

"No Sweat" Marion Jones

"A lot of people can be winners," says track and field superstar Marion Jones. "If you go out there and believe, it's not complicated. If you believe, it's possible."

Marion has always followed her own advice. At eight, she wrote on a chalkboard hanging in her bedroom; "I will be an Olympic champion." At eleven, Jones wrote a letter in school stating plans "to be in the 1992 Olympics."

Even though her prediction didn't exactly come to pass (Marion didn't make the 1992 Olympics, and a foot injury prevented participation in the 1996 games), her faith became reality in Sydney 2000, where Jones earned a record-setting five medals, and the undisputed title of World's Fastest Woman.

And by the way-Marion is believing big for Athens in 2004. (Marion Jones)

No Sweat (Marion Jones)

For most aspiring young athletes, qualifying as an Olympic team alternate would be a dream come true. Not so for headstrong Marion Jones, who a decade later would hold the title 'Fastest woman in the world.'



At the age of 15, Jones qualified as an alternate on the 4-by-100 relay team for Barcelona, but after realizing that the American team would be very likely to win gold as she sat on the sidelines, she gave up her position as an alternate.

"It wouldn't have meant anything to me," a typically no-nonsense Jones told Newsweek. "I want my first medal to be one I sweated for."