

Black History Month



Ian Wright

Ian came into professional football relatively late. He had a difficult childhood and claims his teacher Sydney Pigden was his 'first positive male figure'. Despite trials during his teens, he could not win a professional contract offer, leaving him playing amateur league and feeling disillusioned about football. Facing poverty, Ian spent a short period in prison for not paying his fines, at which time he decided to make sure he did all he could to change his life. Ian signed his first professional contract at age of 21 and went on to have an amazing career. He was awarded an MBE for his services to football.

Claudia Jones

Born in Belmont, Port of Spain, Trinidad in 1915, Claudia Vera Cumberbatch emigrated to New York city with her family when she was nine years old. Even though she was very clever, she was classed as an immigrant which limited her options. She began working in a laundry, while writing for a Harlem journal. Using the fake name 'Jones' to protect her identity, she worked as editor-in-chief for two Brixton papers to unify the black community against racial discrimination. Claudia relentlessly championed civil rights, gender equality, and decolonisation through her journalism, community organisation and renowned public speaking.

Stormzy

Born in Croydon, Michael Ebenezer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr., otherwise known as Stormzy, is a British rapper, singer and songwriter. In 2014, he gained attention on the UK underground music scene through his Wicked Skengman series of freestyles over classic grime beats before releasing Shut Up, which charted at number 8 in the UK Singles Charts. He won Best Grime Act at the 2014 and 2015 MOBO Awards and his debut album, Gang Signs & Prayer (2017), was the first grime album to reach number 1 in the UK. In 2020, he shared plans to donate £1 million a year for 10 years to charities, organisations and movements that are committed to fight racial inequality, justice reform and black empowerment in the United Kingdom.

Chadwick Boseman

Born and raised in Anderson, South Carolina, Chadwick wrote and staged his first play Crossroads in his junior year of High School. Moving to Los Angeles in 2008 to pursue his acting career, he became known for his acting skills and his role as T'Challa in Black Panther and Avengers. A symbol of hope and pride for the black community, Chadwick was very humble. Raised a Christian, he was a philanthropic who donated both his time and finances. Chadwick died in 2020 after being diagnosed with colon cancer in 2016. He never spoke publicly about his diagnosis, instead choosing to radiate charisma and joy. We lift you up Chadwick.

#WakandaForever #BlackPanther