



Tales of DeSales

Editor's Note: This issue celebrates Black History Month. Students selected two people (past and/or present) whom they wanted to explore. This is simply a celebration of past and present achievements. There are no political or ideological motives for this issue.

LeBron Raymone James

LeBron Raymone James Sr was born in Akron, Ohio on December 30, 1984. With 4 NBA championships, 4 NBA MVP awards, and the all-time NBA scoring record, just to name a few accomplishments. LeBron's career is one of the best in league history and his impact on the court is undeniable. But what's his impact like off the court? LeBron has helped thousands of children in the Akron area through the LeBron James Family Foundation. Over 100 million dollars have been donated to support 12 separate causes also through the LeBron James Family Foundation. In 2018, LeBron opened the I Promise School, a 1st-8th grade public elementary school in his hometown of Akron. LeBron's role in social justice in the USA has made him one of the most influential athletes in the country. Also, in 2020 James helped lead the "More than a vote movement" which stressed the importance of voting. ~Alan Campos



Oprah Winfrey

Some people describe Oprah Winfrey as aspiring, talented, and inspirational; which she is, but she is so much more. Oprah Winfrey hosted the talk show "The Oprah Winfrey Show" for 25 years (1986-2011). She talked about the importance of discussing mental health, abusive situations, and tragic medical conditions. In her talk show she hosted many celebrities including; Micheal Jackson, Celine Dion, and Gayle King, her best friend. She does not only have a talk show but also a television network (OWN), book club, and magazine. One main reason Oprah Winfrey is so inspiring is because she went through very hard times in her childhood and early adulthood. She was raised in inner-city Milwaukee and was beaten, sexually abused, and had no running water as a kid. She has deep respect for those that went through hard times and that is what makes her so inspiring. She makes it known that you can do anything if you put your mind to it, even if you are in hard situations. ~Linley Donnelly



CELEBRATING
**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

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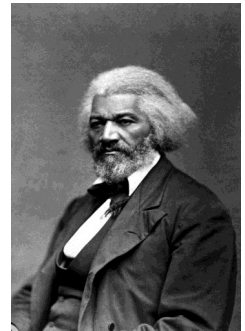
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Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was a renowned orator, author, and advocate for abolition and civil rights for African Americans. Born into slavery sometime between 1817 and 1818, Douglass was taught to read and write, and later finished his studies on his own. He escaped from slavery into New York when he was only 21. Once there, he became a leading figure of the national abolitionist movement. He grew famous for his multiple biographies and awe-inspiring oratory skills. Douglass was also an active advocate for women's suffrage as well as African American rights, and was the most important figure in the movement throughout the Civil War and beyond. He

even helped advise President Lincoln on the best course of action to take when it came to abolition. Frederick Douglass's legacy as a key figure in the fight for equality and justice stands the test of time, and has greatly influenced the works of civil rights advocates today.

~Macy Chvatal



Beyoncé Knowles



Beyoncé Giselle Knowles is one of the most accomplished artists of our time: She is the first solo artist to chart to number one with six albums, the most nominated female artist at the

grammys, first woman to win six Grammys in one night, most awarded artist from MTV, the 2013 Super Bowl show headliner, again as a guest in 2016, the first black woman to headline Coachella and much more. With such an accomplished history and fame, Beyoncé has used her platform to promote awareness for the black community. Her song 'Black Parade' was released on Juneteenth, the anniversary of the abolition in the United States, in which she celebrates her African origin. The proceeds from this song go towards the BeyGOOD Black Business Impact Fund, which supports black-owned businesses. BeyGOOD has also helped provide scholarships for students, assist individuals suffering economic inequities, and support other nonprofits. Beyoncé has done a lot for the music industry and the black community, and she will continue to be recognized for her talents, fashion, and poise.

~Jeyten Strnadel

Ketanji Brown Jackson

Ketanji Brown Jackson, a Harvard Law graduate with a family background pertaining to law, has now become the first black woman and first public defender to be appointed as a Supreme Court Justice. She was appointed on the grounds of a wide legal repertoire and exceptional experience. Ketanji Jackson had to work hard to move

up in the judicial world of the US. She was first appointed as the law clerk for the US District of Massachusetts. After doing this for several years she became a law practice's private practice specialist. Jackson was then appointed by President Obama in 2012 to serve as the vice chair on the Sentencing Commission, where she created the "drugs minus two" amendment, and served there till 2014. Not long before she left the Commission, she served as the US district judge of the District of Columbia, and later, its circuit judge. Finally in 2022, President Biden appointed Jackson as a Supreme Court Justice, where she serves to this day.

~Lauren Rohde



Michelle Obama



Michelle Obama, the former First Lady of the United States, has been an inspiration for the Black community. Michelle Obama's career started at Princeton where she earned her B.A. in sociology and later would go on to graduate from Harvard Law School. She worked many years in the community in different roles such as assistant commissioner of Chicago City Hall and Executive Director of the Chicago chapter of Public Allies. When her husband, Barack Obama, was elected into office, their family was the first ever African American family in the White House. Michelle goes on to describe this experience as being a representative of many African Americans, "Hopefully not the only, but we were the first...you don't want to mess it up and you want to make sure that you are representing," She has gone on to create many non-profits and other organizations to promote health, families, and education. Her work for many communities has promoted growth throughout the country. ~Jeyten Strnadel

Misty Copeland

Misty Copeland made history in 2015 becoming the first African American principal ballet dancer. Growing up, Misty began to study ballet at the late age of 13 but quickly began her journey to stardom. She studied at some of the top ballet schools in the country such as San Francisco Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre on a full scholarship. People quickly began to know her name. Though she attained success, she also faced many different struggles. The art of ballet was predominantly performed by white dancers and mainly viewed by white audiences. Due to Misty being the only one of color she had an inability to gain roles and struggled to find necessities in the dance world that would match her skin color. Misty was able to persevere through hardships, though, and accomplish her goals. Today Misty inspires many young dancers of color who face hardships to still follow the path they are reaching for.

~Anniston Jimenez



Ella Fitzgerald

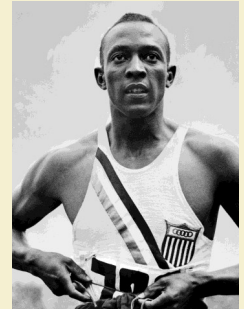
Ella Fitzgerald, the 'First Lady of Song', was a prolific scat and jazz singer in the 1930s through 1995. But she didn't have a common rise to fame. Her story started with the death of her mother and then living in a horrid reform school. While there, she sang on the street corner to raise just a meager amount of money to sustain herself. Soon Ella was discovered by singing companies because of her unique voice. This company allowed her voice to be heard across the globe, and not long after she made famous friends in the land of entertainment. With famous friends, such as Marilyn Monroe, Ella found herself in the world of high society. Despite the fact that she did face racial discrimination along her path, the confrontations didn't stop Ella's journey. By the end of her singing career, she was said to have the most influential music of the time. Ella Fitzgerald died peacefully at home in 1996, after receiving 14 Grammys, singing around 2,000 songs, and having been bestowed a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

~Lauren Rohde



Jesse Owens

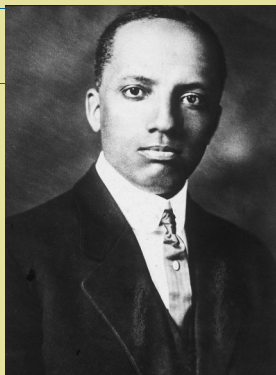
Known as the greatest track and field athlete of all time, Jesse Owens



was a world renowned Olympic champion that stood his ground when faced with discrimination. Famously, Owens established four world records (earning three, tying one) in less than one hour at a Big Ten track meet in 1935. His athletic prowess earned him a spot on the 1936 Olympic team, which would be participating in Berlin, under the iron grip of the Nazi regime. As an African American man, Owens was warned that he would not be treated with much respect. Owens did not let this phase him, and endured rude treatment with inspirational dignity. He won four gold medals in the games, showing his skill on a world stage and disrupting Hitler's vision of showing how strong Germany was by winning a majority of his Olympic events. After the games, Owens returned to the states and aided future Olympians in preparation for their games and served as a goodwill ambassador. His athletic prowess and mental strength has truly cemented him as one of the greatest athletes of all time.

~Macy Chvatal

Carter Woodson



Carter G. Woodson was a historian, author, civil rights activist, and the founder of African American Life and History. Woodson strived to be a star pupil, teaching himself until highschool and then going on to receive his bachelor's degree in literature and his masters. Woodson was hated among other historians at the time because of his research of Black History. He was banned from presenting his research in multiple associations. In response to this injustice, Woodson used his education to create the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) in 1915, which was created to "promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about black life." Woodson also wrote 16 books in order to refute ignorance of neglected black customs and cultures. Along with this, Woodson began showcasing the importance of certain Black Americans, beginning with a week for dedication to Black Americans, which later on turned into what we now know as Black History Month, which we are currently celebrating.

~Janie Doohan

Charles Barkley

Charles Barkley was a professional basketball player for the Philadelphia 76'ers (1984-1992), Phoenix Suns (1992-1996), and Houston Rockets (1996-2000). His childhood was very rough, with his father leaving him when he was very young. He began playing basketball after he had a large growth-spurt, coming in at a final 6 '6" in the NBA draft. After a very successful highschool season he was granted a scholarship to Auburn and played a total of three seasons getting all conference player all three. He was drafted to the Philadelphia 76'ers, being 5th overall in the draft. During his time in the NBA he scored 20,000 points, got 10,000

rebounds, and 4,000 assists. Even though he was small for his position (forward) he was one of the best rebounders in the NBA. He used his aggressiveness and strength to become the person that he is today. He showed that having passion for what you're doing is all you need to be successful and anything is possible when you believe in it.

~Linley Donnelly

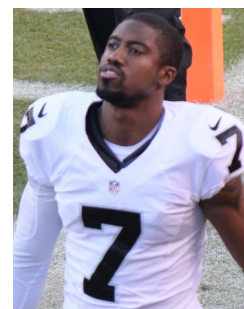


Marquette King, Jr.

Throughout the 124 year course of the NFL, the punting position has seen only six African American punters, Marquette King, Jr. being one of them. The 6'0 192 pound punter out of Fort Valley State had an exciting six year run in the NFL earning a second team all-pro nod in 2016. His 46.7 yards per punt places him 4th all time, however, King's tenure ended rather abruptly.

King was able to inspire a new generation of African American punters. Punting was no longer boring, for King made it entertaining. Because of this, more and more talented African American punters began showing up including current Steelers punter Pressley Harvin III. Harvin III is the most recent African American punter in the NFL. King's success along with Harvin III's proves that African American punters going forward can break barriers in the kicking world the same way King did.

~Alan Campos



**BLACK
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Serena Williams

Starting at age three, Serena Williams started training for hours a day to become one of the most influential athletes in the world. She went professional at the age of fourteen and entered the US open in 1999, winning at only seventeen years old. In 2000, she won her first gold medal with her older sister, Venus Williams in the doubles event. Her success in her tennis career revolutionized women's tennis. Along with all her athletic accomplishments, she will be remembered as influential, determined, and humble. She publicly talks about what it was like to face a traumatic childbirth and because of that she is very inspiring to many women. She works hard not only as an athlete but also as an all around person making her significant and strong to both non-athletes and athletes. **-Tori Kimble**



Whitney Houston

Whitney Houston was an influential American singer and actress. Born in 1963, she grew up going to a girl's catholic school and singing in church. Her mom, Cissy Houston, coached her from a young age into the talented singer she is known as. She first signed to a record label at nineteen but was faced with racial struggles. Houston's record label wanted her to appeal to a white audience by singing "perky dance-pop" and putting as many white back-up dancers as possible. As she became more successful she was able to sing music more to her taste. She married and had one daughter, Bobbi Kristina Brown. Her role in The Bodyguard and singing of the star-spangled banner at the Super Bowl in 1991 were both instances that boosted her popularity. Whitney Houston passed at age 48 in 2012. If you want to learn more about Whitney Houston, recently a movie was made about her that details her life, Whitney Houston: I Want to Dance with Somebody. **~Tori Kimble**



Jordan Burroughs

Jordan Burroughs is considered one of the greatest freestyle wrestlers of all time. When he was five years old he brought home a wrestling flier and told his parents he wanted to be the first wrestler in his family. While continuing to be a three sport athlete throughout high school, Jordan became both a State and National Champion in NHSCA wrestling. In 2011, Jordan graduated from Nebraska University with the Dan Hodge Trophy as the best college wrestler in the nation after an undefeated season. Just three weeks after graduating college, Jordan joined the USA wrestling team and defeated all four of his opponents at the US open. Once Jordan won the US Open, he moved on to wrestle against other countries and remained successful. Currently, Burroughs holds the record for the most World and Olympic Championships in American history. With being the first wrestler in his family, Jordan Burrough's story is truly amazing.

~Diego Caso



Coretta Scott King

Coretta Scott King, an example of respect, honor and perseverance that held out great support for her husband's movement not just during his great life but also after. During the time of Dr. King's leadership roles, Coretta was able to balance and adapt to the life of being a remarkable mother and also portraying a leader in the movement. Dr. King and Coretta took the time together to travel about the world in hopes of extending the understanding of the movement. In these times she was able to provide her feedback and encouragements towards the sermons and speeches made. Coretta was able to spread the message of nonviolence and the dreams of justice and peace around the



globe. After King's death she founded The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial center as a nonprofit organization in hopes of achieving and encouraging his legacy. After Coretta's death her legacy continued as well. She became known as one of the most influential women at the time and continues to be. She will always be known as a game changer in the hardships of the civil rights movement. **~Anniston Jimenez**

John Legend

John Rodger Stephens, more widely known as John Legend, a familiar name to many worldwide for his R and B and soul musical style, has accomplished many things to gain such popularity. As one of the most successful musicians of our time, he has collaborated with many world renowned musicians such as Kanye West, Britney Spears, Lauren Hill and Alicia Keys. From 2000 to the present, John Legend has won many awards, even winning twelve Grammys, one Oscar and even making number one on the Hot 100 billboard with his song "All of Me". Besides his successful musical reputation, he has given back to his community by serving as the Vice Chairman on the board of the Harlem Village Academies. The organization works to improve education in poor communities in New York City and runs many charter schools in the area. If you ever get the chance, listen to his uplifting and inspiring music because it never fails to bring joy. ~Caroline Kutsch



Lamar Jackson

Growing up in the relatively poor region of Pompano Beach, Florida, Lamar Jackson struggled early on in his childhood with losing his father and grandmother when he was eight years old. In 2023, Jackson signed a five year contract with the Baltimore Ravens worth \$260 million dollars. Jackson's story is influential and inspiring to many as he overcame his hardships by using his athletic talents and is now the third highest paid player in the NFL. At the start of high school, Lamar didn't see much playing time until he switched schools and spent his Junior and Senior years scoring over fifty touchdowns and winning the Lou Groza player of the year award in 2014. Lamar played college football for the University of Louisville where he became the youngest player to ever win the Heisman

trophy. Lamar was drafted by the Baltimore Ravens and won the MVP in 2019. This year Lamar Jackson has been at work using his athleticism and leadership talents to lead his team into the playoffs by leading the league in passing yards per attempt and is on his way to potentially win another MVP.

~Diego Caso



Maya Angelou

World famous writer, poet, actress, and civil rights activist Marguerite Annie Johnson more widely known as Maya Angelou is the first person who comes to mind when I think about famous women of color. Many in grade and high school have read some of her works and still remember them today. Throughout her life, she has written seven autobiographies and hundreds of poems. By name, you may recognize some of her works, her first autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" and one of her many poems, "Still I Rise". Maya Angelou also collaborated with Martin Luther King Jr. to help in the coordination of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, through which she arranged funding for. Maya Angelou is so important even today because she was and still is a role model for all women and an outstanding addition to the world of American literature and poetry. ~Caroline Kutsch



Anok Yai

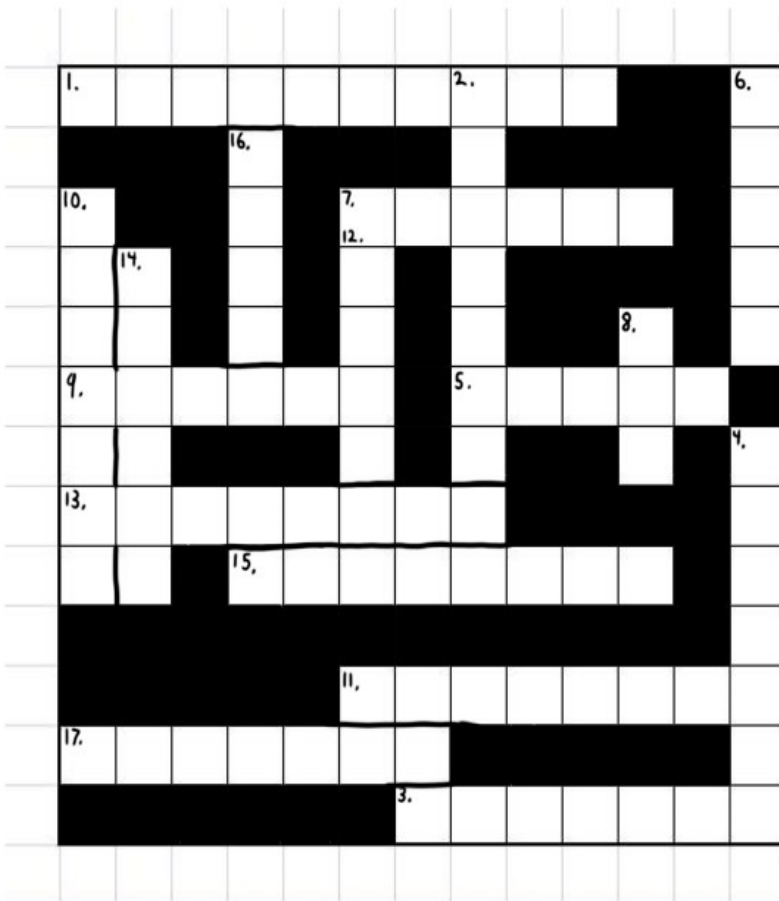
The modeling life has never been easy, especially for minorities. Anok Yai is the first South Sudanese model, and second black model to open for a Prada show. Representation for minorities in a worldwide setting is such a vital aspect to the world because it brings hope and reassurance to other minorities of the possibilities they may achieve later on in their lives. Anok speaks on this, aware that "this is bigger than her", that the black women in this industry deserve to be celebrated and she is so proud to be one of their role models.

Anok Yai, being able to use her platform on a widespread basis, constantly speaks up on her knowledge of being an immigrant and a woman. Born as a refugee, her life was filled with struggles not many can understand. Anoks' parents bring her so much joy and pride, so thankful that they did so much for her to get where she is today. With this platform, Anok also speaks heavily on feminist values. Anok heavily focuses on breaking gender roles, and how being a woman is so much more than performing a part. Not only a fashion model, but also a role model, we celebrate her this month as a black woman influencing history.

~Janie Doohan



Black History Month Spotlight Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Who was a famous jazz singer and was also friends with Marilyn Monroe? (Last name)
3. Who helped found the month we are celebrating? (Last name)
5. This person hosted a talk show from 1986-2011. (First name)
7. Who's song "All of Me" became #1 on the hot 100 for May 2014? (Last name)
9. She is the first black First Lady, and she graduated from Harvard. (Last name)
11. He is an renowned orator and author during the 1840s (Last name)
13. Who is a first principle ballerina and started dancing at the age of 13? (Last name)
15. Who won their first gold medal in 2000? (Last name)
17. Who founded Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial? (First name)

Down

2. She wrote "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings". (Last name)
4. This Supreme Court Justice also created the "drugs minus two" amendment. (Last name)
6. Who is known as the greatest Track and Field athlete of all time? (Last name)
8. Who is a refugee from South Sudan? (Last name)
10. She is a two time Superbowl performer. (First name)
12. He won the Heisman. (Last name)
14. Who is the NBA player who also is a all-time leading scorer? Last name)
16. He is one of the five African American punters ever. (Last name)