



## **RUDOLPH, WILMA**

**1940 -**

birthplace — Clarksville, TN

**“A Golden Track Star”**

Wilma never liked to lose. She always tried very hard to be a winner — and her determined spirit usually led to success.

When Wilma was a child she had to wear a brace on her left leg. She had been crippled by polio, but she was determined to walk without her brace. Soon she learned to walk *and* run without it.

In high school, Wilma won many races. She was also a star basketball player. In 1956, she scored 803 points during one season. Tennessee State University gave her a scholarship so she could run on their track team.

While competing in the 1960 Olympic games held in Rome, Wilma became the first woman to win three Olympic medals in track. She was recognized as the world's fastest woman runner. In 1960, the Associated Press voted her female athlete of the year.

Wilma Rudolph's winning spirit still inspires athletes today.

