



Famous Olympic Athletes

Mary Lou Retton

Olympic Achievements

Country: United States

Sport: Gymnastics

Year: 1984 Summer Olympics,
Los Angeles

Total of five medals:

Gold medal

All-Around

Silver medals

Vault

Team

Bronze Medals

Uneven Bars

Floor Exercise

Mary Lou Retton was born in 1968 in West Virginia. She began gymnastics in her hometown and later moved to Houston, Texas for training.

She competed in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles while she was in her sophomore year of high school. Mary Lou won one individual silver medal and two bronze medals. She also won a silver medal as a member of the U.S. team. Mary Lou won the gold medal for the All-Around competition, where athletes compete in six different areas. She earned a perfect score of 10 in two areas: the vault and the floor exercise.

Mary Lou was named "Sportswoman of the Year" by *Sports Illustrated* and was featured on a box of Wheaties cereal. She was placed in the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 1997.



Mary Lou Retton wearing her Olympic medals.

Secret Code Word

Use the secret code to find a word about Mary Lou Retton. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

P	E	R	F	E	C	T
16	5	18	6	5	3	20

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

Where was Mary Lou born?

West Virginia

How many Olympic medals did Mary Lou win?

Five

What did *Sports Illustrated* name Mary Lou?

Sportswoman of the Year

In what areas did Mary Lou win a perfect 10?

Vault and floor exercise