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# Rio Olympics 2016: Usain Bolt - the world's fastest man by those who know him best

Posted by [Richard Peck](#) | 16 Aug, 2016



Mum Jennifer said she knew her son was special by the time he was three weeks old - but while every parent harbours high hopes for their children, not many witness them go on to become the fastest man on earth.

Bolt is chasing a "treble treble" in Rio, with the 100m crown the first box ticked off a list that also features 200m and 4x100m glory at what the 29-year-old has promised will be his final Olympic Games.

Bolt has come a long way from the playful child who learned to run in the parish of Trelawney, Jamaica and would cry when he lost a race.

"He doesn't like to lose," dad Wellesley told BBC Sport.

Seven Olympic gold medals, 11 world titles and a hatful of world records means there has been little time for tears throughout his career.

"At school it was at about five that we noticed that he was competing against his classmates and he was always winning," said Jennifer.

"He was always on top. From then, we noticed he would be a great athlete."

Growing up alongside brother and sister Sadiki and Sherine, Wellesley says his son was "very jovial" and despite a few problems he did "nothing out of the ordinary for a child".

Meanwhile, at William Knibb High School, a young Usain was more interested in playing cricket

than hitting the athletics track, saying he was "so in love" with the sport "he didn't want to do anything else".

The teenager eventually heeded the advice of PE teacher Lorna Thorpe, who told Bolt he must focus on athletics if he wanted to reach the top as he had "a gold mine in his legs".  
"It's a passion. You ask Usain, he'll tell you that. It's just a passion," she added.

And the champion certainly appreciates his teacher's influence now.

"She's like a second mum," he said.

"When I was in high school she looked out for me, she was always on me in school, making sure everything was OK, always focused. So she played a very big part for me."