

## Joey Chestnut Wins Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest; ESPN Compares Him To Bill Russell



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Nowadays, it seems like the prospect of [Joey Chestnut](#) winning the famed 'Mustard Belt' at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest on the 4th of July has become as expected as nighttime fireworks celebrating the country's independence. On Tuesday, the man who many sports pundits consider to be the greatest competitive eater to have ever lived added another notch to his outstanding legacy by winning Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest for the eighth year in a row, leaving him just one win shy of the all-time record held by Miki Sudo (a competitive eater from the women's division). For Chestnut, the full-circle moment began when he entered the annual event back in 2007 as a heavy underdog to the league's six-time defending champion, Takeru Kobayashi (aka "The Godfather of Competitive Eating"). After ending Kobayashi's dominant reign in the MLE (Major League Eating), Chestnut has achieved such rarefied air in the business that [his legacy as perhaps the greatest American athlete ever was debated on Tuesday morning during ESPN's flagship show, First Take.](#)

Joey Chestnut finished the 2023 Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest with an impressive showing, clearing a whopping 62 hot dogs within the 10 minutes allotted to the competitors. The runner-up, Geoffrey Esper, finished the highly anticipated matchup by consuming 49 hot dogs. Meanwhile, in the women's division, Miki Sudo took home the "Bejeweled Pink Belt" for the 9th year in a row by scarfing down 39.5 hot dogs and narrowly defeating the runner-up, Mayoi Ebihara, who finished off 33.5 hot dogs. Sudo currently ranks #3 overall in Major League Eating.

At the conclusion of the 2023 Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest on ESPN, the commentators compared Joey Chestnut's greatness to the late [Bill Russell](#)—a Boston Celtics legend who won 11 NBA Championships (and 2 NCAA Champions with the University of San Francisco). As of July 4th 2023, Joey Chestnut is a 16-time winner of the yearly contest.