



# Famous Olympic Athletes

## Jim Thorpe

Jim Thorpe was born in 1888 in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. He was part Native American and attended many Native American schools. While at one school in Pennsylvania, he began participating in sports, including



*Jim Thorpe throwing the discus in the 1912 Olympics*

track and field, football, baseball and lacrosse. He was talented in all the sports, but he received early attention for football, where he played numerous positions. He was named an All American player in 1911 and 1912.

In the 1912 Olympics, Jim won two gold medals: one for the pentathlon and one for the decathlon. The pentathlon is five track and field events, and the decathlon is ten events. Of the 15 events Jim competed in, he won eight. His points for the decathlon set an Olympic record.

After the Olympics, Jim played professional baseball, football and basketball. He was named one of the top athletes of the century by the Associated Press. He was placed in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1963.

### Olympic Achievements

**Country:** United States

**Sport:** Track and field

**Year:** 1912 Olympics  
Stockholm, Sweden

**Total of 2 gold medals:**

Pentathlon

Decathlon

### Secret Code Word

Use the secret code to find a word about Jim Thorpe. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

<b>M</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>S</b>
13	5	4	1	12	19

#### Secret code

1 = A	7 = G	13 = M	19 = S	25 = Y
2 = B	8 = H	14 = N	20 = T	26 = Z
3 = C	9 = I	15 = O	21 = U	
4 = D	10 = J	16 = P	22 = V	
5 = E	11 = K	17 = Q	23 = W	
6 = F	12 = L	18 = R	24 = X	

### Q&A

How many events are in the decathlon?

**Ten**

Where was Jim born?

**Indian Territory or Oklahoma**

How many gold medals did Jim win?

**Two**

What professional sports did Jim play after the Olympics?

**Football, baseball and basketball**