

FAMOUS SPORTSMEN FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC

There are a lot of famous sportsmen who come from the Czech Republic. Here are just a few of them:

EMIL ZÁTOPEK

Emil Zátopek is definitely **the most famous Czech runner** of all time. He won **four Olympic gold medals**, three of them in **Helsinki in 1952**, where he was **the best runner at 5,000 metres, 10,000 metres and the marathon**. He broke a lot of **world records** and was **the first man who ran 10,000 metres under 29 minutes**.

Zátopek was famous for his **discipline** and for his **extreme training methods**. In 1997, he was declared **the best athlete of the 20th century**. His wife **Dana Zátopková** was also an athlete. She was also very successful. She won the **gold medal for javelin throwing** in Helsinki in 1952.

VĚRA ČÁSLAVSKÁ

Věra Čáslavská was **the most successful Czech gymnast** of all time. She won **more than 140 medals**. She was very successful at the Olympic Games – she won **seven gold and four silver Olympic medals**. She became the **world champion four times** and the **European champion eleven times**.

Like most people, she **hated the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia** in 1968. She **spoke publicly against it** and **was persecuted** for it. After 1989, she could take part in public life again and she received many prizes and awards.

JAROMÍR JÁGR

Jaromír Jágr is **the most famous Czech ice hockey player ever**. He comes from **Kladno** where he started his career. He played for many NHL teams, for example **Pittsburgh Penguins, New York Rangers, and Philadelphia Flyers**. He **won the Stanley Cup twice** and he got many individual awards. At the moment, he is the owner and the main star of the ice hockey club **Rytíři Kladno** ("Kladno Knights" in English).

DOMINIK HAŠEK

Dominik Hašek is a famous Czech **ice hockey goalkeeper**. He played in the NHL for **Chicago Blackhawks, Buffalo Sabres, Detroit Red Wings, and Ottawa Senators**. His nickname is "**The Dominator**". He won the **Stanley Cup** twice. He is a member of the **Hockey Hall of Fame** and the **Czech Hockey Hall of Fame**.

PETR ČECH

Petr Čech is a famous Czech **goalkeeper**. He is one of the best goalkeepers of all time. He is **almost two metres tall**. He played for **Chmel Blšany** and then for **Sparta Prague**. After that he moved abroad. In Britain, he played for **Chelsea** and then for **Arsenal**. With Chelsea, he won **the Premier League title** four times and **the UEFA Champions League title** once. He has two children and he plays the drums.

JAN ŽELEZNÝ

Jan Železný is a famous Czech **javelin thrower**. He is probably the greatest javelin thrower of all time. He won **three Olympic gold medals** and he has been the world champion three times. He **holds the world record** with 98.48 metres. After he retired, he became a **coach**. One of the athletes that he has coached is Barbora Špotáková.

ESTER LEDECKÁ

Ester Ledecká is a Czech **skier and snowboarder**. She won **gold medals** for both skiing and snowboarding at the **Winter Olympic games in Pyeongchang in 2018**. She has also won at least two gold medals for snowboarding at World Championships. Her father is **Janek Ledecký**, a famous Czech singer.

KATEŘINA NEUMANNOVÁ

Kateřina Neumannová is a famous Czech **cross-country skier**. She won **a bronze and a silver Olympic medal** at the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano in 1998, **two silver medals** at the Olympic Games in Salt Lake City in 2002, and **a gold and a silver medal** at the Olympic Games in Turin.

MARTINA SÁBLÍKOVÁ

Martina Sáblíková is a famous Czech **speed skater**. She has won **six Olympic medals, three of them gold**. She is a multiple world champion and she has **broken several world records**. She also takes part in **cycling and inline-skating** competitions. Her younger brother is a speedskater as well.

MARTINA NAVRÁTILOVÁ

Martina Navrátilová is **one of the most successful female tennis players** of all time. She was born in **Czechoslovakia** but emigrated to the **USA** when she was eighteen. She won **59 Grand Slam titles**, including **9 Wimbledon singles championships**. She is a **lesbian** and she often speaks for **gay rights**.

PETRA KVITOVÁ

Petra Kvitová is a famous Czech **tennis player**. She has won many matches and a **bronze Olympic medal**. Petra Kvitová holds her tennis racket in her **left hand**. In 2016, a man got into her flat and **cut her into this hand**. She had to undergo an operation and could not play for some time.

GABRIELA KOUKALOVÁ

Gabriela Koukalová is a Czech **biathlete**. She has won **two silver Olympic medals** so far. She was born Gabriela **Soukalová**, which is nice because it differs from her current name by just one letter. Let's hope she doesn't get divorced and remarry.

ŠTĚPÁNKA HILGERTOVÁ

Štěpánka Hilgertová is a Czech **slalom canoeist**. She **two Olympic gold medals** and many other competitions. She retired in 2017 when she was 49 years old. Now she works for the **Czech National Bank** and tries to make the bankers do some sport.

MARTIN DOKTOR

Martin Doktor is a Czech **sprint canoeist**. He won **two gold medals** at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

JARMILA KRATOCHVÍLOVÁ

Jarmila Kratochvílová is a **former Czechoslovak athlete**. Her specialty was **running**. She won the **400 metres race** and the **800 metres race** at the World Championship in **Helsinki in 1983**. Her time for 800 metres from this Championship is still the **world record** today.

HELENA FIBINGEROVÁ

Helena Fibingerová is a **former Czechoslovak athlete**. Her discipline was **shot put**. In 1983, she **won the World Championship in Helsinki**. She still holds the **indoor world record** with 22.50 metres.

JIŘÍ RAŠKA

Jiří Raška was a famous Czech **ski jumper**. He was **the first Czech who won a gold medal at Winter Olympic Games**. It happened in 1968. He was born in Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, which is a town in the Beskydy Mountains. He started skiing when he was a child. The writer **Ota Pavel** wrote a **story about Raška's victory**.

BARBORA ŠPOTÁKOVÁ

Barbora Špotáková is a famous Czech **javelin thrower**. She has won **two gold** Olympic medals and **one bronze** Olympic medal. She has won the **World Championship** three times and she holds the **current world record**. She was the **Czech athlete of the year in 2008 and in 2012**.

LUKÁŠ KRPÁLEK

Lukáš Krpálek is a Czech **heavyweight judoka**. He is **the most successful Czech judoka** of all time. He is **almost two metres tall** and weighs **over 100 kilos**. He became the **Olympic Champion** in **Rio de Janeiro** in 2016. In 2018, he won the European Championship in Tel Aviv. He is also an **amateur fisherman**. When he catches a fish, he throws it back into the water. That's nice.

TOMÁŠ DVOŘÁK AND ROMAN ŠEBRLE

Tomáš Dvořák and Roman Šebrle are famous Czech **decathletes**. Tomáš Dvořák **has won the World Championship three times** and used to hold the world record. After he retired, he became a **coach**. Roman Šebrle was **the first decathlete who scored more than 9,000 points**. He became an **Olympic Champion in Athens in 2004** and the **World Champion in Osaka in 2007**.

IVAN LENDL

Ivan Lendl is a retired Czech-American **tennis player**. He won **97 single titles** and was the world number one for **270 weeks**. After he finished his professional tennis career, he became a **coach**. He also started playing golf.

JOSEF MASOPUST

Josef Masopust is a **legendary Czech football player**. He represented Czechoslovakia in **63 matches** in which he scored **10 goals**. He helped the Czechoslovak team to be **third** at the **European Championship in 1960** and **second** at the **World Championship in 1962**. He is famous not only for his skills but also for his **sense of fair play**.

PAVEL NEDVĚD

Pavel Nedvěd is a famous Czech **football player**. He played for **Sparta Praha** and then for **Lazio Rome** and **Juventus Turin**. He was part of the team that came **second** at the **European Championship in 1996**.

LUKÁŠ BAUER

Lukáš Bauer is a Czech **cross-country skier**. He won **one silver and two bronze Olympic medals**.

ALEŠ VALENTA

Aleš Valenta is a Czech **freestyle skier**. He became an **Olympic Champion in Salt Lake city in 2002**. After he finished his professional sports career, he became a radio and TV **talk show host**.

DANIEL ORÁLEK AND RADEK BRUNNER

Daniel Orálek is a Czech **long-distance runner**. He specializes in **ultramarathons**. He has won the **100km race in Winschotten** in the Netherlands **four times** and he was **the first Czech who finished Badwater Ultramarathon** – a 217-kilometre race that takes place in Death Valley, California. Radek Brunner is another Czech **ultra runner**. In 2017, he came **second** at **Spartathlon**, a race from Athens to Sparta which is 246 kilometres long.

PAVEL MASLÁK

Pavel Maslák is a Czech **runner**. His speciality is **400 metres**. He has won the **World Indoor Championship** three times.

DAVID NAVARA

David Navara is a Czech **chess grandmaster**. He is the Czech chess player at the moment.

The overview is largely based on the following sources:

- <https://www.runczech.com/cs/o-nas/o-nas/historie-pim/emil-zatopek/index.shtml>
- <https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/liide/vera-caslavska/>
- <https://radiozurnal.rozhlas.cz/osobnosti-a-kultura-68-7571690/5>
- <https://www.olympic.cz/sportovec/1376--vera-caslavska>
- <https://sport.aktualne.cz/jaromir-jagr/l~i:keyword:5097/>
- https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jarom%C3%ADr_J%C3%A1gr
- https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ester_Ledeck%C3%A1
- <https://neumannova.cz/biografie/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martina_S%C3%A1bl%C3%ADkov%C3%A1
- <https://www.atletika.cz/reprezentace/medailony-atletu/jarmila-kratochvilova/>
- <https://www.martinanavratilova.com/biography>
- <https://www.martinanavratilova.com/martinas-story>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martina_Navratilova
- https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petra_Kvitová
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominik_Ha%C5%A1ek
- https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriela_Koukalov%C3%A1
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%A0t%C4%9Bp%C3%A1nka_Hilgertov%C3%A1
- https://www.irozhlaz.cz/sport/ostatni-sporty/vodni-slalom-stepanka-hilgertova-50-narozeniny-cnb-deblkanoe-reprezentace_1804101530_vman
- <https://www.atletika.cz/reprezentace/medailony-atletu/helena-fibingerova-3/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helena_Fibingerov%C3%A1
- <https://www.czech-ski.com/o-nas/aktuality/olympijske-pribehy-jiri-raska-zlaty-skokan-ktery-se-nevznasel-v-oblacich>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbora_%C5%A0pot%C3%A1kov%C3%A1

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petr_%C4%8Cech
- https://www.judoinside.com/judoka/41555/Lukas_Krpalek/judo-career
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luk%C3%A1%C5%A1_Krp%C3%A1lek
- https://www.idnes.cz/sport/ostatni/judista-krpalek-je-rybar.A131018_204532_sporty_tp
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_%C5%BDelezn%C3%BD
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom%C3%A1%C5%A1_Dvo%C5%99%C3%A1k
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_%C5%A0ebrle
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivan_Lendl
- <https://www.fdb.cz/lidi-zivotopis-biografie/513617-josef-masopust.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Masopust
- <http://www.pavelnedved.cz/biografie/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luk%C3%A1%C5%A1_Bauer
- <https://www.fdb.cz/lidi-zivotopis-biografie/273220-ales-valenta.html>
- https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Or%C3%A1lek
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Badwater_Ultramarathon
- https://www.idnes.cz/sport/atletika/ultramaraton-atheny-sparta-radek-brunner.A170930_103456_atletika_tof
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Navara
- <https://www.atletika.cz/reprezentace/medailony-atletu/pavel-maslak/>