

Equality in competition

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sports reporter

This month many celebrate the diversity of people who contribute to our country.

Sports, like all aspects of our society, have persistently flourished due to racial integration.

However, the road to acceptance did not come easily.

At the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, Hitler planned to use the games to demonstrate the superiority of the Aryan race.

Enter Jesse Owens, an African-American athlete, and a target of the Nazi Party's demonstration of superiority.

Despite the Nazi arrogance, Owens solely demonstrated superiority during the games.

Owens earned four gold medals: the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, the long jump and the 400-meter relays.

Owens shocked the world upon returning to the United States by holding gimmick races against dogs and horses.

When asked why he subjected himself to such humiliation, Owens replied, "Well, I can't eat the gold medals."

On April 15, 1947, sports took another step toward racial equality.

Jackie Robinson, a Negro-League Baseball superstar, became the first non-white athlete to play in Major League Baseball, starting at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Robinson opened the floodgates for other minority baseball players and not only made the sport more competitive, but also contributed to the descent of segregation in our country.

Currently athletes of all races compete with one another and the only factor that limits them from competing is their ability.

The college certainly has benefited from athletes of all backgrounds, and those athletes appear in every sport the college offers.

As sports fans and team members, we should not only celebrate diversity in sports but in all areas of our lives.

Together we not only elevate the game, but we make the world a better place when issues such as skin color and ethnicity do not limit us.

World ranked female boxer second to none Sumya Anani wrestled her way into being coached

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On the sun-warmed, fine sand of a Jamaican beach, Sumya Anani, volunteer conditioning coach, Shawnee, Kan, wrestles with "The Fireman," an apt nickname considering the man is a flame blower, and future trainer Barry Becker observes.

"When I saw Anani wrestling that Jamaican on the beach for nearly 15 minutes and giving him a rough time, I knew she had it in her to beat Christy Martin, the top female boxer at the time," said Becker.

In 1991, Anani started her career at the college and joined Istvan Javorek's, head coach, Strength and Conditioning, Olympic Weight-lifting Club.

"She is a very hard worker; she is honest, respectful, clean [drug free] and a good positive role model," said Javorek. "That is why I like to have her in the weight-room; every youth can learn from her."

The time Sumya spent training under coach Javorek molded and prepared her body for her career in boxing even

though, up to this point, she had never dreamed of becoming a boxer.

Following competition as a weightlifter, Anani started to train at a local Bally's Fitness, where she first met Becker.

In 1996, Becker convinced her to take an Aug. 12 pro fight, with a \$600 paycheck.

So for the first time in her life, Anani entered the boxing ring as a competitor.

Anani won her fight that day and since then has won four World Champion belts and one international belt.

She also beat Christy Martin, as Barry predicted, and now ranks as the number two female boxer in the world.

After her boxing career, Anani intends to open a holistic health spa aimed at helping individuals achieve their potential.



Photo courtesy of Sumya Anani