



Marlon Shirley

at a glance...

Athletic Accolades

- Reigning 100m World Record Holder
- First amputee to break 11 second barrier (10.91)
- 5-Time Paralympic Games Medalist (2 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze)
- 8-Time World Champion
- 2-Time ESPY Award Winner
- U.S. Paralympic Spirit Award Winner

Statistics

- Resides: Las Vegas, NV & San Diego, CA
- Hometown: Tremonton, UT
- Birth date: April 21, 1978
- Height: 6' 1", Weight: 185 Lbs.
- www.MarlonShirley.com
- Twitter: @MarlonShirley

Points of Interest

- On his way to a 3rd consecutive 100m gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics, Shirley tore his Achilles tendon mid-race. In agony, he got up and finished. He heads to London 2012 to reclaim his 100m title.
- Founded 'Marlon Shirley's Champions in Life' foundation providing mentorship opportunities for children in under privileged situations with focus on foster children and displaced children.
- Marlon is an avid pilot, golfer and snowboarder. Tell him he can't do something and he will.

Marlon Shirley

in depth...

Marlon Shirley is no stranger to adversity. He has endured, and persevered through, more challenges and setbacks than even the strongest among us should have to bear. With a truly unbreakable spirit he has pursued and achieved excellence both on and off the athletic field of competition.

In the summer of 2000, Marlon captured the 100m gold medal at the Sydney Paralympic Games and kicked off a remarkable journey of world class athletic accomplishment that would make him the world's fastest amputee and the holder of three world records; 100m, 200m and the Long Jump. Marlon was the first amputee to break the 11 second barrier over 100 meters in a remarkable 10.97 seconds – a time few able-bodied runners can match!

At the age of five, a carefree time of fun and play for the average child, Marlon was literally living on the streets of Las Vegas after being abandoned by his mother. His early childhood was spent in and out of orphanages, at times abusive environments, simply trying to find a way and silently hoping for a break. Negligent care resulted in a life altering lawnmower accident and the amputation of his left foot at the ankle. Finally, at nine years old, Marlon was blessed by the adoption of the Shirley family from Utah.

Adjusting to a life very different than that which he had ever previously known was no easy transition but the Shirley's and Marlon eventually found peace, as well as Marlon's gifted calling in track and field.

Having won the 100m gold medal at both the 2000 & 2004 Paralympic Games, Marlon set his sights on the 2008 Beijing Games. In the months leading up to that event he fought through multiple knee injuries and a severe staph infection. Getting to the starting line was challenge enough. With a 4 meter lead in the 100m finals, racing for his 3rd consecutive gold medal, Marlon tore his Achilles tendon and collapsed. He refused immediate medical assistance, returned to his feet and managed to finish the race on only his prosthetic leg – all to the awe of the stadium crowd. He intends to claim that elusive 3rd gold medal at the London 2012 Games.

Off the track Marlon created 'Marlon Shirley's Champions in Life', a mentoring program for other homeless and foster children. He is a dynamic and inspirational public speaker who regularly shares his remarkable story with organizations and corporations across the country. He has been recognized by the United Nations as a Role Model of the 21st Century', is a two time ESPN ESPY Award winner and the recipient of the US Olympic Spirit Award.

