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## **SPORTSMEN UNDER PSEUDONYMS**

Do you have a pseudonym? How did you get it? Many athletes' pseudonyms have nothing to do with their sports. They've defined careers, molded reputations and set the sports world on fire with their creativity. The greatest athletics' pseudonyms on Earth are [2]:

*Nicolai “Old One Leg” Andrianov* - this Russian gymnast could keep his legs straight and together during extremely difficult exercises, making it look as if he had only one leg [1].

*Steve “The Kid” Cauthen* - as a 17-year-old, Steve was already a successful jockey [1].

*Maureen “Goldfinger” Flowers* - Maureen was an excellent dart thrower. At one time, she was the best in the world [3].

*Randy “Big Unit” Johnson* - this major league pitcher can throw a fast ball close to 100 miles per hour and is six feet, ten inches tall [3].

*Thomas “Pepper” Johnson* - this New York Giants football player received his nickname from his grandmother. He loved pepper so much, he put it on everything he ate [1].

*Michael “Air” Jordan* - this former Chicago Bulls basketball star can jump so high and far and spends so much time in the air that he earned this nickname. He has his own sneaker line named “Air Jordans” [3].

*Willie “The Say Hey Kid” Mays* - Willie Mays was one of the most famous baseball players of all time. As a rookie, he would often shout “Say hey over there” to people whose names he did not know [3].

*Helen Wills “Little Miss Poker Face” Moody* - when playing the card game of poker, players cannot show any emotion so that their opponents can't guess what

they're thinking. On the tennis court in the 1920s, Helen Wills Moody maintained her poise under any circumstances [1].

*William “The Refrigerator” Perry* - this football player astonished his teammates on the Chicago Bears with the amount of food he could eat. He weighs well over 300 pounds [1].

*Tom “Terrific” Seaver* - the media gave this New York Mets baseball player his nickname because of his terrific pitching arm. *Tom Terrific* used to be a children's cartoon show [1].

Sports pseudonyms linger on today, but have been in decline since their golden age in the 1920s, when childhood pseudonyms were more common, and colorful journalists sought to punch up their writing by christening athletes who had made it to adulthood without one. Today’s athletes lack the intimacy and accessibility that allowed pseudonyms to thrive, and because all pseudonyms are bestowed by others and thus lie outside the control of the named, modern athletes often eschew them in favor of stricter management of their “personal brand.”

### **Literature**

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