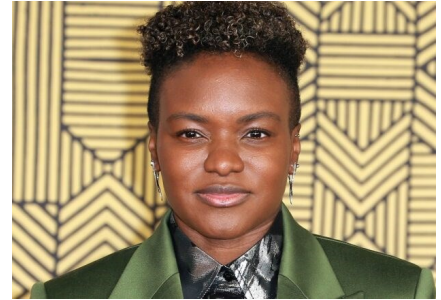


Sporting Heroes

Nicola Adams

“Believe in yourself, and you’ll be unstoppable.”



Nicola Adams, born on 26 October 1982 in Leeds, England, found her calling in boxing when she was just 12 years old. Drawn to the sport’s unique blend of discipline and energy, she began her journey at the Burmantofts Amateur Boxing Club.

A Career Glittered with Awards

Olympic Triumphs:

- 2012 London Olympics: Nicola made history by becoming the first woman ever to win an Olympic gold medal in boxing.
- 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics: She retained her title, securing another gold and ensuring her place as one of the sport’s greats.

World Championships:

- While Nicola never secured gold in the World Championships, she did collect a silver medal in 2012 and bronze medals in both 2008 and 2010, showcasing her consistency at the highest level.

European Championships:

- Adams clinched gold medals in 2011 and 2015, asserting her dominance over her European rivals.

European Games:

- In 2015, she added yet another gold medal to her tally at the inaugural European Games.

Commonwealth Games:

- 2014 was a special year for Nicola as she became the first female boxer to win a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow.

Honours and Other Recognitions:

- MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire): In recognition of her services to boxing and her historic Olympic win, Adams was awarded an MBE in 2013.
- OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire): Further cementing her status as a British sporting icon, Nicola was honored with an OBE in 2016.

Sporting Heroes

Clive Sullivan

“Clive Sullivan- Rugby’s First Black Captain



A Great Britain and Wales international winger, he played with both Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers in his career, and also played for Oldham, and Doncaster. He was the first black captain of the Great Britain Lions and for any national British sporting side.

Clive A. Sullivan MBE (born 9 April 1943 in Cardiff, died 8 October 1985 in Hull) was a Welsh rugby union and professional Rugby League World Cup winning footballer of the 1960s, 70s and 80s. A Great Britain and Wales international winger, he played with both Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers in his career, and also played for Oldham, and Doncaster. He was the first black captain of the Great Britain Lions and for any national British sporting side.

Whilst growing up in the Splott district of Cardiff as a young teenager, he required operations on his knees, feet and shoulders. Due to the extent of these operations, a rugby career seemed unlikely. Sullivan never gave up, however, and he overcame his early childhood trauma by being granted a trial by Bradford Northern Rugby League Club at the age of just 17. Bradford however, passed on the young winger.

Sullivan represented Great Britain 17 times and appeared at three World Cups, 1968 and 1972 with Great Britain and in 1975 for Wales

Sporting Heroes

Esther Vergeer



Upon her retirement from sports in 2013 Esther Vergeer was said to be **THE most dominant player in professional sports**. Esther was a wheelchair tennis player who also happened to be a wheelchair basketball player at the beginning of her career. She has some amazing records in her name which would be very tough, if not impossible, for other athletes to break. Over her entire sporting career, she **won 695 singles matches and lost only 25**. Moreover, she won 441 double matches and lost only 35. For almost 10 years straight she was undefeated. Esther Vergeer's body might be disabled due to ***Vascular Myelopathy*** since her childhood but her spirit remained untouched by the disability.

Sporting Heroes

Tanni Grey-Thompson



Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson is **one of the greatest Paralympian's to have represented Great Britain**. Winning her first Paralympic medal in Seoul in 1988, Tanni has gone on to tally 11 gold, 4 silver and a bronze medal across five different games as well as **breaking 30 track world records**. She has begun to fulfil an impressive vocation as a motivational speaker, regularly speaking about peak performance, motivation and achievement. Tanni began using a wheelchair when she was just seven years of age, unfortunately suffering from the condition spina bifida.

Tanni worked to overcome the adversity that life had dealt her, never letting her disability stop her from achieving greatness. She found her love for wheelchair racing when she was only a teenager, found through experimenting with a number of different sports. She began properly competing in wheelchair racing when she was only 13 years old, before joining the British squad when she was just 17 years old. Most recently Tanni has been awarded an esteemed accolade in reward for her achievements as an athlete. At the 2019 BBC Sports Personality Awards Tanni was victorious, claiming the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Sporting Heroes

Rebecca Adlington



The Mansfield-born swimmer, who trained at the county's Nova Centurion Swimming Club, shot to fame aged just 19 when she won gold in both the 400m and 800m freestyle at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In the process, she beat the 19-year-old world record in the 800m final with a time of 8:14:10. Her success won royal recognition with an OBE the following year and she went on to claim two bronze medals in the same events at London 2012. She retired from competitive swimming in 2013.

Sporting Heroes

Jermaine Jenas



Jermaine Jenas has become a familiar face on the BBC's Match Of The Day. The Nottingham Forest youth product and former England international, who earned 21 international caps, retired from the game at 32 in January after failing to overcome a knee injury sustained in April 2014. Now he sits alongside Thierry Henry, Rio Ferdinand and Gary Lineker on the Match Of The Day panel, the show's youngest-ever pundit. Born in Nottingham, he began his career at Forest and signed for Newcastle United in 2002 for £5 million. He was the FA's Young Player of the Year in 2003, and later moved on to Tottenham Hotspur and Queens Park Rangers.

