



TOPSHOTS

(From L) Trinidad and Tobago's Richard Thompson, US Tyson Gay, Jamaica's Usain Bolt, Antigua and Barbuda's Daniel Bailey, Trinidad and Tobago's Marc Burns and Great Britain's Dwain Chambers compete in the men's 100m final race of the 2009 IAAF Athletics World Championships ahead of US Tyson Gay and Jamaica's Asafa Powell on August 16, 2009 in Berlin. Jamaican Usain Bolt set a new world record of 9.58 seconds in winning the final of the men's 100m at the World Athletics Championships. His time bettered his own world record of 9.69sec set in the Beijing Olympics final. AFP

Usain Bolt was born on 21 August 1986 in Sherwood Content, a small town in Trelawny, Jamaica, and grew up with his parents, Jennifer and Wellesley Bolt, his brother Sadeeki, and his sister Sherine. His parents ran the local grocery store in the rural area, and Bolt spent his time playing cricket and football in the street with his brother, later saying, "When I was young, I didn't really think about anything other than sports". Upon his entry to William Knibb Memorial High School, Bolt continued to focus on other sports, but his cricket coach noticed Bolt's speed on the pitch and urged him to try track and field events. Pablo McNeil, a former 100 metres Olympic athlete, and Dwayne Barrett coached Bolt, encouraging him to focus his energy on improving his athletic abilities. The school had a history of athletic success with past students, including sprinter Michael Green. Bolt won his first annual high school championships medal in 2001, taking the silver medal in the 200 metres with a time of 22.04 seconds. McNeil soon became his primary coach, and the two enjoyed a positive partnership, although McNeil was occasionally frustrated by Bolt's lack of dedication to his training and his predisposition to practical jokes. Bolt expresses a love for dancing and his character is frequently described as laid-back and relaxed. He is currently dating Mizcann Evans; the pair first became friends at a track meet aged 13, and became a couple in 2004. Bolt's Jamaican track

and field idols include Herb McKenley and, former Jamaican 200 m record holder, Don Quarrie. Michael Johnson, the former 200 m world and Olympic record holder, is also held in high esteem by Bolt. The first sport to interest him was cricket and he said if he was not a sprinter he would be a fast bowler instead. As a child he was a supporter of Pakistan and admired the bowling of Waqar Younis. He is also a fan of Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar, West Indian opener Chris Gayle and Australian opener Matthew Hayden. Bolt's road to success began when his country hosted the 2002 IAAF World Junior Championships. Rarely had a junior track and field competition produced the incredible scenes witnessed on July 19, when the tall 15-year-old won the 200m final in 20.65 seconds before a sellout crowd of 35,000 in Jamaica's National Stadium in Kingston. At 15 years and 332 days, Bolt became the youngest ever male World Junior champion. Bolt holds the world age group records for 15- and 16-year-olds, and the World Youth and World Junior records.

'Coining' a Champion

Triple Olympic gold medalist, Usain Bolt, has been immortalised with his own gold souvenir coin. Bolt now joins reggae icon Bob Marley and Queen Elizabeth II as the only individuals to have their own coins, according to Bank of Jamaica's website coin listing. Bolt's gold coin is priced at US\$ 650 (J\$ 57,850) and was announced by the BOJ on June 28. Bolt's coin usurped Marley's gold coin priced at US\$ 400 for the slot as the highest-priced coin with the image of an individual. The BOJ issued the Bolt coin in gold and a cheaper bi-metallic coin priced at US\$ 100. Last month the BOJ also issued a 2008 Beijing Olympic Games Gold Medal Winners coin priced at US\$ 1,000, but the coin shares the images of seven athletes listed as Nesta Carter, Michael Frater, Usain Bolt, Asafa Powell, Melaine Walker, Veronica Campbell-Brown and Shelly-Ann Fraser. Bolt is amongst the most popular athletes in the world and following his world record wins in the 100-metre, 200-metre and 4x100-metre relay at the Olympics in Beijing, China in 2008 he was more searched for on the Internet than comic book star, Superman.

Jamaica Observer

Jamaica jaguar

USAIN BOLT

Usain Bolt is celebrating his 23rd birthday, today

Bolt shatters 100m world record

Despite reacting to the starter's gun second last, Usain Bolt chopped 0.11 seconds off his previous world record of 9.69, on his way to becoming the first Jamaican man to win the World Championship 100 metres title. That's the time scientists predicted Bolt could have run in last summer's Olympic final, had he not slowed and celebrated during the last 15 metres. "No (I wasn't trying to prove them right). For me it was all about just winning and I went out there and executed well and I got the right time, so I'm happy with myself," said Bolt, who became only the second Caribbean man to win the Blue Riband event after Kim Collins of St Kitts & Nevis. Collins was also coached by Glen Mills. Americans won the gold eight out of the other nine times in these games, while Jamaican-born Linford Christie, who competed for Britain, won the other gold. Bolt conceded that he did not run flat-out. "I would definitely say I gave it most of what I had because Tyson Gay was right there, so I had to push, I'm not in the best of shape, but I'm in great shape," the 22-year-old added. American Tyson Gay finished second in 9.71secs - the second fastest time of all time - while Jamaica's Asafa Powell, who needed treatment on his left groin after hurting it two hours earlier in the semi-final, collected the bronze with a season best 9.84secs. The third Jamaican 100-metre competitor - Michael Frater, the 2005 world silver medalist - had

placed fifth in his semi-final and "failed to make it into the final. Gay was full of praise for Bolt and his ground-breaking performance. "I've been telling you someone could run 9.5. I'm happy he did it. It shows humans can take it to another level," said Gay, who had won the event in 2007. "Unfortunately I wasn't the one to do it, but I still have confidence to do it one day." Powell, who retained his bronze from Osaka 2007, was elated with his performance following an injury-hit season. "I feel like I'm the winner because I suffered a lot throughout the season, and 9.84 here tonight in a 9.58 race makes me very happy," Powell said, noting that he was surprised Bolt took the record so far. "It was shocking! I didn't expect that (time). I expected 9.6, but 9.58 is different," Powell added, joking that he doesn't know if Bolt is human anymore. "Well, I'm not sure if he's human; maybe he's from space," said Powell. "But it shows that it is possible, and a lot more guys are going to work hard to run 9.5 because Bolt has taken the sport to another level." The only Jamaicans to have secured medals in the 100m at the biennial event which started in 1983 were Raymond Stewart with silver in 1993, Frater with silver in 2005 and Powell with bronze in 2007. Meanwhile, when asked if he would attempt to break his 200m world record of 9.30secs, also established in Beijing last year, Bolt replied: "Definitely, you can always expect great things from me because I always go out there and do my best all the time, so you can definitely expect great things in the 200m."

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HONOUR	Rank	Performance	Place	Date
100 METRES				
12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics	1	9.58	Berlin	16/08/2009
The XXX Olympic Games	1	9.69	Beijing	16/08/2008
200 METRES				
The XXX Olympic Games	1	19.30	Beijing	20/08/2008
11th IAAF World Championships in Athletics	2	19.91	Osaka	30/08/2007
10th IAAF World Cup	2	19.96	Athina	17/09/2006
4th IAAF World Athletics Final	3	20.10	Stuttgart	10/09/2006
10th IAAF World Championships in Athletics	8	26.27	Helsinki	11/08/2005
28th Olympic Games	5	21.05	Athina	24/08/2004
3rd IAAF World Youth Championships	1	20.40	Sherbrooke	13/07/2003
IAAF/Coca Cola World Junior Championships	1	20.61	Kingston, JAM	19/07/2002
2nd IAAF/West World Youth Championships	5	21.73	Delnecan	14/07/2001
400 METRES				
3rd IAAF World Youth Championships	2	48.36	Sherbrooke	10/07/2003

Shelly-Ann emulates Bolt to add world crown to Olympic gold



Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser won the women's 100 metres title here at the world championships on Monday in the joint third fastest time ever of 10.73 seconds. The 22-year-old Olympic champion - who thus emulates compatriot Usain Bolt after he added the men's world title to his Olympic gold - beat home teammate Kerron Stewart (10.75sec) while American champion Carmelita Jeter took bronze in a time of 10.90sec. Fraser Joins Frenchwoman Christine Arron as the third fastest of all time behind the now disgraced Marion Jones, who set 10.70sec at the 1999 world championships in

Seville, and the now deceased world record-holder Florence Griffith-Joyner, who set 10.49 in 1988 in Indianapolis. Fraser's feat comes less than a week after she lost her place in the team winners, along with men's world bronze medalist Asafa Powell, they were ejected for not training at the official team training camp only to be reinstated later the same day. Fraser said that she had not lost her focus despite the falling out with the team chiefs prior to the championships. "I was not disturbed because of the problems before the world championships," she said. "As regards the race I left all the world behind me down there on the track." Fraser made no mistake given a second chance and she was much faster out of the blocks than Stewart, and the rest of the field. The 25-year-old Stewart ran a personal best but had to settle for another silver, having finished joint second alongside Simpson in Beijing last year in a Jamaican clean sweep. AFP



Jamaican Usain Bolt set a new world record of 9.58 seconds in winning the final of the men's 100m at the World Athletics Championships in Berlin. AFP