

Oscar Pistorius- The “Blade Runner”

by Danai Kakampakou



Early life

Oscar Leonard Carl Pistorius was born on 22 November 1986 in Johannesburg, South Africa. His parents had also two kids and he was the middle child of three. Nevertheless, his parents divorced when he was 6 and his mother died when he was 15.

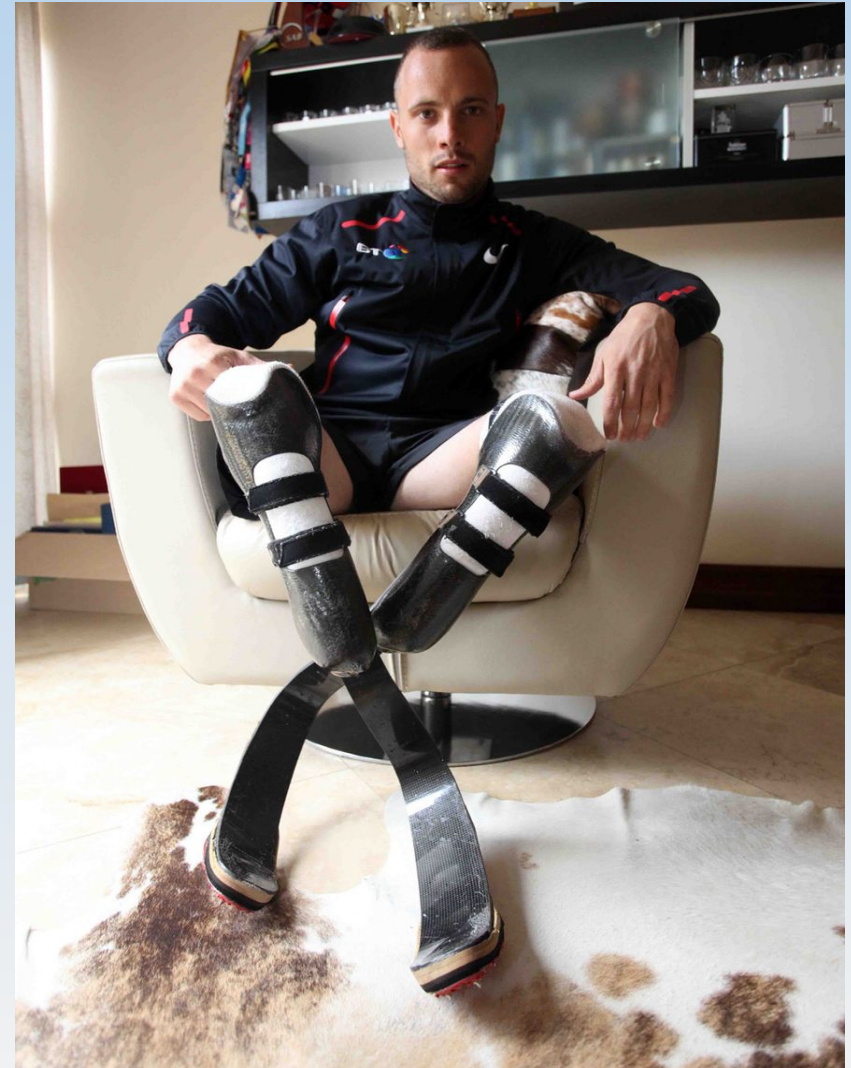




Born without a fibula in either of his legs, his parents made the difficult decision to have their son's legs amputated below his knees when he was 11 months old. Within six months, **Pistorius** was walking successfully with a pair of prosthetic legs.

Life time Achievements

His disability did not stop him from enjoying sports. On the contrary, at school he was very keen on rugby, boxing, cricket, tennis and water polo. He says: "I grew up in a family where disability was never an issue. We didn't really speak about my disability, not because it was a topic that was taboo... it was just never an issue. And that's the mentality that I've had."



✓ In 2004, when he was 18 years old, he had his first ever distinction in the Paralympic Games in Athens, wearing a pair of prosthetic, lightweight legs. He won the gold medal in the 200-meter race.



✓ In the next Paralympic Games in Beijing, he won the gold in all three competitions.



Pistorius competed in several races and success didn't take long! And as we all know success gives birth to greater attention:

Pistorius' artificial legs have been a source of controversy. In 2007, the International Association of Athletic Foundations banned **Pistorius** from competing, supporting that his artificial legs gave him an unfair advantage over able-bodied athletes in the competition. But he has "never looked back".



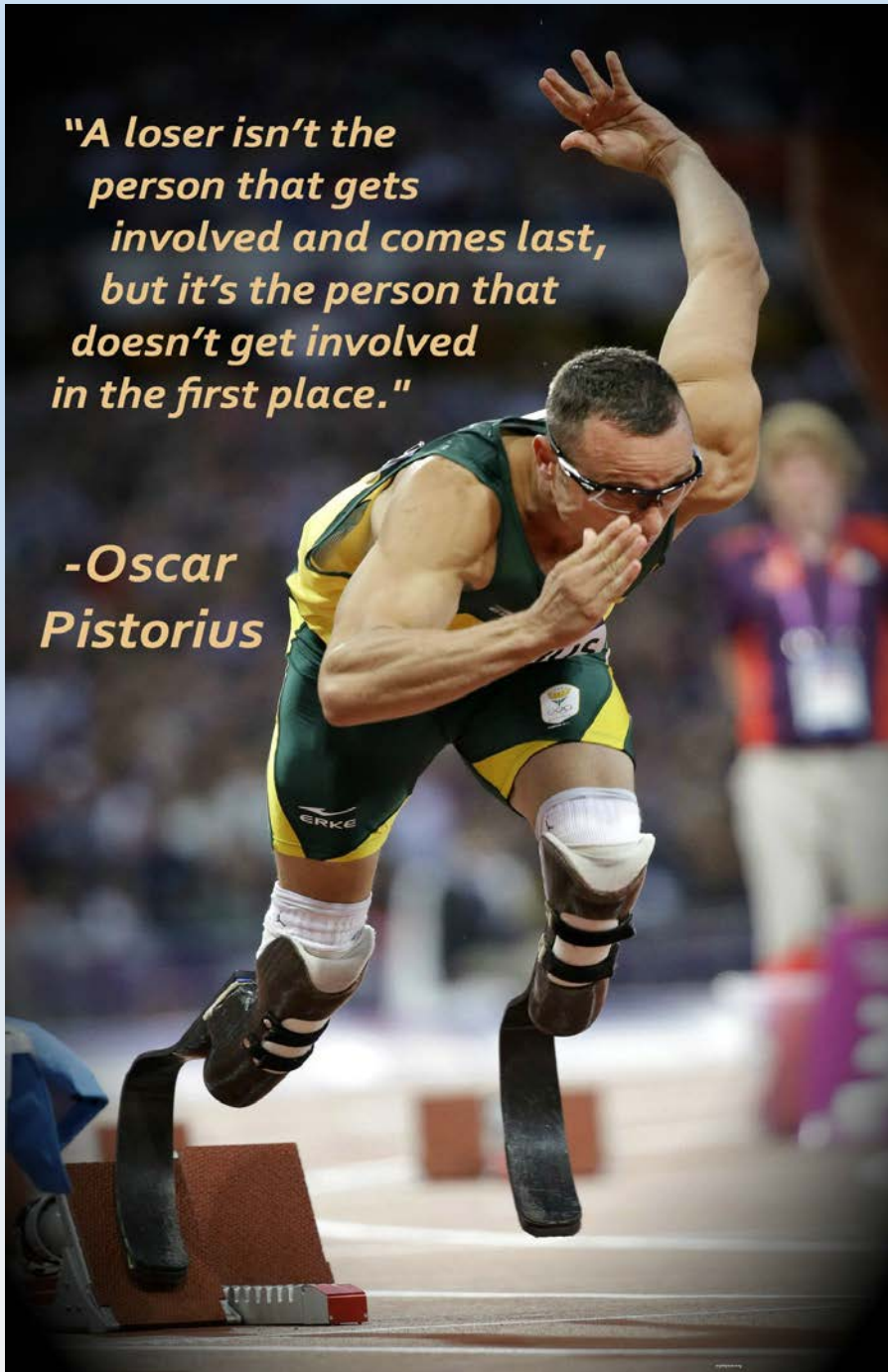


He immediately started his training for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London. At the same time, however, he won three gold medals at the 2011 IPC Athletic World Championships. **Pistorius** tried to prove he could compete with the best able-bodied runners in the world. In 2012, he became the first double amputee to compete against able-bodied runners, adding to his fame as the “Blade Runner”.



"A loser isn't the person that gets involved and comes last, but it's the person that doesn't get involved in the first place."

-Oscar Pistorius



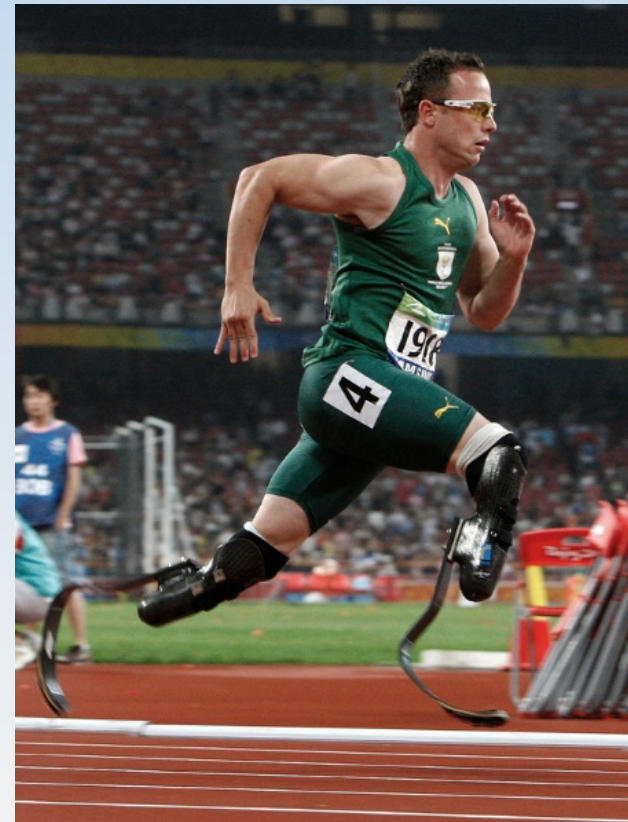
His motto is: "You're not disabled by the disabilities you have, you are able by the abilities you have."

**"BEING DISABLED
DOESN'T HAVE TO BE
A DISADVANTAGE."**



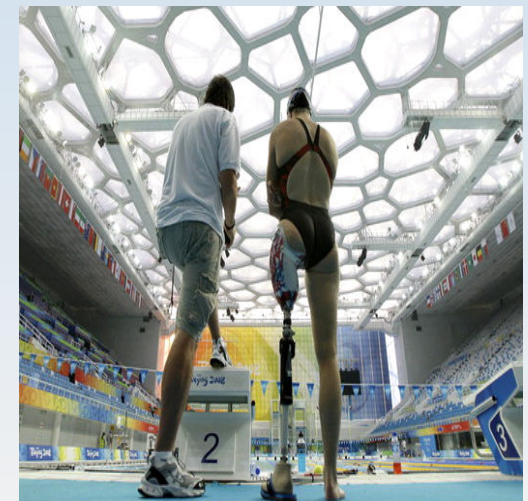
Pistorius' determination to succeed made him one of the world's most recognizable athletes.

For many, he was an example of what could be achieved through a potent mix of determination, positivity and skill.





In general, the Paralympic Games present the incredible power of the soul and the will which is capable to overcome natural obstacles, showing us that 'disability' cannot stop the man, if he believes in the abilities and himself.



Some Videos:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QD-oqGceF3A>
- <http://www.biography.com/people/oscar-pistorius-20910935>

WR 45.39
PR 47.49

THE END

35.9
400m

35.9