



Are Blacks Better Athletes?

Tonight, NBC looks at blacks in sports



Code	adi-pub-01191
Title	Are Blacks Better Athletes?
Subtitle	Tonight, NBC looks at blacks in sports
Name	USA TODAY
Author	David Leon Moore
Published on	Wednesday, April 26, 1989
Subject	Baseball; Discus; Media; Performance Analysis; Science; Sports; Studies; Tennis
URL	https://arielweb.com/articles/show/adi-pub-01191
Date	2013-01-16 15:40:48
Label	Approved
Privacy	Public

The article discusses the controversy surrounding an NBC News special titled "Black Athletes - Fact and Fiction". The show, hosted by Tom Brokaw, presents scientific studies suggesting that black athletes might be physically superior to white athletes in some sports. The show has been criticized by some black sports officials who fear it will promote stereotypes of blacks as naturally gifted athletes who don't work hard or who are intellectually inferior. The show also explores cultural conditions that have spawned good black athletes and includes interviews with coaches, athletes, and scientists. The article also mentions a follow-up panel discussion meant to further explore issues raised in the prime-time report.

This PDF summary has been auto-generated from the original publication by arielweb-ai-bot v1.2.2023.0926 on 2023-09-28 03:41:52 without human intervention. In case of errors or omissions please contact our aibot directly at ai@macrosport.com.

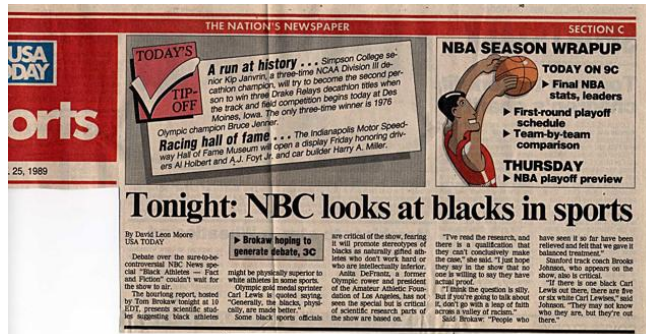
Copyright Disclaimer

The content and materials provided in this document are protected by copyright laws. All rights are reserved by Ariel Dynamics Inc. Users are prohibited from copying, reproducing, distributing, or modifying any part of this content without prior written permission from Ariel Dynamics Inc. Unauthorized use or reproduction of any materials may result in legal action.

Disclaimer of Liability

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented on this website/document, Ariel Dynamics Inc. makes no warranties or representations regarding the completeness, accuracy, or suitability of the information. The content is provided "as is" and without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. Ariel Dynamics Inc. shall not be liable for any errors or omissions in the content or for any actions taken in reliance thereon. Ariel Dynamics Inc. disclaims all responsibility for any loss, injury, claim, liability, or damage of any kind resulting from, arising out of, or in any way related to the use or reliance on the content provided herein.

Below find a reprint of the 4 relevant pages of the article "Are Blacks Better Athletes?" in "USA TODAY":

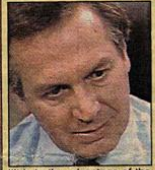


BLACK ATHLETES

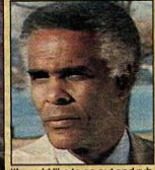
Firestorm of debate follows NBC's special



"... the evidence surely does exist that there is some edge that we (blacks) have that others don't have."
— Arthur Ashe, tennis star



"It is to the advantage of the black athlete to be proud that God was on their side."
— Dr. Gideon Ariel, who has studied genetic differences



"I would like to go out and rub it in people's noses by finding a white Carl Lewis."
— Brooks Johnson, Stanford track coach

NBC photos

NBC explores whether blacks are superior athletes

YES, there are differences between black and white athletes, but beyond that there are no concrete conclusions on tonight's NBC Tom Brokaw-reported documentary "Black Athletes — Fact and Fiction" (10-11 p.m.).

While pointing out there may be physical and genetic differences, "the black athlete," says Brokaw, "is dedicated to his physical experiences." In other words, athletics, for some blacks, is an avenue out of poverty.

It's an interesting program that dares to tackle a subject that is immediately labeled racist — the suggestion that black athletes are superior to white athletes. It's racist, explains sociologist Harry Edwards, because "it suggests blacks are closer to beasts and animals."

But all do not agree with this assessment. "Outright black



DARING REPORT: Tom Brokaw

great Carl Lewis, who is black, insists, "Generally, the blacks physically are made better."

Early motor testing of black and white children demonstrates black children develop their motor abilities faster.

Scenes from various sports — football, basketball, track — show how the black athlete excels in skills that involve jumping and speed.

Interviews with coaches, athletes and scientists are incorporated into the program, which also shows how blacks from Kenya differ from blacks from East Africa, who are closer in physical characteristics to blacks in the U.S.

Heavy emphasis is placed on the cultural conditions that have spawned good black athletes. Basketball, for instance, is seen not so much as a "black" game as it is a "city" game. Before blacks, Jews excelled in it when they were the core of the inner city.

Following the local news at 11, Brokaw will be back with a half-hour panel discussion meant to further explore issues raised in the prime-time report. — **Tom Capella**

ELLITE

USA TODAY

sports

ESDAY, APRIL 26, 1989

COVER STORY

Perpetuating stereotypes condemned



By David Leon Moore
USA TODAY

Tom Brokaw and NBC News knew this was controversial. Indeed, the network's Tuesday night special, "Black Athletes — Fact and Fiction," lit the fuse for an explosion.

The mere topic perpetuates racist attitudes about black athletes in this country," said Lee McElroy, University of the District of Columbia athletic director. "What bothers me is the effect of what comes out of the program."

The portrayal, in NBC's hour-long special, was a mixed bag, attributing the dominance by black athletes in some sports to physical, cultural and environmental factors.

Most controversial, though, were the scientific studies conducted by Gideon Ariel, Claude Bouchard and Robert Malina suggesting blacks have genetic differences that provide them physical superiority over whites in many sports.

"I'm very disappointed at some of the historical and scientific nonsense that was presented," said Anita DeFranz, president of the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles.

Please see COVER STORY next page ►