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Point Loma gold medalist sailor sheds light on sport's lack of Olympic recognition

by [VICTORIA DAVIS](#)

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Sailing is a neighborhood sport for many coastal cities, and San Diego is no exception, being home to more than a dozen yacht clubs and host to international races like the Vallarta Race and Extreme Sailing Series. So, it should be no surprise that San Diego would also be home to sailing legends like Gerry Driscoll, Dennis Conner and Mark Reynolds, a four-time Olympian, and two-time gold medalist.

“It’s the sport I was raised on,” said Mark, who also holds six world championship medals. “If I’d grown up in Charlottesville, I’d probably be a racecar driver, but here in Point Loma, sailboats is what we do.”

The son of world champion sailor James Reynolds, an Ocean Beach native, Mark started sailing in the Point Loma Yacht Club’s junior program at age 8 up until age

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Mark Reynolds won his first Olympic gold in Barcelona in 1992.

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17. Shortly after, he left to join the collegiate sailing team at San Diego State and launched into his Olympic sailing career.

Last August, Mark was nominated for the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame, the only sailor in a group of 15 nominees. While he wasn't one of the final athletes chosen to be inducted into the hall, Mark said it came as no surprise.

"A lot of people don't even know sailing is an Olympic sport," said Mark. "We're not on TV much, if at all, and it's not a good spectator sport since we're usually in a totally separate place from the main Olympic events. In the case of the Atlanta Olympics, the sailing was in Savannah and for Seoul, it was in Busan, on the other side of the country."

"It's very different from volleyball or soccer or even swimming in that way," added DeAnn Reynolds, Mark's wife, and sailing partner, who grew up sailing at Mission Beach Yacht Club and competed in world championships and national sailing regattas with her husband.

“I think sailing is probably one of the most unique sports. Unless you grew up around it as Mark and I did, you may not really know anything about it or that it’s a competitive sport.”

Currently, there 154 athletes and coaches listed in the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame and 21 sports recognized, according to the Team USA website. While sports such as boxing, diving, skiing, figure skating, and gymnastics have had five to eight athletes inducted into the hall, swimming has roughly 20, which is still small in comparison to track and field’s 50. Sailing, on the other hand, has yet to have any representation.

“It’s tough because I think it’s more of a glory-type of competition, rather than just who did their sport well,” said DeAnn. “But even when Mark was just nominated, I still thought, ‘Finally.’”

From the time Mark joined Denise Conner for the 1976 Olympics in Montreal as Conner’s boating mechanic, to when he won his first Olympic gold in Barcelona in 1992, sailing was one of the only Olympic sports considered an “amateur” event so none of the athletes were paid to compete. It’s one of the reasons Mark, while simultaneously competing, took up sail making and boat building — a career he still holds today managing Quantum Sails in Point Loma.

“At that time, there wasn’t any such thing as professional sailing so, if you wanted to be a professional, you had to have a way to keep up an income,” said Mark, who served as a sailing coach for the 2008, 2012 and 2016 summer Olympics, training sailing teams from the U.S., Poland, and Germany.

“But all that’s different now. The Olympic sailors today are much more fit than we were when I was competing because they’re not working these 9-5 jobs while they

train, they're at the gym. There's also more coaches available to the teams and more co-ed competitions."

Despite sailing gaining authenticity within the Olympic games, Mark says that sailing still consists of a "pretty small group of athletes," and its recognition remains low. But this hasn't discouraged Mark, now a member of the Olympic Selection Committee for U.S. Sailing, to hope that next year's hall of fame inductions might be different. It certainly hasn't deterred his love for the San Diego hometown sport.

"Sailing's definitely not a sport where you think, if you win a gold medal, you're going to be on a Wheaties box or get all this sponsorship," said Mark, who still occasionally sails with DeAnn on their 31-foot, wooden "PC" boat. "It's kind of a passion project. We don't sail to be seen; we sail because it's just a lot of fun."

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Lisa Sharon | June 11, 2020

I visited my doctor for a second opinion to verify that I am currently experiencing genital warts on both sides of my inner labia caused by HSV which I was not aware I had until the genital warts appeared. I discovered them about 2 months ago and it saddened me to find the warts because I felt it meant I had contracted an STD, I never applied medical drugs or therapies, because I prefer going natural routes first if any are available. At first, I was not sure I'd be able to use anything since the labia is such a sensitive area but I remembered that I had been reviewing series of testimonies on how herbal doctor razor had been curing

people of Genital warts, And I had Them on the bottoms of my feet so I decided to try doctor razor herbs. Thankfully, Doctor razor herbal medication seems to be getting rid of the genital warts. When I first began applying it I noticed some slight aching feelings in my vaginal area that I had never felt before. I no longer feel the aches though. I AM SO GRATEFUL TO BE COMPLETELY CURED OF THIS VIRUS.However, I don't feel the shame anymore and am so grateful to Mother Nature and Doctor Razor for helping a sister out. Reach him on Email : drrazorherbalhome@gmail.com Whatsapp/Call his cell phone on 2349065420442. Doctor Razor's Website : <https://drrazorherbalhome.wixsite.com/drrazorherbalhome>

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denis4x4 | March 16, 2020

Victoria Davis: there in no Point Loma Yacht Club nor a Mission Beach Yacht Club....otherwise a great story.

Reply

Victoria Davis | July 21, 2020

<https://pointlomayachtclub.org/>

<https://mbyc.org/>

Joyce Roland | March 16, 2020

I never believed that i will be happy again after much frustration. I have been rejected by my husband after Six(6) years of marriage just because he met another woman and he left me and the kids to suffer. One day when i was reading through the web i stumbled at a post on how chief dr lucky the great spell caster has helped people to restore broken marriages and relationships and curing of diseases. I emailed him immediately to help my situation via: chiefdr lucky@gmail.com He told me not to worry that my husband will return to me begging and shedding tears of forgiveness. I am so happy that my husband actually returned to me in 48 hours after i obeyed the words and instructions of chief dr lucky. contact him today in any of your problems for a lasting solution via: chiefdr lucky@gmail.com or call/whats app 2348132777335

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rosereg | March 16, 2020

I am very happy today with my family. My name is rose living in USA, My husband left me for a good 3 years now, and i love him so much, i have been looking for a way to get him back since then. i have tried many options but he did not come back, until i met a friend that darted me to Dr.Larry a

spell caster, who helped me to bring back my husband after 48hours of contacting him. Me and my husband are living happily together today, That man is great, you can contact him via email assurancesolutionhome@gmail.com Now i will advice any serious persons that found themselves in this kind of problem to contact him now a fast solution without stress.. He always there when you need him, now i call him my father. contact him email assurancesolutionhome@gmail.com or whatsapp number 1(424)-261-8520

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Helen Fisher | March 15, 2020

I am not sure I could have done it without you dr unity. I would have given up and believed that because my husband was with someone else we were done.

I wanted to thank you for your love spell during my recent separation from my husband of 30 years. I wanted to share my happy with you all. My husband was cheating on me and when i found out we had a fight which lead to him filling for a divorce i cried and fell sick, when i was searching about love quotes online i saw people talking about dr unity and his great work whose case was similar to mine they left his contact info i contacted him and he told me not to worry that after 28 hrs he will cancel the divorce and be back to me after i did everything he asked me to do. to my greatest surprise the next day evening it was my husband he knelt down begging me to accept him back,thank you once again dr unity you are indeed a blessing to me he can also help you .Here's his contact, Email him at: Unityspelltemple@gmail.com or Call/WhatsApp him: 2348055361568 'Thank you. We are forever indebted..

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VIVIA | March 15, 2020

i couldn't believe that i would ever be re-unite with my ex-lover, i was so traumatize staying all

alone with no body to stay by me and to be with me, but i was so lucky one certain day to meet this powerful spell caster Dr Akhere,after telling him about my situation he did everything humanly possible to see that my lover come back to me,indeed after casting the spell my ex-lover came back to me less than 48 hours,my ex-lover came back begging me that he will never leave me again,3 months later we got engaged and married,if you are having this same situation just contact Dr Akhere on his email: AKHERETEMPLE@gmail.com thanks very much sir for restoring my ex-lover back to me,his email: AKHERETEMPLE@gmail.com or call/whatsapp: 2349057261346

hindi ako makapaniwala na kailanman ay muling makiisa ako sa aking kasintahan, labis akong na-trauma sa pananatiling nag-iisa na walang katawan na manatili sa akin at makakasama ko, ngunit napakasuwerte ako sa isang tiyak na araw upang matugunan ito malakas na spell caster na si Dr Akhere, matapos sabihin sa kanya ang tungkol sa aking sitwasyon ginawa niya ang lahat ng makataong posible upang makita na ang aking kasintahan ay bumalik sa akin, sa katunayan matapos na ihagis ang spell ang aking dating kasintahan ay bumalik sa akin ng mas mababa sa 48 oras, dumating ang dating kasintahan ko. bumalik sa pagmamakaawa sa akin na hindi na niya ako pababayaang, 3 buwan mamaya kami ay nakipag-ugnay at nag-asawa, kung nagkakaroon ka ng parehong sitwasyong ito makipag-ugnay lamang kay Dr Akhere sa kanyang email: AKHERETEMPLE@gmail.com maraming salamat sa sir sa pagpapanumbalik ng aking dating kasintahan bumalik sa akin, ang kanyang email: AKHERETEMPLE@gmail.com o tumawag / whatsapp: 2349057261346

Reply

Aisha Kun | March 15, 2020

Great Mother is Real... I am Aisha Kun and i want to testify about Great Mother how she cured me of hiv aids. I was diagnosed of this disease some time ago and i was worried. when i was searching the internet looking for a cure, i came across some testimonies of Great Mother how she has helped a lot of people and i decided to contact her on her info and explained to her. She laughed and told me that she will help me and i was surprised. She sent me the cure and it was a spiritual holy oil and water which is more than a medicine. She directed me on how to take it and i did. I took the cure for 3 weeks and i went to the doctor for check up and to my greatest surprise the disease was no longer in my system. I am so glad and i want to thank Great Mother for helping me. Contact her now on her email: Greatmotherofsolutiontemple1@yahoo.com you can also reach her on her whatsapp

number 17025514367. You can also check her out on her blog page on: Greatmotherofpowers.blogspot.com If you have any disease, she can help you. Contact her now

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