

THE 100 GREATEST!



80 Jackie Robinson
Difficult as it is to believe now, baseball was a whites-only sport as late as 1945. Robinson broke that barrier. Established at the Brooklyn Dodgers, he faced harassment from the crowd and players, but proved he was no token: his hitting and base-running made him a hero, helped the Dodgers win a World Series and thrust open the door for black athletes.



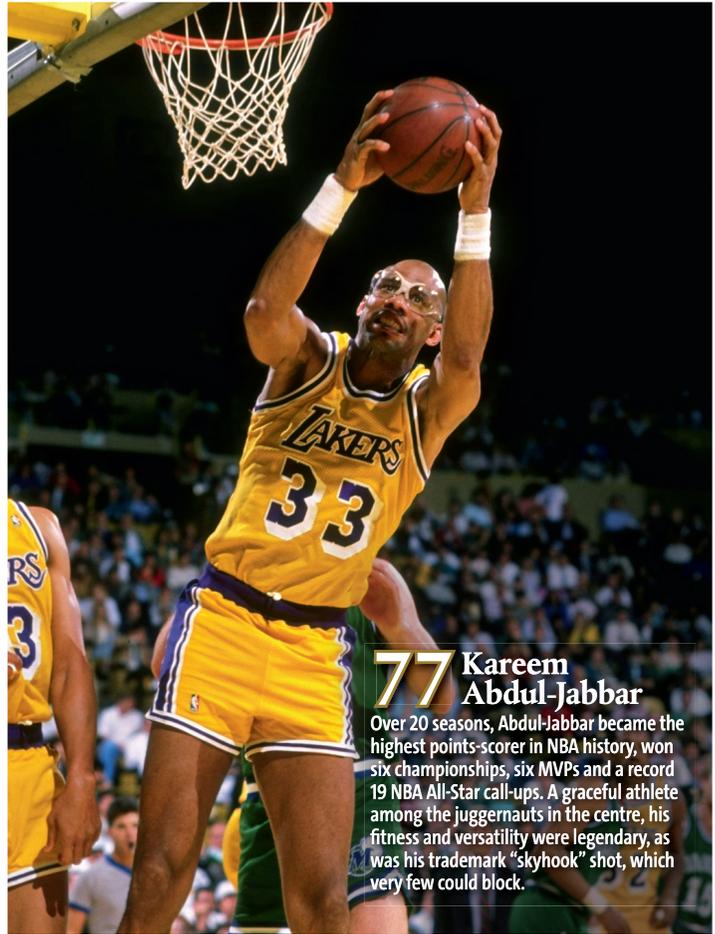
79 Fanny Blankers-Koen
Told to stay at home and be a good housewife, then told she was too old, Blankers-Koen went out and kicked arse anyway. The humble sprinter set 20 world records, and in 1948 became the only woman to win four golds at a single games – and she was a 30-year-old mother of two. The Dutchwoman helped change the perception of women in sport.



78 Greg Norman
Don't ask why this noted choker is on the list ahead of dozens of golfers with more than his two Majors. Instead, ask how many more the man from Mount Isa would have won if God wasn't playing silly buggers every time he took the lead. Then look at his 331 weeks at No.1, which is more than triple that of anyone bar Woods.



76 Zinedine Zidane
Rarely did a sportsman have more time and options than the balding French midfielder. Once he received the ball, the opposition seemed hypnotised. Even on the greatest of stages, he seemed a cut above. The 1998 World Cup, Euro 2000, Serie A and La Liga titles are fitting reward for a player of such unusual talent.



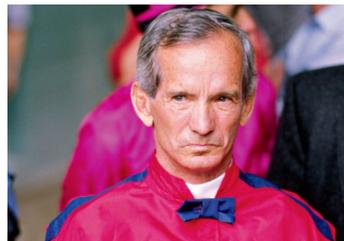
77 Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
Over 20 seasons, Abdul-Jabbar became the highest points-scorer in NBA history, won six championships, six MVPs and a record 19 NBA All-Star call-ups. A graceful athlete among the juggernauts in the centre, his fitness and versatility were legendary, as was his trademark "skyhook" shot, which very few could block.



75 Bo Jackson
There are loads of athletes who've represented their countries in more than one sport, but Jackson was the first to be named an All-Star in both baseball (1989) and American football ('90) and have a proper, top-line career in each sport. Word is he could've been an Olympic sprinter too, but opted for more lucrative sports.



74 Steffi Graf
Andre Agassi never really seemed happy as Mr Brooke Shields, yet he hasn't stopped smiling since he married Graf back in 2001. That suggests the German is a really, really nice lady, but of course you don't get on this list by being pleasant. You get here with 22 grand slams and a record 377 weeks – seven years – as world No.1.



73 Willie Shoemaker
Active and winning for more than 40 years, Shoemaker is the most successful jockey in history. His turbulent life took in a premature birth, two near-fatal accidents and finally paralysis from a 1991 car crash before his 2003 death. In between he won the Kentucky Derby four times, nearly 9000 races and an ocean of prize money.



72 John McEnroe
New York's finest drew opinions the way stallions do flies. Did his profile and temperament spawn a generation of ump-hassling whingers, or help drag tennis towards the huge popularity and money it enjoys now? In no doubt was his talent, which featured a geometry-defying serve-volley game and seven grand slams.



71 Babe Zaharias
Golf, basketball, track and field, diving, sewing... It didn't matter what Zaharias tried, she won at it. Limited to three events at the 1932 Olympics, she bagged the 80m hurdles and javelin, plus a disputed silver in the high jump. By '35 she'd picked up golf and took part in a men's PGA event, the first woman to do it by six decades, and was women's No.1 for years.



70 Gary Ablett Snr
Ablett was one of those athletes who seemed to inhabit an entirely different dimension. Some climbed over opponents' backs to take a mark; Ablett soared. Others ran; he glided. In the rich history of Australia's most popular winter sport, no man was ever more naturally gifted. Oh, and did we mention he kicked 1030 goals?



69 Jean-Claude Killy
The Frenchman dwarfs the great names of skiing because of his feats at the 1968 Winter Olympics, where he won gold in the slalom, giant slalom and downhill. That's like winning the 50m, 200m and 1500m freestyle in the pool at the Summer Games, and it has never been matched. He retired at just 26.



68 Johnny Raper
The lock in Australian rugby league's Team of the Century was one of sport's lovable larrikins, which basically means he had the kind of fun players would never be allowed today. A key member of the Dragons' run of 11 premierships, Raper had the vision of a Lockyer with the bob-up-everywhere tackling knack of Hindmarsh. He was that good.