

Name _____

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Billy Mills, Olympic Star

People still marvel at a 10,000-meter race that took place during the 1964 Summer Olympic Games. Nobody predicted runner Billy Mills would be the winner. But he was confident. Viewers of the event experienced a thrilling underdog win.

Native American Billy Mills began running while in school. He was an All-American runner at the University of Kansas in 1958 and 1959. Later, he continued to run while he was in the armed forces.

Few people knew who Mills was when he entered the Olympic Games. He ran against world-record-holder Ron Clarke, who was Australian. Near the end of the race, Mills ran along the outside of the track. He was almost lost in a mob of runners. He increased his speed to push past the others. Then, the unthinkable happened. He won! The crowd went wild. Some people say it was the biggest upset in the history of the Olympic Games.