) State College in Nashville. Temple recounted in his 1980 memoir, *Only the Pure in Heart Survive*, that neither of them had ever heard of the school or had been in the South, and that Harris basically tricked them by telling them separately that the other had already committed to coming to Tennessee.

They experienced segregation firsthand after they changed trains in Cincinnati to the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) Railroad, and had to move to the back "Colored section", but both Temple and Craig continued their journey and entered A&I in 1946. They enjoyed some success as members of the track team along with their academic pursuits and other activities, and Temple became a member of the school's Rho Psi chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity. In one of his classes, Temple met and was attracted to an intelligent young lady from Hartsville, Tennessee with the unusual name of Charlie B. Law; shortly afterwards they began dating and continued their relationship through their graduation in 1950.

With his bachelor's degree in physical education, Temple applied for coaching positions while doing summer construction work on the new A&I gymnasium (which remains on the campus to the present day as Kean Hall; appropriately, it was the site of Temple's public memorial service in 2016). He was still living in a campus dormitory and thought he was being asked to move out when he was summoned to the office of A&I president Dr. Walter S. Davis. Coach Harris had resigned to take a position at Virginia Union University in Richmond, and had recommended Temple to Davis as his replacement. Davis offered Temple a "package deal": continued housing in the dormitory, coaching the fledgling women's track program (with its annual budget of less than \$100), admission to graduate school in sociology, and work in the campus post office, all for a salary of \$150 per month.

Temple was grateful for these opportunities, which also enabled him to move forward with marriage plans as he and Charlie B. became husband and wife during the same year. By 1951 Temple had complete responsibility for the women's track team, while continuing his graduate studies and managing the post office with the help of his new bride. He completed his master's degree in sociology in 1952, which led to a teaching position that further supplemented his income along with part-time janitorial work at his church, Clark Memorial (United) Methodist Church, and officiating at high school sporting events.

The main event (and one of only a few) for women's track teams from Negro schools was the Tuskegee Relays, founded by coach Cleve Abbott and hosted by Tuskegee Institute (now University) in Alabama. Temple's first teams endured indignities and discrimination as they traveled further south by station wagon, including having to pack lunches/extra food and pull over to the side of the road and "hit the fields" when no "Colored" restaurants or restroom facilities were in the vicinity. Hard lessons were also learned from limited success in their early

competitions. Temple said of this period that “for four or five years, they beat us like a drum,” but Nashvillian Jean Patton became the first of his runners to excel internationally when she won two gold medals (200 meter and 4 x 100 meter relay) at the 1951 Pan American Games held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Temple remained undeterred, and actually used the system of segregation to his advantage. He scouted and recruited at Negro high schools in Tennessee where he worked as a sports referee; attended the high school/junior division meets at Tuskegee and regional/ statewide competitions for female athletes in other neighboring states; and created his own summer training program as a means of identifying and developing those he felt had talent and potential in track and field.

These factors came into play as Temple recruited his first “city girl”, Mae Faggs from Bayside, Queens in New York City to join his team. Faggs was already a veteran of the 1948 London Olympics and the 1952 Games in Helsinki, Finland, where she won a gold medal as part of the U.S. 400 meter relay team, but like Temple had never “been South” before coming to Tennessee in the fall of 1952. She had difficulties adjusting, but Temple greatly respected her experience and confidence bordering on cockiness which inspired the other women, brought national credibility to his program, and inspired the creation of the team nickname “Tigerbelles” by the school’s sports information director/photographer Earl S. Clanton III. Temple later noted that the nickname also reflected his belief that these women should be ladies whose abilities and training translated to academic and social as well as athletic success. In his own inimitable manner of speaking, Temple was quoted as saying “I want foxes, not oxes” (meaning presentable young women athletes who could refute stereotypes and misconceptions regarding female

participation in sports), and was a strict disciplinarian regarding their academic and social activities as well as their athletic training.

Faggs' leadership as well as talent caused Temple to give her the title "Mother of the Tigerbelles", as the team began to enjoy its first great success on the national (and soon the international) level. During this period Temple and Mrs. Temple became parents of children Lloyd Bernard and Edwina while also functioning as surrogate/substitute parents to the Tigerbelles, providing counseling and personal assistance as they navigated through their college years. For many Tigerbelles, the Temples continued in this role long after these young women transitioned into their adult lives and various careers/pursuits beyond track and field.

The Tigerbelles' first outdoor national championship came in 1955, and marked the first ever won by the college in any sport against integrated competition. However, the significance of this achievement was lost on most observers due to the low status of women's track and field (and women athletes in general) in the world of sports, as well as the fact that the team accomplished this by overcoming obstacles of substandard facilities, equipment, and funding at a small segregated school in the "Jim Crow" South. Prior to the Title IX provisions in the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 there were no athletic scholarships for women, so the most Temple could offer the young ladies were "work-aid" grants where they worked part-time in campus buildings, offices, and facilities to cover some of the tuition and other fees along with their regular class schedules, daily practices, and various track meets and competitions.

This began a streak that would remain unbroken until 1969, when they lost by one point; overall the Tigerbelles won 34 national championships (16 indoor, 13 outdoor, and 5 junior) during Temple's tenure as coach. During the 1955 Pan American Games in Mexico City future

Tigerbelle and 1952 Olympic gold medalist Barbara Jones (the youngest in Olympic history at the time) won gold in the 100 meters, with Faggs taking the silver medal. Isabelle Daniels won silver in the 60 meters, and these three combined with non-Tigerbelle Mabel Landry to win gold in the 4 X 100 meter relay race.

In 1956 Temple's coaching and training yielded more amazing dividends, as six of his Tigerbelles qualified for the United States women's track team which competed in the Olympic Games held in Melbourne, Australia. Along with the veteran Faggs, these Olympians included three TSU students from Georgia (Lucinda Williams from Savannah; Margaret Matthews from Griffin; and Isabelle Daniels from Jakin); high school students Willie/Willye White from Money, Mississippi and Wilma Rudolph from Clarksville, Tennessee.

Temple discovered the six-foot tall teenager while refereeing a girls' basketball game at Clarksville's Burt High School. Rudolph had already become an outstanding young athlete after overcoming tremendous adversities in her early life. She was the 20th of 22 children sired by her father Ed Rudolph and the sixth of eight children with her mother, Blanche Rudolph in the rural area of St. Bethlehem outside Clarksville. Wilma also suffered from polio and other diseases as a child, and could not walk without leg braces or other assistance for several years.

Mrs. Rudolph took Wilma by bus for a series of treatments at Hubbard Hospital in Nashville, which was affiliated with Meharry Medical College, an HBCU credited with training more than forty percent of all African American doctors and medical professionals in the era of segregation. The treatments were successful, and Wilma was soon able to not only walk, but run and participate in sports as well as normal activities. If women's basketball beyond high school

had been an option at the time, she may have considered it as her primary sport after leading her team to a state championship.

Temple contacted Wilma's parents and got permission for her to come to Nashville for his summer track program, after explaining that she would be in a structured and supervised environment. Wilma was paired with Tigerbelle Martha Hudson in a women's dormitory, and Hudson helped Wilma adjust to Temple's rigorous training and daily schedules (including his insistence on punctuality at all times, with severe consequences for infractions by any athlete regardless of age).

Wilma's raw talent was refined in this setting, to the point that Temple began placing her on teams and in direct competition with his experienced runners. Mae Faggs in particular took Wilma "under her wings" and was the catalyst for Wilma making her first Olympic team by encouraging her to "stay on my shoulder" during the 220 yard final qualifying race. Wilma did more than that, nearly defeating Faggs and foreshadowing her future potential and greatness.

Temple put Faggs in charge of the six Tigerbelles who traveled to Australia, and four (Faggs, Daniels, Williams, and Rudolph) had the unprecedented achievement of being the first team from the same school to win an Olympic medal for the United States (winning bronze in the 400 meter relay race). The Tigerbelles were responsible for five of the six track medals won by American women in Melbourne, as White won silver in the long jump (the first American woman to ever medal in this event) and went on to become the first American woman to participate in five consecutive Olympiads (1956; 1960; 1964; 1968; and 1972). After experiencing her first airplane flight, international travel to the world stage of the Olympic Games, and winning a bronze medal, Rudolph excitedly (and prophetically) proclaimed herself

as “your future star” in a letter written to Temple before her return from Australia. Faggs retired from competition as the first American woman to compete in three consecutive Olympiads, with gold (1952) and bronze (1956) medals for her efforts in helping Temple establish the Tigerbelles on the international stage.

In 1958 Temple and the Tigerbelles became indirectly involved in the politics of the Cold War when men’s and women’s track competitions between the United States and the Soviet Union were scheduled as part of a European tour. For the first time, the team traveled by chartered bus to Morristown, New Jersey for the track meet that would determine the membership of both U.S. teams. Eight of “Temple’s girls” qualified for the women’s team, but the coach had not been selected; Temple shrewdly informed one of the officials that if he was not named the coach, his eight girls would be returning to Nashville immediately on their bus, and shortly afterwards Temple was named the coach of the 32-member women’s team.

Even though there were only ten women’s events, the Tigerbelles dominated for the U.S., with Barbara Jones winning the 100 meters, Lucinda Williams first in the 200 meters, and the relay team of Jones, Williams, Isabelle Daniels, and Margaret Matthews winning the 4 x 100 meter race. An even bigger surprise was non-Tigerbelle Earlene Brown winning the shot put over the heavily favored Russians (whose team included the current world record holder in the event, and despite speculations regarding their use of performance-enhancing substances).

Another attempt to gain tactical advantage involved questions from the Soviet press about American race relations, with the response from the leaders of the American delegation that “we were all one big, happy family”. Temple could have provided examples that refuted this point of view, given the second class treatment of the American women’s team (and the African

American women athletes in particular), but instead focused on the overall and long-term advantages of competing and winning at the international level.

The 1960 Rome Olympics: The Golden Harvest

Wilma Rudolph was noticeably absent from the Tigerbelles making the European tour, as her high school romance with Robert Eldridge led to pregnancy and the birth of her first child (daughter Yolanda) shortly after graduating from Clarksville's Burt High School. After speaking with Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph, who made arrangements to care for Yolanda, Temple made an exception to his policy regarding female athletes who became pregnant or had children and allowed Wilma to resume her track career as a college freshman and TSU Tigerbelle in the fall of 1958. While missing her daughter, Wilma also adjusted to academic studies (and Temple's insistence on good grades and social conduct) as well as intensive training to regain her stamina and track technique for individual and team events.

Temple's success on the regional, national, and now international level could not be discounted as the United States prepared for the Rome Olympic games. Wilma was already being projected as a possible gold medalist, as she not only returned to championship form but set a new world record of 22.9 seconds in the 200 meters during a track meet in Seattle, Washington. During the women's Olympic team trials in Abilene, Texas Wilma qualified first in the 100 and 200 meters, while six other Tigerbelles joined her in making the team (sprinters Barbara Jones, Lucinda Williams, and Martha Hudson; Shirley Crowder and Jo Ann Terry, who finished 1-2 in the 80 meter hurdles; and Anna Lois Smith, who qualified by finishing third in the broad/long jump competition won by former Tigerbelle Willye White.

The Tigerbelles were also inspired by their classmate Ralph Boston, who broke Jesse Owens' 1935 world record in the long jump just weeks earlier during the men's Olympic Trials in Palo Alto, California. After sending six to Melbourne in 1956, Temple now had seven Tigerbelles going to Rome; with Boston, Tennessee State now had an unprecedented eight athletes representing the United States in a single Olympiad.

With their excellence in the arena and platform of athletics, Temple and the TSU Olympians made valuable contributions to the civil rights movement, even as other students and activists from Tennessee State, Fisk, Meharry, American Baptist College, and other campus communities in Nashville and other Southern cities expanded the sit-in movement launched by four North Carolina A&T students in Greensboro, NC on February 1, 1960.

When Temple was named the head coach for the United States women's track team by the U.S. Olympic Committee (which obviously involved coaching the ten white females as well as his Tigerbelles and eight other black women) it could have created a controversy in the racial climate of 1960, but went largely unnoticed by the press and general public. The lower status of women's sports was probably the reason, and Temple did not do anything to attract undue attention to himself in this role.

This was not the case with a brash young boxer Temple met shortly after arriving in Rome with the full U.S. team and officials. His name was Cassius Clay from Louisville, KY, and he told Temple that he would eventually be the next heavyweight champion of the world. Clay went on to win Olympic gold as a light heavyweight, but he was not the "biggest star of the show", as Rome (and for a time, the world) remained captivated by Wilma Rudolph.

Temple was optimistic that Rudolph and the team would do well, but no one could have predicted that she would become a worldwide sensation after becoming the first American woman to win three gold medals in a single Olympiad and that three other Tigerbelles (Jones, Williams, and Hudson) would also win gold with Wilma as anchor of the U.S. 4 x 100 meter relay team. Wilma's time of 11.0 seconds in the 100 meters was disallowed as a new world record, but allowed to stand as a new Olympic record, and with Boston's gold and new Olympic record in the men's long jump (also previously held by Jesse Owens) Tennessee State collectively won seven gold medals in Rome, an achievement by a single institution in one sport that may never be equaled.

After Rome, Wilma's new status as "the world's fastest woman" and international celebrity opened doors that had previously been inconceivable for a young black woman, as she met numerous dignitaries including royalty and heads of state after the Olympics and won the 1961 Sullivan Award as the outstanding amateur athlete (male or female) in America. Ironically, because of the rules regarding her "amateur" status Rudolph was not allowed to profit financially from her achievements. This prompted Temple to say that "fame don't pay no bills", and to urge Rudolph and the other TSU Olympians to complete their college degrees and increase their options after their athletic careers ended.

The awards and accolades continued, including an invitation to meet newly-elected President John F. Kennedy in 1961. Temple often shared the story of being in Washington with Wilma and her mother for an event sponsored by the local TSU alumni chapter, when a call came from the White House indicating that President Kennedy wanted to meet Rudolph (who at the time was just as, if not more famous than the president). Temple would eventually meet four

more U.S. presidents over the course of his life, including first African American President Barack Obama during his January 2014 visit to Nashville.

Temple's "Gold Dust Twins" and a Distance Runner: Tyus, McGuire, and Manning

After the "mountain top" experience of the Rome Olympics, most observers (Temple included) thought that these achievements could never be matched, especially after Rudolph decided to "retire on top" rather than attempt to meet the unreal expectations that would come if she continued running up to the next Olympics, set for Tokyo, Japan in 1964. However, Temple's coaching skills and training programs continued to develop outstanding runners despite facilities and resources that remained inadequate (and great personal disappointments such as not receiving even a small raise in salary from the university). It seemed that he was literally "a prophet without honor" in his hometown, but Temple's national and international reputation was so firmly established that he was again selected as U.S. women's track coach for the Tokyo Games.

Edith McGuire and Wyomia Tyus, both from Georgia, became the next great Tigerbelle Olympians after their performances in Tokyo. McGuire was under great pressure to succeed as Rudolph did, while the younger Tyus was relaxed and excited to qualify for the U.S. team; in the 100 meter finals Tyus edged out McGuire to set a new Olympic record and win the race. This made them the first athletes from the same school (as well as country) to finish 1-2 (gold and silver) in the same Olympic event. McGuire redeemed herself by winning gold in the 200 meters (an event where she set/held the world record and a new Olympic record), and joined Tyus on the U.S. 4 x 100 meter relay team which won silver. With Ralph Boston also winning silver in the long jump, three TSU athletes brought home five medals to add to the amazing legacy of the

1960 Olympians. Jo Ann Terry (hurdler/long jumper) and Vivian Brown also made the U.S. team but did not medal in Tokyo, the same as three other Tigerbelles who represented native countries of Panama (Lorraine Dunn and Marcella Daniels) and Jamaica (Una Morris). Daniels later exemplified being one of Temple's "foxes" when she was elected to reign as Miss Tennessee State University for the 1966-67 school year.

By the time of the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, America had experienced major social upheavals as the civil rights movement gave way to "Black Power"; widespread unrest and protests began over U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War; nationwide rioting took place after the assassination of Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968; followed by additional distress after the assassination of senator and presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy on June 5 (which revived memories of President Kennedy's November 22, 1963 assassination).

Against this backdrop, there were serious discussions of an Olympic boycott by black athletes as a political statement/response, and some notable talents such as basketball star Lew Alcindor/Kareem Abdul-Jabbar opted out of representing the U.S. Others felt their participation and/or victories would provide an international platform/audience to draw attention to social issues and problems, despite warnings from U.S. officials of harsh consequences.

Temple was not coaching the U.S. women's team for a third consecutive Olympics, but between 1964 and 1968 Wyomia Tyus had maintained her training regimen with him, set and broke her own world records, and qualified for her second U.S. team. In Mexico City Tyus became the first athlete (male or female) to win the gold medal in the 100 meters in two consecutive Olympics, while another Tigerbelle, Madeline Manning, became the first American woman to win gold in the 800 meters (at that time the longest race women could run in Olympic

competition). Three other Tigerbelles (Estelle Baskerville, Eleanor Montgomery, and Martha Watson) competed but did not medal in jumping events, as was the case with returning sprinters Daniels (Panama), Morris (Jamaica), and future Tigerbelle, hurdler Mamie Rallins.

The amazing achievements of Tyus and Manning in 1968 were overshadowed by the silent “Black Power” gloved salute during the U.S. national anthem by 200 meter gold medalist Tommie Smith and bronze medalist John Carlos (which became a controversial and signal moment as well as an iconic image in Olympic history), along with the spectacular long jump by Bob Beamon which broke the world and Olympic record by nearly two feet. TSU’s Ralph Boston was documented as exhibiting the ultimate in sportsmanship, by advising his teammate/competitor Beamon ways to avoid fouling on takeoff, which would have disqualified the jump. Boston had already accomplished the amazing feat of competing in his third consecutive Olympiad, and completed a personal “tri-fecta” by finishing after Beamon and Klaus Beer of East Germany to win the bronze medal in the long jump.

Tyus added another gold medal to her collection as part of the U.S. 4 x 100 relay, making her the TSU Tigerbelle/Olympian with the most medals over an entire career (four; three gold, one silver), the same number as the school’s 1968 medal totals for the U.S. The track and field dominance of the Tigerbelles and TSU in the 1960s is more amazing when considering that even to the present, there are *nations* that have never won an Olympic medal or gold medal in any sport.

Temple’s Tigerbelles and Olympians: 1970s to the 1990s

The successes of the civil rights movement in opening American society to African Americans ironically created new challenges for black communities and institutions as persons

took advantage of opportunities in mainstream America. Historically black colleges and universities were (and continue to be) directly impacted by competition for academically and/or athletically talented black students, and Temple faced this reality with his program after the glory years of the 1960s.

Even with Title IX legislation which enabled greater funding for women's sports including athletic scholarships, Temple had to leverage his own "track record" of success and international reputation against the greater financial resources and facilities of large historically/predominately white universities (and other HBCUs in some cases) to attract the next generation of Tigerbelles. Interestingly, these realities also ensured that no other single institution would be able to duplicate or surpass the dominance of Temple's program in the previous decade.

Temple by necessity took the approach of being highly selective in his recruiting, knowing that even with some funds for athletic scholarships he had to invest in young women who would buy in to his program and criteria of being "young ladies and students first, track athletes second", such as sprinter Iris Davis, sprinter/long jumper Martha Watson, and high jumper Eleanor Montgomery. These women set American records, won gold in the Pan American Games, and joined Tyus and Manning as winners of the Saettel Award (established in 1965) as outstanding female track athlete in different years. Temple out-recruited a number of major universities to "land" long jumper Kathy McMillan, who competed for the U.S. in the 1972 Munich Games and won the silver medal in her specialty during the Montreal Olympics in 1976, while Una Morris (Jamaica) made her third and final Olympics in 1972. Watson nearly matched Willye White by making her fourth Olympic team, but did not medal in Montreal.

During this period Temple also coached Yolanda Eldridge (Wilma's daughter), whose athletic potential was hampered by unfair and unrealistic comparisons to her mother, as well as Brenda Morehead and Chandra Cheeseborough, who joined McMillan on the 1976 U.S. team and sparked comparisons to Tyus and McGuire after they finished 1-2 in the 100 meters during the Olympic Trials, with Morehead also winning the 200 meter race. Unfortunately, neither Morehead or Cheeseborough medaled in Montreal, but set their sights on the 1980 Games scheduled for Moscow, Russia. This was also the case with Tigerbelles Debbie Jones (Bermuda; 100 and 200 meters) and Helen Blake (Jamaica; 400 meter and 4 x 400 relay).

In 1977 the Rudolph/Temple story "went Hollywood" with the made-for-television movie, "Wilma", directed and produced by noted sports/Olympic filmmaker Bud Greenspan and filmed in part around Nashville and on the TSU campus. While actress Shirley Jo Finney played Wilma and actor Jason Bernard portrayed Temple, the supporting cast included a number of distinguished talents including Cicely Tyson and Joe Seneca as Wilma's parents; Denzel Washington (in his screen debut) as Robert Eldridge; and his future wife Pauletta Pearson as Mae Faggs.

Temple's achievements also received tangible and long-overdue support as community efforts led to state and corporate funding to build the Edward S. Temple Track on the TSU campus. It was completed in 1978, with national, state, and local dignitaries joining the Temple family to dedicate the state-of-the-art facility as well as scores of Tigerbelles (including Rudolph and other "golden/Olympic ladies") who returned to campus for the occasion.

Temple proved that he was still a great coach, and was selected as an assistant coach for the 1980 Games. Morehead and Cheeseborough were in their prime years as sprinters and

avored to do well (if not win gold); but the Russian invasion of Afghanistan led to President Jimmy Carter's declaration that the U.S. would boycott participation in the Moscow Games. While being an Olympic coach for the third time was a great honor, it had to be another great disappointment that Temple did not get to actually coach in Moscow and possibly help two more of his Tigerbelles gain Olympic glory for the U.S.; Jones and Blake (whose countries of Bermuda and Jamaica did participate in 1980), returned but were unsuccessful in their events. However, a positive development during the same year was the publication of Temple's autobiography, *Only the Pure in Heart Survive: Glimpses Into the Life of a World-Famous Track Coach*, with writer B'Lou Carter and foreward by Wilma Rudolph.

Four years later at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, Cheeseborough made the most of her opportunities after making the U.S. team for the third time. She became the first woman to win gold medals in both sprint relay races (the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 meters) and won silver in the individual 400 meter race, gained the distinction of being Temple's last Olympic gold medalist, and eventually continued his legacy by succeeding him as track coach at TSU. The same year Temple ended his tenure on the U.S. Olympic Committee, where he had served since 1960.

Overall, Temple produced 40 Olympians who won a grand total of 23 medals (13 gold, 6 silver, and 4 bronze); 35 represented the U.S. while five competed for native countries including Panama, Jamaica, Bremuda, and Trinidad. Yet, Temple stated on many occasions and in numerous interviews that he was more proud of the fact that all of his Olympians (and hundreds of other Tigerbelles over his 44 years as coach) completed one or more academic degrees and went on to productive lives in various fields of endeavor. Edith McGuire (Duvall) in particular became wealthy as a co-owner of several McDonald's restaurant franchises and donated over \$1 million to her alma mater in appreciation for Temple's impact on her life.

Temple's Golden/Retirement and Final Years

Ed Temple Boulevard in Nashville was dedicated in 1989, while the Ed Temple Indoor Track Classic and Ed Temple Seminars on Society and Sport became annual campus events with keynote speakers including many of his Tigerbelles, other former Olympians, and scholars in sports history and sociology. The awards and accolades for Temple continued up to and well after his 1994 retirement from coaching and teaching sociology at TSU, where he held the academic rank of associate professor. That year was bittersweet in that Rudolph succumbed to brain cancer months after coordinating his retirement celebration with the Temple family and scores of Tigerbelles and other well-wishers. Temple spoke at the first of her two memorial services (in Nashville and Clarksville), which were attended by numerous dignitaries, Olympians, and celebrities including Muhammad Ali, Florence "Flo-Jo" Griffith-Joyner, and Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

After passing the reins of the track program to Cheeseborough, Temple maintained an active life in retirement with regular exercise at Nashville's downtown YMCA; service at his church as a trustee/board member and steward with longtime friend and TSU administrator Homer Wheaton; work as a board member of the Nashville Sports Council which represented the city's involvements with professional organizations such as the Tennessee Titans (NFL), Nashville Predators (NHL), Nashville Sounds (minor league baseball) and their facilities/venues; and the Ed Temple Foundation established in 2009 to support the New Hope Academy of Franklin, Tennessee, where he enjoyed spending time with the children who had researched him and knew of his accomplishments, but also embraced him as a "wise elder"/grandfather figure and honored him every year on his birthday.

Temple suffered another great loss with the passing of his beloved wife “C.B.” in 2008, and outlived some of his other Tigerbelle Olympians including Faggs (who died in 2000), high/long jumper Eleanor Montgomery (2013) and hurdler Mamie Rallins (who died tragically in a May 2016 automobile accident just four months before Temple). Tennessee State University dedicated the TSU Olympic Plaza in 2005, and awarded Temple an honorary doctorate in 2009.

Temple was inducted into eleven different sports halls of fame, including those of his native state of Pennsylvania and Tennessee; Black Athletes Hall of Fame; National Track and Field Hall of Fame; United States Track Coaches Hall of Fame, and others, but he was most proud of his presentation for induction (by Tyus) into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame as its first (and to date, only) African American coach and track and field coach in July 2012. He also continued to receive numerous other awards and recognitions from church, civic, community, and sports organizations from the local to the international level, while other awards were created in his name/honor by USA Track and Field and the NCAA Track and Field Coaches Association.

Temple frequently visited and maintained an office in the TSU Library, where he donated papers and much of his personal memorabilia. With assistance from friend, fellow church member, and Special Collections Librarian Sharon Hull Smith, he also coordinated requests for interviews with journalists, media, scholars, researchers and authors (especially during Olympic years; his last media interview was on the occasion of Ali’s death in June 2016). In 2015 sports curator Dr. Damion Thomas from the National Museum of African American History and Culture met with Temple and his daughter Dr. Edwina Temple during visits to Nashville and TSU regarding artifacts and memorabilia for the sports section of the museum (whose grand opening in Washington was the same day as Temple’s memorial service in Nashville).

Thomas was also present during one of Temple's last major public appearances, the unveiling and dedication of a nine-foot bronze statue of Temple by noted sports sculptor Brian Hanlon on August 28, 2015 at First Tennessee Park in Nashville. Many of his "Golden Girls" also returned for the occasion, along with other dignitaries including Tennessee Congressman Jim Cooper, State Senator Thelma Harper, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, TSU President Dr. Glenda Glover, and the sculptor, plus numerous other well-wishers from the University, his church, fraternity, Nashville community, and out-of-town guests, with celebratory music by the University's famed "Aristocrat of Bands".

On that day, Temple remarked that he did not believe he would live to see himself honored in such a way and "was glad to be on this side of the ground". Upon hearing the cost to commission and complete the statue with public/private contributions and fund-raising (\$80,000), he also joked privately that "for that much money, I would come down here and stand on the pedestal myself." Temple's passing on September 22 received national and international news/media coverage, and his memorial services attracted scores of TSU Tigerbellies and Olympians from various generations to bid farewell to their coach, along with Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, current Nashville Mayor Megan Barry, representatives from the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Track and Field Association, and other dignitaries.

Throughout his amazing life Ed Temple retained humility, thankfulness, integrity, and a sense of humor which did not change despite numerous obstacles and sacrifices. His dedication, discipline, and determination led to hard-won achievements which took him around the world and allowed him to influence and interact with people from nearly every racial/ethnic group, level of society, and walk of life during his nearly ninety-year "run" on planet Earth.

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