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## ***Jack Johnson: His Own Man***

The impact of Jack Johnson on sport history will forever live on. This man became champion against all odds, and was not afraid to brag about it either physically or verbally. Johnson was the son of an enslaved worker but those barriers never kept him from thinking big or departing from the perceived norm. Johnson enjoyed gambling, fancy clothes and cars, and white women. The phenomenon of Jack Johnson is constructed through sporting and societal structures, codes, and themes that are both unwritten and written. They include the 'natural' black athlete myths, institutionalized racism, career transition, stereotypes, superiority and inferiority beliefs, symbolism, role modeling, policy making, and intimate dating norms. All of these are present today, were present in the past, and will probably be present in the future of sports and the experiences of African-American male athletes.