

Gold medalist
Joyner-Kersee

Betsy makes a famous friend

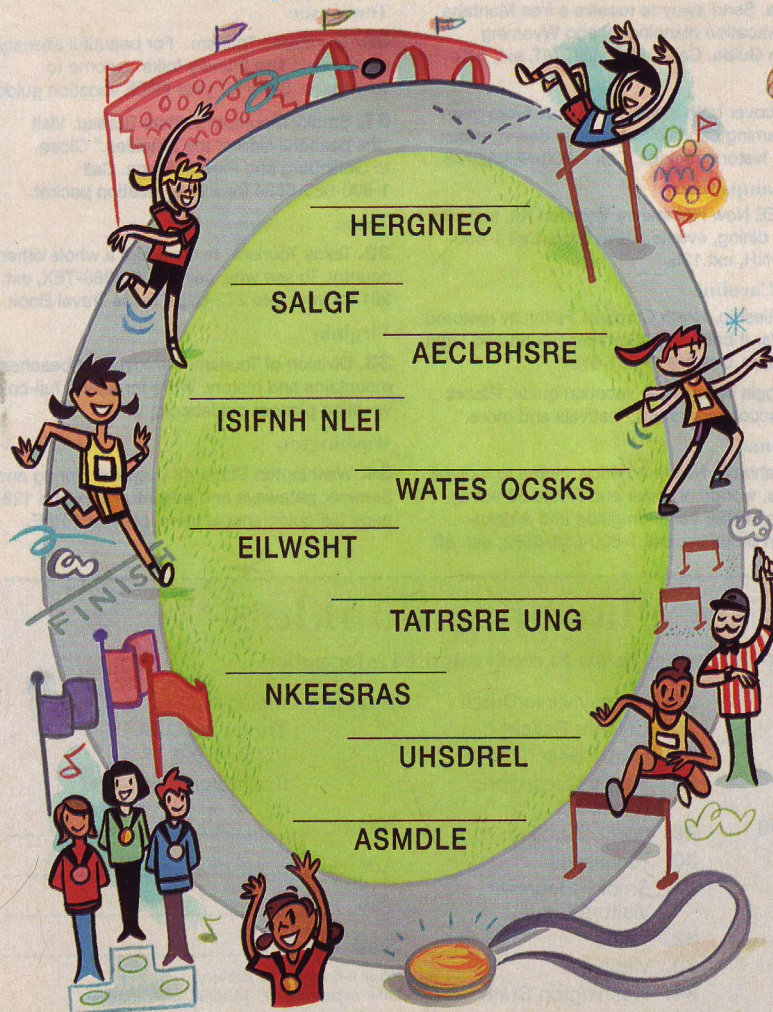
When track practice started, I felt bummed out. The girls who were the fastest runners last year were *still* the best. I mean, I'm not the *slowest*, but just once I'd like to be the one out in front that everyone wants to beat.

So I tried to think of ways to become faster. Then I got an idea. I had seen Jackie Joyner-Kersee running on TV. She's broken records and won gold medals. (Plus, she wears excellent racing outfits.) I decided to write her and ask for advice. I was so excited when I got a

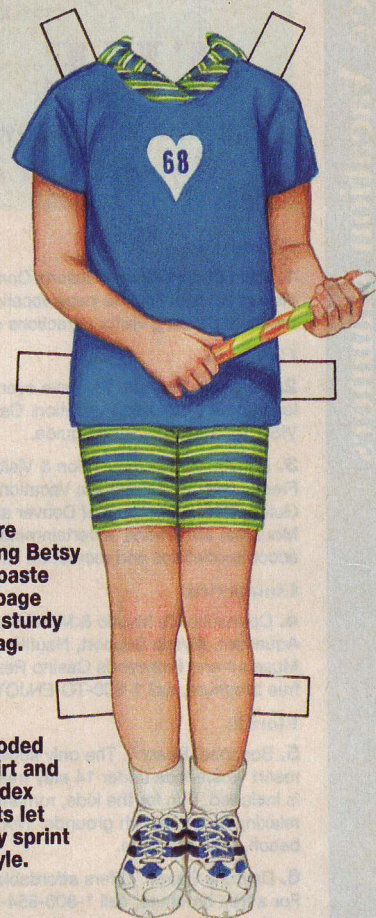
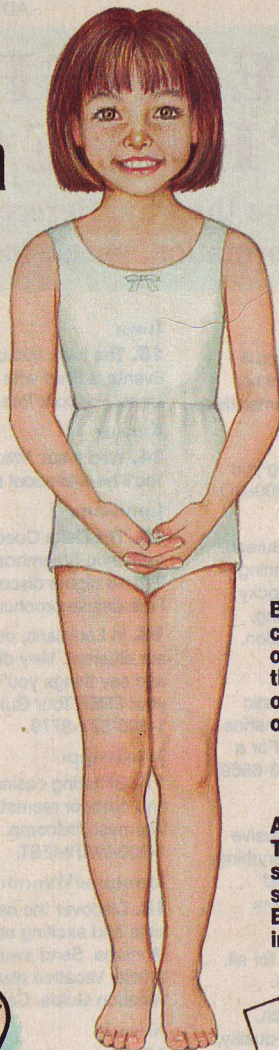
letter back! Believe it or not, Jackie told me she wasn't always the fastest in her class either. In fact, when she was my age and ran her first race, she came in *last*. But she worked really hard and got better. Jackie said what's important is to go out there, do your best and have fun.

It made me feel better to know that a world champion wasn't *always* number one. It's like, you might not be the best at something at first, but if you want it badly enough you should keep trying. You never know what might happen. ■

Unscramble these letters to spell out words from the Olympics.



BETSY McCALL ■



Before cutting Betsy out, paste this page onto sturdy oaktag.

A hooded T-shirt and spandex shorts let Betsy sprint in style.



For a sporty look off the track: a striped turtleneck and red sneakers.