What is the historical and sociological significance of the relationship between race and sports in America? Why do many race and sports events transcend the playing field?

What is the historical and sociological significance of minority athletes; e.g., Joe Louis, Hank Greenberg, Muhammad Ali, Arthur Ashe, Billie Jean King, Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, and Michael Vick? What are the differences between minority athletes who are “heroes” and those who are “celebrities”?

Why is Jackie Robinson a civil rights hero? How does his impact on America compare to that of other racial, ethnic, and gender pioneers in sports and other fields? And how has Rachel Robinson preserved and promoted her late husband’s legacy? What has been her role in the struggle for equality?

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