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times. He was born on May 28, 1888, in a two-room farmhouse near Prague, Oklahoma. His parents were members of the Sac and Fox Indian tribe and he was a direct descendant of the famous warrior chief, Black Hawk. As a Sac and Fox, Jim had the colorful Indian name Wa-Tho-Huck. Which, translated, means Bright Path. But being born an Indian, his path was not so bright. Although he had the opportunity to hunt and fish with great Indian outdoorsmen, he was denied opportunity in other ways. The United States government controlled the lives of American Indians and, unlike other people, Indians did not automatically become citizens. It was almost impossible for an Indian to gain even a fair education and extremely difficult, as a result, for an Indian to rise high in life. Young Bright Path seemed destined to spend his life in the Oklahoma farmland. But when he was in his teens, the government gave him the chance to attend the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. Soon Carlisle was racing along its own bright path to athletic prominence. In whatever sport Jim Thorpe played, he excelled, He was a star in baseball, track and field, wrestling, lacrosse, basketball and football. He was so good in football, in fact, that most other small schools refused to play Carlisle. The Indian schools football schedule soon listed such major powers of the early twentieth century as Pittsburgh, Harvard, Pennsylvania, Penn State and Army. Thorpe was a halfback. He was six feet one inch tall, weighed 185 pounds and had incredible speed and power. He built upon these natural gifts daily. He would watch a coach or player demonstrate a difficult maneuver, then he would try it himself. Inevitably, he would master the maneuver

within minutes. During every game, opponents piled on Thorpe, trampled him, kicked him and punched him, trying to put him out of action. They were never successful. Years later someone asked him if he had ever been hurt on the field. "Hurt?" Thorpe said. "How could anyone get hurt playing football?" But Jim never played his best when he felt he would have to stop playing. "Whats the fun of playing in the rain?" he once said. And his Carlisle coach, Pop Warner, once said, "Theres no doubt that Jim had more talent than anybody who ever played football, but you could never tell when he felt like giving his best." Football, though, did not provide Thorpe with his finest hour. He was selected for the United States Olympic track team in 1912, and went to Sweden with the team for the Games. On the ship, while the other athletes limbered up, Thorpe slept in his bunk. In Sweden, while other athletes trained, Thorpe relaxed in a hammock. He never strained when he didnt feel it necessary. Thorpe came out of his hammock when the Games began, to take part in the two most demanding Olympic events. He entered the pentathlon competition, a test of skill in five events: 200-meter run, 1500-meter run, broad jump, discus and javelin. and the decathlon competition, a series of ten events: 100-meter run, 400-meter run, 1500-meter run, high hurdles, broad jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, javelin and shot put. Though most athletes were utterly exhausted by the decathlon alone, Thorpe breezed through both events, his dark hair flopping, his smile flashing, his muscled body gliding along the track. He finished first in both the pentathlon and decathlon, one of the great feats in Olympic history. "You sir," King Gustav V of Sweden

told Thorpe as he presented him with two gold medals, "are the greatest athlete in the world." And William Howard Taft, the President of the United States, said, "Jim Thorpe is the highest type of citizen." King Gustav V was correct, but President Taft was not. Though Jim Thorpe had brought great glory to his nation, though thousands of people cheered him upon his return to the United States and attended banquets and a New York parade in his honor, he was not a citizen. He did not become one until 1916. Even then, it took a special government ruling because he was an Indian. Jim Thorpe was a hero after the Olympics and a sad, bewildered man not too much later. Someone discovered that two years before the Olympics he had been paid a few dollars to play semiprofessional baseball. Though many amateur athletes had played for pay under false names, Thorpe had used his own name. As a result, he was not technically an amateur when he competed at Stockholm as all Olympic athletes must be. His Olympic medals and trophies were taken away from him and given to the runners-up. After this heartbreaking experience, Thorpe turned to professional sports. He played major league baseball for six years and did fairly well. Then he played professional football for six years with spectacular success. His last professional football season was in 1926. After that, his youthful indifference to studies and his unwillingness to think of a nonsports career caught up with him. He had trouble finding a job, and his friends deserted him. He periodically asked for, but never was given back, his Olympic prizes. From 1926 until his death in 1953, he lived a poor, lonely, unhappy life. But in 1950 the Associated Press held a

poll to determine the outstanding athlete of the half-century. Despite his loss of the Olympic gold medals and a sad decline in fortune during his later years, Thorpe was almost unanimously chosen the greatest athlete of modern times.

**New Words**  
jam v. fill or block up (the way) by crowding. (cause to ) be packed, pressed, or crushed tightly into a small space 堵塞 ; ( 使 ) 塞满  
platform n. a raised flat surface built along the side of the track at a railway station for travellers getting on or off a train 月台  
await vt. wait for. look forward to  
track n. a course for running or racing. track-and-field sports, esp. those performed on a running track 跑道 ; 径赛运动 ; 田径运动  
field n. an area, esp. circled by a track where contests such as in jumping or throwing are held. the sports contested in this area 田赛场地 ; 田赛运动  
squad n. a small group of persons working, training, or acting together. the smallest military unit, usually made up of eleven men and a squad leader 小队 ; 班  
charge vi. rush in or as if in an attack 向前冲 ; 冲锋  
Marine n. a member of the U.S. Marine Corps ( 美国 ) 海军陆战队士兵或军官  
battalion n. military unit made up of several companies 营  
broad a. wide, large across 宽的 , 广阔的  
nope ad. (AmE sl.) no  
compete vi. take part in a race, contest, etc. try to win sth. in competition with sb. else 比赛 ; 竞争  
sprint n. short race. dash 短跑  
vi. run at ones fastest speed, esp. for a short distance  
hurdle n. a light frame for people or horses to jump over in a race 栏 ; 跳栏  
broad(-) jump n.& vi. (AmE) (do) a long jump 跳远  
javelin n. light spear for throwing (usu. in sport) 标枪  
shot n. the heavy metal ball used in the shot put 铅球  
tribe n. 部落  
descendant n. a person descended from another or from a common stock 子孙 ;

后裔warriorn. a man who fights for his tribe. a soldier or experienced fighter 斗士，勇士；（老）战士colorful a. full of color. exciting the senses or imagination 艳丽的；丰富多彩的的huntv. go after (wild animals) for food or sport. search (for) 追猎，打猎；搜寻outdoorsmann. a man, such as a hunter, fisherman, or camper, who spends much time outdoors for pleasure deny vt. say that (sth.) is not true. refuse to give 否认；拒绝给予destinevt. (usu. passive) intend or decide by fate. intend for some special purpose 命中注定；预定farmlandn. land used or suitable for farming 农田teensn. the period of ones life between and including the ages of 13 and 19prominencen. the quality or fact of being prominent or distinguished 凸出；杰出prominent a.excelvi. be very good (in or at sth) 突出，超常wrestling n. a sport or contest in which each of two opponents tries to throw or force the other to the ground 摔跤（运动）wrestle v.lacrossen. 长曲棍球（运动）footballn. 橄榄球（运动）power n. a person, group or nation that has authority or influence 握有大权的人物；有影响的机构；强国halfback n. (橄榄球、足球等) 前卫incrediblea. too extraordinary to be believed, unbelievable 难以置信的coachn. a person who trains sportsmen for games, competitions, etc. 教练demonstratevt. explain by carrying out experiments or by showing examples 用实验或实例说明；演示maneuver n. a skillful move or trick, intended to deceive, to gain sth., to escape, or to do sth. 机动动作；策略；花招opponentn. a person who is on the other side in a fight, game, or discussion 对手；反对者tramplevt. step heavily with the feet on. crush under the feet 踩；践踏 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载

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