

Bob Mathias
Inducted October 30, 2004

One of the greatest all-around athletes in track and field history, Bob Mathias took his first decathlon gold medal at the 1948 Olympic Games when he was just 17 years old. He was the youngest-ever winner of an Olympic track and field event, which earned him the 1948 Sullivan Award as the nation's top amateur athlete.

At the 1952 Olympics, setting his third world record, Mathias became the first athlete to win consecutive Olympic decathlons. Also a star fullback at Stanford University, Mathias competed in the 1952 Rose Bowl, making him the only person to ever compete in an Olympics and a Rose Bowl in the same year. Mathias was drafted by the Washington Red Skins, but never signed.

After graduating from Stanford, Mathias became an officer in the Marines, acted in Hollywood films and served four terms in Congress. In 1978, Mathias became the first director of the Colorado Springs-based U.S. Olympic Training Center, where he made countless contributions, including leading the groundbreaking and construction of the former Ent Air Force Base, now the USOC headquarters in Colorado Springs.

A father of five, Mathias and his wife, Gwen, reside in Fresno, California.