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Nota di contenuto	Queen of the courts: Ora Washington and the emergence of America's first black female sport celebrity -- "The Tuskegee flash": Alice Coachman and the challenges of 1940's U.S. women's track and field -- "A nationwide community project": Althea Gibson, class, and the racial politics of 1950's black tennis -- "Foxes, not oxes": Wilma Rudolph and the de-marginalization of American women's track and field -- "The Swiftie from Tennessee State": Wyomia Tyus and the racial reality of black women track athletes in the 1960's and 1970's -- "A Jackie of all trades": Jackie Joyner-Kersee and the challenges of being the world's greatest female athlete -- Performance-enhanced athletes and "ghetto Cinderellas": black women athletes enter the twenty-first century.
Sommario/riassunto	When high jumper Alice Coachman won the high jump title at the 1941 national championships with "a spectacular leap," African American women had been participating in competitive sport for close to twenty-five years. Yet it would be another twenty years before they would experience something akin to the national fame and recognition that African American men had known since the 1930's, the days of Joe Louis and Jesse Owens. From the 1920's, when black women athletes were confined to competing within the black community, through the heady days of the late twentieth century when they ruled the world of

women's track and field, African American women found sport opened the door to a better life. However, they also discovered that success meant challenging perceptions that many Americans--both black and white--held of them. Through the stories of six athletes--Coachman, Ora Washington, Althea Gibson, Wilma Rudolph, Wyomia Tyus, and Jackie Joyner-Kersee--Jennifer H. Lansbury deftly follows the emergence of black women athletes from the African American community; their confrontations with contemporary attitudes of race, class, and gender; and their encounters with the civil rights movement. Uncovering the various strategies the athletes use to beat back stereotypes, Lansbury explores the fullness of African American women's relationship with sport in the twentieth century.

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