

Profile of an Athlete

1. In Version A, what does the underlined information and the circled information refer to?
2. Compare Versions A and B, and **highlight** the differences between the two in Version B.

Version A

Oscar Pistorius is a runner from South Africa who was born on November 22, 1986. He was born without the bones that support the calf muscles in both of his legs. Refusing to put their son in a wheelchair for life, Oscar's parents chose to have his lower legs cut off so that he could walk with the help of artificial legs or prosthetics. In spite of his disability, Oscar played sports when he was in school. He played soccer, water polo, tennis and even wrestled.

At 17, Oscar competed in his first Olympics at the Summer Paralympics, which are games for disabled athletes, in Athens, Greece. Oscar started badly in his first event, the 200-metre qualifying race. He tripped and fell, but he got up, crossed the finish line and qualified for the race. He would eventually win the gold medal in the event with a world-record time of 21.97 seconds. Oscar went on to break many more world records.

Then, Oscar wanted to compete with able-bodied athletes at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. To do so, he had to qualify with a time of 45.55 seconds or under in the 400-metre race. Unfortunately, he failed to make the qualifying time.

Since 2008, Oscar Pistorius has improved. He has reduced his qualifying time to under 45.55 seconds. At the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, Oscar became the first double leg amputee to participate in the Olympics.

Version B

Oscar Pistorius might just be one of the best runners the world has ever seen. He was born in South Africa on November 22, 1986 without the bones that support the calf muscles in both of his legs. His parents didn't want him in a wheelchair for life, and so chose to have his lower legs cut off so that he could walk with the help of artificial legs or prosthetics. In spite of his disability, Oscar played many sports when he was in school, including soccer, water polo, tennis and even wrestling. Nothing was too difficult for Oscar!

At 17, Oscar competed in his first Olympics at the Summer Paralympics, which are games for disabled athletes, in Athens, Greece. Oscar tripped and fell in the 200-metre qualifying race, but courageously got up, and with the greatest confidence crossed the finish line and qualified for the race! He eventually won the gold medal in the event and won it with a most impressive world-record time of 21.97 seconds. Oscar has gone on to break many more world records.

Oscar then wanted to compete with able-bodied athletes at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. To do this, he had to qualify with a time of 45.55 seconds or under in the 400-metre race. Unfortunately, he failed to make the qualifying time.

Since 2008, Oscar Pistorius has improved beyond all expectations. He reduced his qualifying time and at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, Oscar became the first double leg amputee to participate in the Olympics. Oscar Pistorius is my Olympic Hero!