

= Tora Harris =

Tora Lian @-@ Juin Harris (born September 21 , 1978) is an American high jumper . He is a Princeton University engineer of Taiwanese and African @-@ American descent . Harris is an Olympian , a four @-@ time national champion and two @-@ time bronze medalist in international competition . He represented Team USA twice in the IAAF World Championships in Athletics , three times in the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Athletics and has served as a representative once in the IAAF Continental Cup . He spent two years as the No. 1 ranked high jumper in the United States .

In college , Harris was a five @-@ time All @-@ American , while earning the two individual (2002 indoor and outdoor) National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championships . He also represented Team USA at one World University Games . He is both the Ivy League indoor and outdoor high jump record holder and Princeton 's only two @-@ time NCAA individual event track and field champion . He is an eight @-@ time individual Ivy League / Heptagonal champion , winning the indoor and outdoor high jump championships four times each .

= = Early life = =

Harris was born in College Park , Georgia . His mother , Susan (Su @-@ Chen) , is Taiwanese . His father , Tommie Lee Harris (1934 ? 1999) , was African American . His parents made him take Chinese lessons when he was young , and he now speaks the language fluently . He attended first grade in Taiwan , where he was introduced to jumping . Harris high jumped 7 feet (2 @-@ 13 m) in high school . He placed second in the 1997 Georgia High School Association Class AAA high jump championships . Harris is a 1997 alumnus of South Atlanta High School and was a member of Princeton University 's graduating class of 2002 . Harris studied mechanical and aerospace engineering at Princeton .

= = College career = =

While at Princeton , Harris excelled at intercollegiate athletics . Harris was a four @-@ time NCAA Outdoor Track & Field All @-@ American placing 7th , 5th , 4th and 1st in 1998 , 1999 , 2001 and 2002 , respectively . He also was an NCAA Indoor All @-@ American in 2002 when he placed 1st at the NCAA Championships . He did not participate in intercollegiate competition in 2000 in order to prepare for the 2000 United States Olympic trials . He failed to make the team after finishing seventh at the Olympic trials .

He earned his the indoor heptagonal championships in 2001 , tying an Ivy League indoor record (7 feet 3 @-@ 25 inches (2 @-@ 22 m)) that still stood as of 2011 . He won the 2001 outdoor Heptagonal championships with a record jump of 7 feet 5 @-@ 25 inches (2 @-@ 27 m) . That year he was the Indoor Heptagonal Championships Most Outstanding Performer and Outdoor Heptagonal Championships Most Outstanding Performer as well as the Mid @-@ Atlantic Region Male Indoor Athlete of the Year as selected by the United States Track Coaches Association . He won a bronze medal at the 2001 World University Games . His 2002 outdoor Heptagonal championships performance of 7 feet 7 inches (2 @-@ 31 m) continues to be an Ivy League outdoor record .

Harris concluded his collegiate career with a total of eight Ivy League / Heptagonal individual championships . He was also both the NCAA indoor and outdoor champion in 2002 . By winning both the indoor and outdoor NCAA championships , he became Princeton 's only two @-@ time NCAA individual event track and field champion . He finished second to Yasser El Halaby as Princeton 's Athlete of the 2000 ? 09 Decade .

= = Professional career = =

He was a two @-@ time United States National indoor champion (2005 and 2007) and a two

@-@ time United States National outdoor champion (2006 and 2009) . At the 2003 USA Indoor Track and Field Championships , Harris , Charles Austin and Charles Clinger all posted heights of 7 feet 6 @.@ 5 inches (2 @.@ 30 m) , with Austin claiming gold based on fewer misses and Harris winning a jump off for silver . On two other occasions (2006 Indoor vs. Adam Shunk at 2 @.@ 25 m , and 2010 Outdoor vs. Jesse Williams at 2 @.@ 26 m) he earned silver medals at the US national championships despite clearing as high a height as the gold medalist .

He was a member of the United States team at the 2004 Summer Olympics along with high jumpers Matt Hemingway and Jamie Nieto . Harris failed to advance past the first round when he could not clear 7 feet 2 @.@ 5 inches (2 @.@ 20 m) on any of his three attempts leaving him with a best height of 7 feet (2 @.@ 13 m) and a 17th @-@ place finish . He represented the United States at the IAAF World Championships in Athletics in both 2003 and 2009 and in the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Athletics in 2003 , 2004 and 2006 . He won a bronze medal at the 2006 IAAF World Cup .

Harris was the No. 1 ranked high jumper in the United States according to Track & Field News in both 2002 and 2006 and was among the top 10 every year from 2001 through 2009 . His personal best jump is 2 @.@ 33 metres (7 ft 7 @.@ 73 in) , achieved in June 2006 in Indianapolis . Harris trains out of his Chula Vista , California residence .

He has developed , produced and marketed the electric ODK cargo bike , under the Juiced Riders name .