

Wilma rudolphs an olympic medalist

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**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

European Sportswriters' Sportsman of the Year *

Christopher Columbus Award for Most Outstanding International Sports Personality 1960*

The Penn Relays 1961 *

New York Athletic Club Track Meet *

The Millrose Games *

Black Sports Hall of Fame 1980

U. S. Olympic Hall of Fame 1983

Vitalis Cup for Sports Excellence 1983

Women's Sports Foundation Award 1984

* means the first women to win that award" (<http://www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/rudo-wil.htm>).

The struggles Wilma had to overcome began when she was four, and diagnosed with polio. The doctors told her mom there was no hope of Wilma ever being able to walk, but she helped Wilma fight through the disease. She massaged Wilma's legs every day and also taught her brothers and sisters how to do it. Her mother Blanche, "drove her 90 miles roundtrip to a Nashville hospital for therapy" (<http://espn.com/sportscentury/features/00016444.html>).

By the age of 8, Wilma was able to walk with the help of a brace. Eventually, she was able to walk and even play basketball without the help of any additional support. She was so good, she was encouraged to start the track, and in her senior year of high school, she qualified for the Olympic Games, where she won a bronze medal. (<http://gardenofpraise.com/ibdwilma.htm>). She also thought that she had a greater calling, and after winning all those gold medals, she retired at the age of 22 and became of an inspirational <https://assignbuster.com/wilma-rudolphs-an-olympic-medalist/>

track coach. She also formed the Wilma Rudolph Foundation to help children learn about " discipline and hard work."(<http://gardenofpraise.com/ibdwilma.htm>).

Wilma died in 1994. She has been hospitalized many times after her diagnosis of brain cancer. Always a fighter, Wilma kept fighting the disease and eventually died in her house in Nashville, Tennessee. Leroy Walker, president of the U. S. Olympic Committee, said, " All of us recognize that this is obviously a tremendous loss. Wilma was still very much involved with a number of Olympic programs. It's a tragic loss. She was struck with an illness that, unfortunately, we can't do very much about."(<http://www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/rudo-wil.htm>).

Always an inspiration, the story of her struggle, and ultimate triumph over the hardships of her life should speak to us all, and offer us all hope that no matter how hard things become, we can always triumph over them with perseverance, hard work, and discipline.