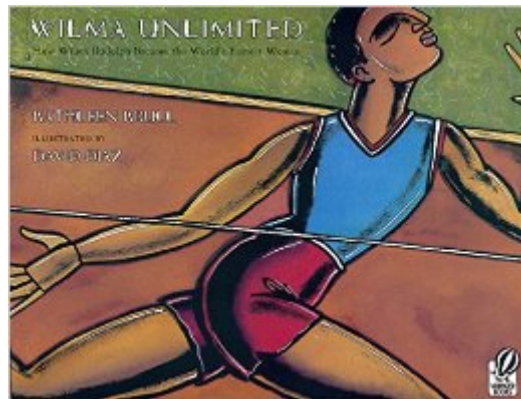


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# Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became The World's Fastest Woman



## Synopsis

Before Wilma Rudolph was five years old, polio had paralyzed her left leg. Everyone said she would never walk again. But Wilma refused to believe it. Not only would she walk again, she vowed, she'd run. And she did run--all the way to the Olympics, where she became the first American woman to earn three gold medals in a single olympiad. This dramatic and inspiring true story is illustrated in bold watercolor and acrylic paintings by Caldecott Medal-winning artist David Diaz.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730 (What's this?)

Paperback: 44 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (February 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152020985

ISBN-13: 978-0152020989

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (39 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #15,410 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Sports & Outdoors > Track & Field](#) #4 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors >](#)

[Olympics](#) #15 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Sports & Recreation](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Inspirational stories fill hundreds of picture books every year. Most are simply awful. They either tell tales that are loose plots barely supported by facts or they paste together a slapdash concoction of truth and fiction with as little thought as possible. The truly beautiful bio-picture books out there are as rare as hummingbirds in autumn. So it was with great joy that I located "Wilma Unlimited" and found it to be not only inspirational but also a darned good read. Written by Kathleen Krull (the woman who could make long dead musicians fascinating in "Lives of the Musicians" and bring Cesar Chavez to life in the recent "Harvesting Hope") and illustrated by David Diaz the book is the best possible way to introduce kids to one of the world's greatest athletes. Born in 1940 to a family of twenty-one people (nineteen siblings, no less), Wilma Rudolph was initially a sickly child. Though she was energetic enough, she often caught every disease imaginable. At the age of five, Wilma's

left leg twisted inward and it was clear that she'd come down with polio. Still, Wilma was a determined child and she consistently exercised her unruly leg to get stronger. After continual practice, she was finally able to walk free of the leg brace that had weighed her down. At twelve the brace was put away for good and Wilma started participating in sports. She led her high school basketball team to the finals, catching the eye of a college coach. Before you knew it, Wilma was recruited into the Tennessee State University's track-and-field team on a full ride scholarship. In 1960 she competed in the Olympic Games in Rome. The book sets this part up beautifully.

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