

## NOAH LYLES RECORDS BREATHTAKING PHOTO-FINISH AT PARIS OLYMPICS FINAL.



On the afternoon of the fourth of August, in the frenzied atmosphere of the 69,000-capacity Stade de France in Paris, Noah Lyles worked through his pre-race rituals with a calm demeanour and steely resolve. Less than ten seconds after the race started, Lyles emerged as the first American 100m gold medalist in 20 years, tying Justin Gatlin's achievement at the 2004 Athens Olympics. Lyles' victory was a demonstration of the Florida-born athlete's dedication to his craft and a long-awaited crowning moment.

The son of two track and field athletes, Lyles was born in Gainesville, Florida on the 18th of July 1997. As a child, he maintained interests in a diverse range of sports, originally competing in

gymnastics before switching to track and field at the age of 12. Along with his brother Josephus, Lyles promised to compete at the Olympics at some point in his career. In 2014, he took a step towards his dreams by participating at the Youth Olympic games, where he won a gold medal in the 200m event.



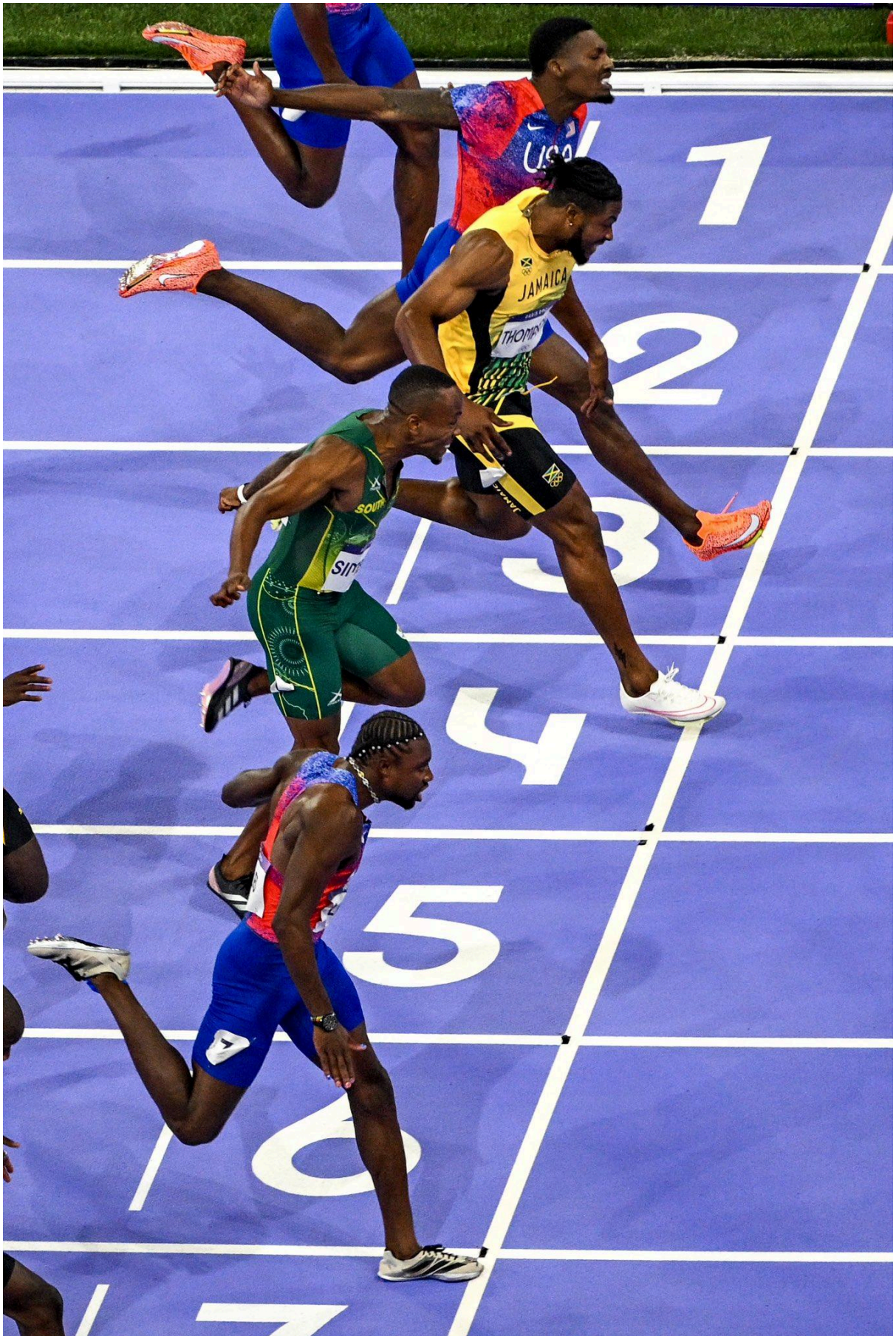
Throughout his career, Lyles has maintained an outspoken personality, often offering his views on sports and culture in his home country, America, and beyond. One particular incident stands out. In a 2023 press conference at the end of the World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Lyles took aim at the National Basketball Association (NBA) for labelling their league winner as world champions. “You know the thing that hurts me the most is that I have to watch the NBA Finals and they have ‘world champion’ on their head,” he said. “World champion of what? The United States? Don’t get me wrong, I love the U.S. at times, but that ain’t the world...We are the world.”





Lyles' comments sparked debate amongst athletes and commentators who questioned the validity of his thoughts regarding the NBA's claim. In the build-up to his final appearance on the fourth of August, those comments resurfaced but they seemed far away from Lyles' mind as he took to the track to compete in the final. In the stands were a number of NBA stars and fellow American Olympians like Devin Booker, Joel Embiid and Jayson Tatum who came to keep an eye on Lyles' participation. Assistant coach Tyronn Lue and managing director Grant Hill were also in attendance.





A fiercely-contested race, the 100m finals went down to the wire as Lyles won in a photo-finish that had the sporting world transfixed. The 27-year-old finished ahead of Jamaica's Kishane Thompson who claimed silver, finishing a mere five-thousandths of a second off Lyles' astonishing pace. Lyles' US teammate Fred Kerley took bronze with a 9.81seconds finish, coming ahead of South Africa's Akani Simbine.

Conversation on social media in the wake of Lyles' win was centred on what part of the body certifies a win as Thompson and Kerley both had their feet on the line before Lyles. However, the confirmed results affirmed that Lyles won the race. Per Olympic rules and regulations, the torso, not the feet, determines who takes the win, meaning that the athlete whose chest reaches the closest edge of the finish line first is judged the winner. Since the retirement of famed track and field star, Usain Bolt, athletics has been searching for a new star and Lyles' win could be the beginning of a new era in the sport.