**BHM 2024 Culture/Diversity week 2**

**Donovan Bailey:Jamaican-Canadian sprinter. He once held the world record for the 100 metres.**

**Donovan Bailey** (born December 16, 1967) is a retired [Jamaican-Canadian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaican_Canadians) sprinter.

He once held the [world record](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_world_records_in_athletics) for the [100 metres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100_metres). He recorded a time of 9.84 seconds to become Olympic champion at the [1996 Summer Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=1996_Summer_Games&action=edit&redlink=1). He was the first Canadian to [legally](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_assistance) break the [10-second barrier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10-second_barrier) in the 100 m. Particularly noted for his top speed, Bailey ran 12.10 m/s (43.6 km/h; 27.1 mph) in his 1996 Olympic title run, the fastest ever recorded by a human at the time.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey#cite_note-3) He was inducted into [Canada's Sports Hall of Fame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada%27s_Sports_Hall_of_Fame) in 2004 as an individual athlete and in 2008 as part of the 1996 Summer Olympics 4x100 relay team.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey#cite_note-4) In 2005, he was also inducted into the [Ontario Sports Hall of Fame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario_Sports_Hall_of_Fame).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey#cite_note-5)

## Early life

Donovan Anthony Bailey was born in [Manchester Parish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_Parish), [Jamaica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica) on December 16, 1967, as the fourth of five sons to George and Daisy Bailey.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey#cite_note-:0-2) Before going to [Mount Olivet Primary School](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Olivet_Primary_School&action=edit&redlink=1), he would take care of his family's [chickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicken), [goats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goat), and [pigs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pig).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey#cite_note-:0-2) Donovan was fast when he was a young boy, with his former teacher Claris Lambert recounting that "He showed his athletic skills from grade one. He always came first in races."[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey#cite_note-:0-2)

Bailey immigrated to Canada at age 12 and played basketball before graduating from Queen Elizabeth Park High School in [Oakville, Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oakville,_Ontario).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey#cite_note-:0-2) During high school, his brother, O'Neil, won 4 [Ontario Provincial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario_Federation_of_School_Athletic_Associations) titles in the long jump. Bailey was exceptionally fast as well, clocking 10.65 seconds in the 100m at the age of 16. However, his main interest was in basketball. After graduating in June 1984, Bailey attended [Sheridan College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheridan_College), for which he played basketball during the 1986–1987 school year. He graduated from Sheridan with a degree in Business Administration. Bailey then began working as a property and marketing consultant for an importing and exporting clothing company.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey#cite_note-thesputnik.ca-6)

## Career

It was only in 1990 that Bailey decided to begin racing professionally; after watching the 1990 [Canadian Track and Field Championships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Track_and_Field_Championships), he realized that most of the men competing were men he had beaten in high school. He began training as a 100m [sprinter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sprint_(running)) part-time, while working as a stockbroker. In 1991, he won the 60 metres at the [Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario) Indoor Championships, and at the [1991 Pan American Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1991_Pan_American_Games) in [Havana, Cuba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Havana,_Cuba), Bailey anchored Canada's [4 × 100 metres relay team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athletics_at_the_1991_Pan_American_Games_%E2%80%93_Men%27s_4_%C3%97_100_metres_relay), to a silver medal. In 1992, Bailey finished second in the 100m at the national championships.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey#cite_note-thesputnik.ca-6)

Bailey's performances considering his terrible form and fitness. Pfaff invited Bailey to train with him and Gilbert at LSU, and with just 3 months of training together, Bailey shaved 3 tenths of a second off of his 100m personal best; his time of 10.03 seconds was the third fastest in Canadian history. **(read more):**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan\_Bailey**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donovan_Bailey)