

Jamaica's Contemporary Hero- Merlene Ottey

Merlene Joyce Ottey: Born May 10, 1960 , the 'Queen of the Track' , Merlene Ottey has achieved a fair share of success and rewards during her time on the track.

It did not take too long for Merlene to realise her potential as a champion sprinter and exploit such phenomenal speed. Assessing her times and her flurry of medals, she can arguably be tipped as the greatest female sprinter of all time; she is the first female from the Caribbean to claim an Olympic medal and she is the first woman to sub-22 seconds in the 200 metres. She has won 14 World Championship medals which is not only the most as a female but as a track and field athlete; she has nine Olympic medals which is the most as a female.

The boundaries she has managed to extend and the seemingly insurmountable feats she has recorded makes her a role model for not only women but athletes across the world. For services in the field of sport the 'Bronze Queen' was named an Officer of the Order of Nation, awarded the Order of Distinction.