

# Dick Fosbury

*1968 Olympic Gold Medalist – Speaker for the 2016 Commonwealth Games at Liberty University*

- Fosbury was born in Portland, Oregon. While in high school he revolutionized the high jump by developing a new technique known as “the Fosbury Flop,” which today has become the universal technique used by elite high jumpers around the globe.
- The Fosbury Flop is a high jump technique that involves arching the back while facing away from the bar, then kicking the legs up to “flop” over. The Flop is given its characteristic “backwards over the bar” appearance from the rotation of the jumper’s vertical axis produced by the drive leg, with the athlete landing on the mat on his or her shoulders and back.
- The Flop, which helped him to win the 1965 National Junior Champ meet, was perfected while at Oregon State University from 1965 to 1969. During the 1968 indoor season, Fosbury cleared 7’ and became the National Champion of the NCAA in 1968 and 1969.
- He was featured on the cover of *Track and Field News* in February of 1968.
- At the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games, Fosbury cleared 7’4 ¼”, breaking Olympic and American records and earning him the gold medal. He was ranked #1 in the world following the 1968 Games.
- In 1973 Fosbury turned professional and joined the International Track Association (ITA).
- Fosbury was elected to the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1981, the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1992, and inducted into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame in 2010.
- Today, Fosbury serves as honorary chairman of the Simplot Games, the largest high school level indoor track meet in the USA. He continues to coach young athletes at Dick Fosbury Track Camp at Bowdoin College, and gives clinics around the world to coaches and athletes.
- He is the past-President, and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the World Olympians Association. He is a Vice President of the United States Olympians Association.
- He is a licensed civil engineer and land surveyor and built a civil engineering firm in Ketchum, Idaho, Galena Engineering Inc., where he has resided since 1977. Dick spends much of his time now traveling the world, focusing on corporate speaking engagements and promoting the sport of Track & Field.

