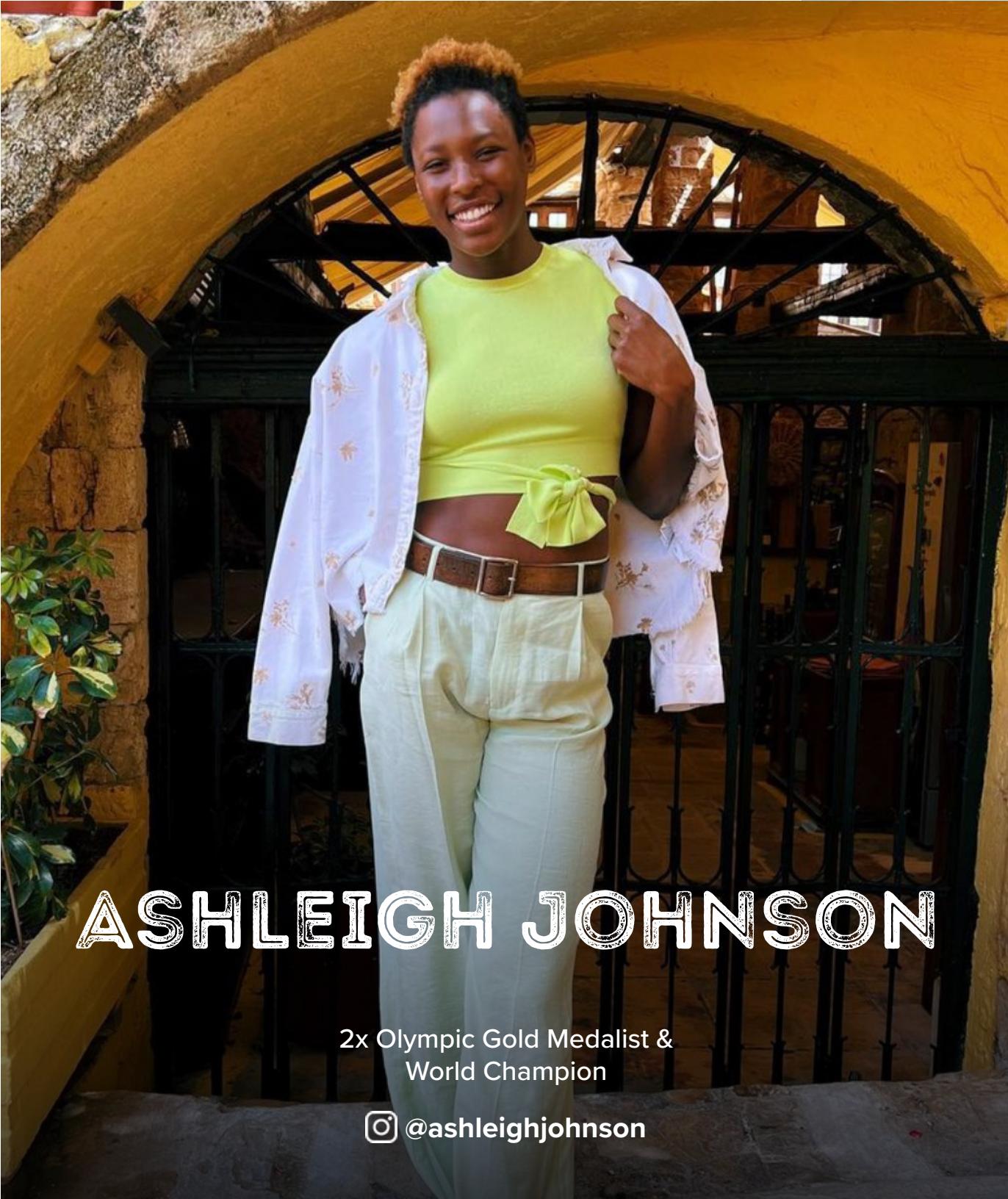


ASHLEIGH JOHNSON

2x Olympic Gold Medalist &
World Champion

 @ashleighjohnson



HER STORY

Though only 28, and already a 2-Time Olympic Gold Medalist & 3-Time World Champion, Ashleigh Johnson is widely considered the best water polo goalie in the world, and perhaps the best ever. While she is proud of her athletic accomplishments, what truly inspires is her position as a role model in the African-American community. Ashleigh is the only black athlete on all of Team USA Water Polo and one of very few in the world.

"I want to be part of breaking color barriers, not just in water polo or swimming, but in all areas of life. I want to inspire young girls and boys of color, of all colors, to challenge societal norms and pursue excellence wherever their heart leads them." - Ashleigh Johnson

Born and raised in Miami, Florida with three brothers and a sister, Ashleigh is the only member of Team USA not from California. A talented swimmer, Ashleigh got into water polo simply because it was more fun than swimming laps. That turned out to be a fortuitous decision.



She attended Ransom Everglades High School where she was a 3-time State Champion, then went on to Princeton University, where she became an All-American. In 2015, she lead the Princeton Tigers to the NCAA tournament, then stepped away long enough to lead Team USA to the gold medal at the World Championships, where she was named MVP of the tournament. Since then Ashleigh has remained one of the most dominant players in the world, winning The Pan Am Games, World Cups, three World Championships, and two Olympic Gold medals. She has her sights set on making it three in a row at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France.



Ashleigh and her sister Chelsea have partnered with Breakthrough Miami, an organization that provides an ongoing academic enrichment program to Miami area under-resourced middle school students, most often students of color, geared to provide excellent high school opportunities, and to help students graduate from high school on time and attend college. Ashleigh and Chelsea have created a learn-to-swim course as part of the curriculum through which hundreds of students have taken to the water.

"Sometimes all it takes to change a way of thinking or break a stereotype is an opportunity. With Breakthrough Miami, Chelsea and I are able to provide a unique opportunity to a lot of students who might not otherwise be in a pool. It's not just about swimming, it's about learning to seek out opportunities through which you learn and grow." - Ashleigh



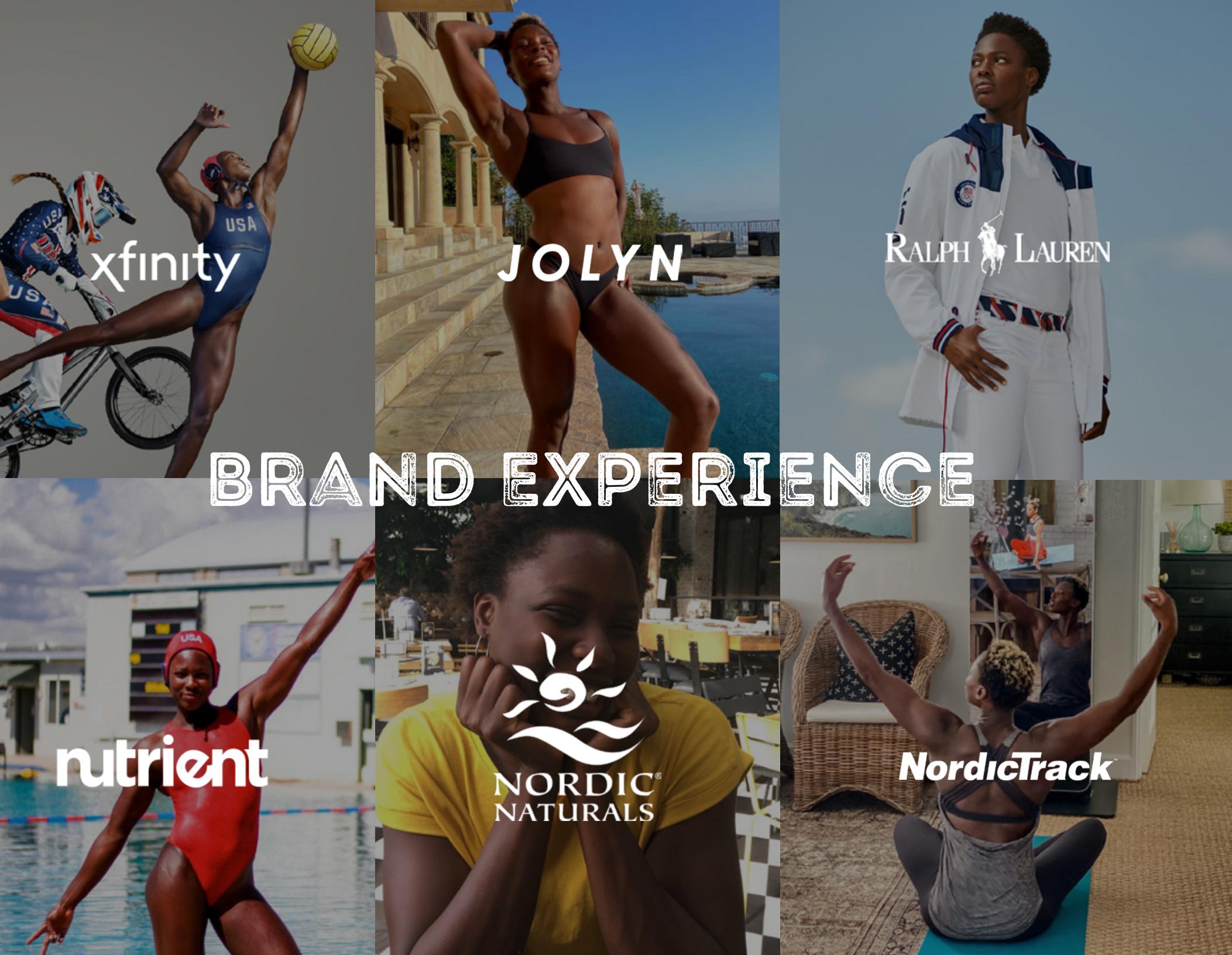
FAMILY

Both Mom and Dad were born in Jamaica, and Mom (a full-time nurse) cooked dinner every night – every night! That may be where Ashleigh developed her passion for cooking, especially South Asian food and of course, Jamaican.

Ashleigh is the middle sibling of two older brothers, Blake and William, sister Chelsea, and younger brother Julius, all of whom still live in Miami.

Ashleigh is a dog person! *"I love, love, love dogs...always have. We always had a dog growing up and if not for me being on the road most of the year I'd have a house full of them right now!"* - Ashleigh





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