

Clues for Wilma Rudolph

1. She was born in 1940 weighing just over 4 pounds and was not expected to live.
2. She was a sickly child and just before her fifth birthday contracted scarlet fever and polio which left many children permanently crippled
3. Polio left her with a twisted left leg, but she navigated the house by hopping on her right leg, to church and to the outhouse.
4. Her mother kept her busy cooking, cleaning, and sewing and twice a week took her on a bus fifty miles away to a hospital that would treat black patients
5. Her 19 siblings helped with her rehabilitation by massaging her weakened leg twice a day and constantly encouraged her to try and walk.
6. She was not allowed to go to school until second grade and only then if she wore a heavy leg brace.
7. Finally, her determination, therapy and strong family support paid off and she walked unassisted in church on her 12th birthday.
8. In high school she excelled in basketball and led her team to the state championship game where the coach of Tennessee State University offered her a track scholarship.
9. At age sixteen she won a bronze medal at the 1956 Olympics in the 400-meter relay in Melbourne Australia.
10. In 1960, she won three gold medals in the 100, 200, and the 400-meter relay and became known as the fastest sprinter in the world.