

Bob Pickens

Bob Pickens was born on February 2, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Evanston Township High School in 1962. At the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, Pickens was one of the first three African Americans to represent the United States in wrestling, placing sixth in the Greco-Roman division. In 1967, he married Dorris Sharks. In 1969, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 1970, Pickens began working for Sears, Roebuck, and Company, eventually becoming the toy department buyer. In 1988, he became the owner and managing director of Rainbow Classics, Inc. After the death of his first wife in 2001, Pickens married Judith Jamison in 2002. He was inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association Hall of Fame in 1983, the Evanston Township High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996 and the University of Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in 2010. He died on April 12, 2018 of Lou Gehrig's disease.



Sources

<https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/robert-pickens-39>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/evanston/sports/ct-evr-chicago-bears-olympic-wrestling-bob-pickens-tl-0422-story.html>