



THE OLYMPIAN

TEAM USA

RIO
DE JANEIRO



CHEERING ON TEAM USA IN RIO

Summer Issue 2016

A Letter From Gary Hall, Sr.

U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association President



Dear Olympians and Paralympians,

As we recently passed the 100 Day Countdown to Rio celebration, the excitement continues to build for the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Team USA is being assembled with the finest athletes possible. It is a time when all Olympians and Paralympians unite in brotherhood and sisterhood to support our Team USA members in any way that we can.

I recently had a phone conversation with one of our Olympic hopefuls in swimming, a young 17-year-old woman whom I had coached on technique since she was 12 years old. I am so proud of her development since that time, so I felt compelled to call her and offer the same advice I always gave to my son, Gary Jr., before each Olympic trials.

“Erin, just remember to have fun,” I told her.

As an athlete, it is easy to build the Olympic trials and the Olympic Games into something bigger than life, which it is not. Take it from me, an expert in doing just that in Munich in 1972, where I was highly favored to win the gold medal in the 400 individual medley. However, I came in fifth and was well off my world record time. It was a devastating, yet valuable lesson about life – one I have never forgotten.

After giving Erin this advice, my conversation with her turned more somber. On the very day I had scheduled this call with her, I had learned that my nephew, Charles Keating IV, son of my Olympic teammate, Charlie Keating III, had been killed in action in Iraq. CIV, as we called him, was the leader of his platoon of Navy Seal Team 1. He was a hero who died on the front lines defending our country. I finished my conversation with Erin, offering even more advice.

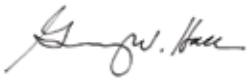


“Just remember,” I continued. “No matter how important this may seem to you, it is still just a sport. It is not a matter of life and death. Keep it all in perspective.”

I hope she got the message.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games mean so much to each one of us, but let’s not forget who the real heroes of America are. Each time you see members of our military, be sure to thank them for their service. We owe a great deal to them and are never sure if we will see them again.

Yours in Olympic spirit,



Gary Hall, Sr.



photo credit: c) Buda Mendes/Getty Images

Inside

- 2** A Letter from Gary Hall, Sr
- 4** 100 Story Lines To Follow For The Rio 2016 Olympic Games
- 21** Rio USA House Update
- 22** Campaign Requirements and Procedures
- 25** ACE Mentor Network
- 26** USOC Archives & Archivist News
- 28** Team USA Registry
- 30** In Honor
- 32** In Memoriam
- 38** Olympian & Paralympian Photo Highlights
- 40** U.S. Olympians & Paralympians Chapters

With only days away until the Opening Ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the flame is on its way to South America and about 560 Team USA athletes will soon be heading there as well.

Many of these athletes have not only been to previous Olympic Games, they have already won medals. Others will be making their first trip to the world's biggest stage. Team USA will compete in 27 of the 28 sports (failing to qualify only in team handball), with two sports – golf and rugby – returning to the Olympic program for the first time in close to a century.

Before the Games begin on Aug. 5, there will still be plenty of action and intrigue as athletes compete to make Team USA. Nearly one-fifth of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team has qualified so far, and track and field, swimming and gymnastics are among the sports that have not yet conducted their Olympic Trials.

Here are 100 storylines to follow as Team USA gets ready to roar into Rio.

100

STORYLINES

TO FOLLOW FOR THE RIO 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES



1

Will Team USA retain its position atop the medal table in Rio? In London four years ago, Team USA won more overall medals and more gold medals than any other country. The United States racked up 104 total medals – 46 golds, 29 silvers and 29 bronzes. China was the runner-up with 88 (38 golds, 27 silvers and 23 bronzes). Russia was next with 82 total medals, though only 24 were gold, while Great Britain had more gold (29), but only 65 total medals. The return of golf to the Olympic Games is a stroke of luck for the United States, which will look for some of the top golfers in the world to beef up the medal count.

2

Can Michael Phelps add to his medal haul and put his record as the most decorated Olympian in history even further out of reach? Seeking his fifth straight Olympic team, Phelps has already won 22 medals, including 18 golds (both records). By the time the Rio Olympic Games roll around, Phelps will be 31 and he and fiancée Nicole Johnson are expecting a baby boy this summer. But he says he's more motivated and happier than he was prior

to the London 2012 Olympic Games, where he tallied four gold and two silver medals and then retired. Phelps' successful comeback was marred by a DUI and suspension, but he's back on track. Although Phelps and coach Bob Bowman are tight-lipped about which events he will swim at the Olympic Trials, the greatest Olympic swimmer of all time commands attention whenever he dives into the pool.

Michael Phelps (swimming)





3

Who will be the next Olympian to appear on “Dancing with the Stars”? Olympic athletes have appeared on 16 of the popular television show’s 22 seasons, some sambaing into the lineup soon after returning from the Games. Four Olympians have won the coveted mirror ball trophy: short track speedskater Apolo Ohno, figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi, gymnast Shawn Johnson and ice dancer Meryl Davis. Two Rio hopefuls could get a leg up on the competition. Triathlete Greg Billington took dance classes growing up and enjoys salsa and ballroom, while canoeist Casey Eichfeld danced for seven years and studied styles including ballet, modern and hip-hop/jazz. Both will have to excel in the Olympic arena before fielding any invitations to show their moves on the dance floor.

4

Will Team USA female archers channel their inner Katniss Everdeen and reach the podium? The U.S. women haven’t won a medal since 1988, when the team event was added to the program. Khatuna Lorig, who is trying to make her sixth Olympic team, trained Jennifer Lawrence for her role playing Katniss in “The Hunger Games.” The U.S. women have their strongest team in history, demonstrated by their No. 2 world ranking, but if they fail to qualify a full team for Rio in June, only one woman will compete in the individual tournament.

5

Can Brady Ellison finally hit his gold-medal target – or at least break free from the clutches of 17th place? The archer, who is trying to make his third Olympic team, was 17th in 2008 in the individual event, then 17th again in 2012. However, he helped secure the silver medal in the team event in London and the U.S. has again qualified a full men’s team for Rio. No U.S. man has won an individual medal since Vic Wunderle in 2000.

6

Badminton is one of just three summer sports in which the U.S. has never won an Olympic medal (the others are team handball and table tennis). Although other

regions of the world have dominated Olympic badminton, Team USA won all three doubles events at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto as part of its six-medal haul. Jamie Subandhi and Phillip Chew are ranked in the top-25 in mixed doubles and while it would be difficult for them to net an Olympic medal, they could at least make a dent in the draw.

7

Will Stephen Curry be “Golden” in Rio? The Golden State Warriors’ sharpshooting guard has won two FIBA World Cup gold medals, but this would be his first Olympic Games representing the red, white and blue. Barring injury, Curry is a slam dunk to make the team. He was the NBA MVP last season while leading the Warriors to the NBA championship and this season became the first player to pour in 400 three-pointers before any other player hit 300. Team USA is also loaded with Olympic experience. LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, Kevin Durant and Chris Paul could be on the floor when the United States attempts to add its 15th gold medal in the 18 Olympic Games in which it has competed. Since NBA players joined the roster, Team USA is 45-3 and has won five of six gold medals.

8

Who’s got a 41-game winning streak in Olympic play? Why, the U.S. women’s basketball team, of course. With no losses since 1992, Team USA will try to win its sixth straight gold medal, a record for traditional women’s team sports. While Sue Bird, Tamika Catchings and Diana Taurasi are going for their fourth straight gold medals, newcomer Elena Delle Donne, the 2015 WNBA MVP, is hoping to compete in her first major international tournament in a USA uniform.

9

The U.S. women’s water polo team can also stake a claim as the most dominant team in the country. Team USA is the first women’s water polo team to hold all four major titles – Olympic, world championship, World Cup and World League. The team won an unprecedented fourth world title in 2015, led by MVP

Rachel Fattal. Having medaled at every Olympic Games since women's water polo made its debut in 2000, Team USA finally won the gold medal in London in 2012.

10

What's the difference between a Tyrannosaurus rex and boxer Claressa Shields? Though she's nicknamed T-Rex, Shields is a survivor. Fighting her way to her second straight gold medal in the Olympic ring seems likely since Shields has only been stopped once in her entire career. Her record stands at 69-1 and she is also the reigning world and Pan American Games champion. Shields was 17 when she won the middleweight division in the inaugural Olympic boxing tournament for women at the London 2012 Games, and she is even more intimidating today. She will be the only Team USA boxer – male or female – with Olympic experience.

11

He's a stand-up comedian who calls himself the "Taylor Swift of Boxing" and legally changed his name, but Cam F. Awesome has proven he is no joke in the ring. The former Lenroy Thompson has dropped down to the heavyweight division thanks to a vegan diet and strict training. After eight years of trying to fight in the Olympics – including a near-miss in 2012 when he won the U.S. Olympic Team Trials but was suspended for failing to provide his whereabouts for drug testing – he once again won the Olympic Trials and will try to punch his ticket to Rio in May. Expect him to be nothing less than Awesome when he gets there.

12

Can the U.S. canoe/kayak slalom team paddle to the podium for the first time since 2004? Michal Smolen won the bronze medal at the 2015 world championships in K1 and the gold at the 2015 Pan American Games. He hopes to become the first U.S. medalist since Rebecca Giddens won a silver medal in 2004. Although Smolen's fear of the water initially steered him away from kayaking – and, oddly, to swimming – he eventually got back in the boat because kayaking was more exciting and extreme.

13

Didn't Kristin Armstrong retire? Yes. Twice. And she's back again. The road cyclist is trying to win her third straight Olympic time trial gold medal. In 2015, she won the time trial national championship in just her second event since getting back in the competitive saddle. She also took fifth at the 2015 UCI Road Cycling World Championships. This would be her fourth Olympic Games.



“Who's got a 41-game winning streak in Olympic play? Why, the U.S. women's basketball team, of course.”





Since NBA players joined the roster, Team USA is 45-3 and has won five of six gold medals.



PHOTOS CAPTIONS:
LeBron James, Chris Paul, Kevin Durant (basketball)

Tamika Catchings, Sue Bird, Candace Parker, Sylvia Fowles, Asjha Jones, Diana Taurasi, Lindsay Whalen, Tina Charles, Maya Moore (women's basketball)

Women's water polo



14

Is it Hammer Time? Sarah Hammer hopes the playing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” will accompany her in Rio. She won two silver medals four years ago on the track in London in team pursuit and omnium. A seven-time world champion and world-record holder, Hammer and her teammates have spent the past four years pursuing the team pursuit gold and achieved it at the world championship level last month. Hammer actually retired in 2003, but was inspired by the Athens 2004 Olympic Games to return to cycling and hasn't stopped pedaling since.

15

Four years ago, Team USA ended a 12-year Olympic medal drought in diving with not just one medal, but four. And four of the divers who stood on the podium in London are still knifing into the water, led by David Boudia, who won the gold on the men's 10-meter platform and took the bronze with Nick McCrory in the 10-meter synchro event. Boudia, who since London became the father of a 1-year-old daughter and won two more individual silver medals at world championships, is now teamed up with 19-year-old Steele Johnson, who has won five individual 10-meter national titles. Boudia and Johnson have combined for five synchro 10-meter crowns.

16

Abby Johnston must be a champion multi-tasker. After winning the Olympic silver medal in 3-meter synchronized diving, she took the plunge into medical school at Duke University. Johnston didn't give up diving though, so will another medal in Rio be just what the doctor-to-be ordered?

17

Hairstylists tame unruly manes all the time. Laura Graves left her hairstyling career to tame an unruly horse (his mane wasn't the problem) and found success. She and Verdades, known as Diddy, seemingly came out of nowhere at the 2014 USEF Grand Prix National Championship and took reserve champion behind three-time Olympian Steffen Peters. They then placed fifth in the grand prix freestyle at the 2014 FEI World Equestrian Games. Now can this dynamic dressage duo turn heads at the Olympic Games?

18

Which horse will Bezie Madden ride in the Olympic Games? Madden, a two-time Olympic gold medalist in show jumping, has developed two fine horses, Cortes “C” and Simon, since the retirement of Authentic, who led the U.S. for the better part of a decade. Aboard Coral Reef Via Vola at the London 2012 Olympic Games, Madden did not advance past the first round as her mount refused to complete a combination jump, dropping them to near the bottom of the standings.

19

Will Daryl Homer take home the first U.S. medal in men's saber at the Olympic Games? Homer won silver at the 2015 world championships, becoming the first U.S. men's saber fencer to medal at the event.

20

Will the “face of fencing” show off his runway walk on the way to the podium? A modeling agency scouted foil fencer Race Imboden at the London 2012 Olympic Games, and he became a menswear fashion model. Imboden has worked for brands including J. Crew, Louis Vuitton and Mark Jacobs. In 2015, he also became the first U.S. man to win an individual overall world cup title. However, Imboden, ranked No. 4 in the world was named the replacement athlete for the team event and is not on the official U.S. roster in Rio unless he gets to compete. Alex Massialas, who was ranked No. 1 in the world at the end of 2015 and was Team USA’s youngest male Olympian in 2012 at age 18, No. 3 Gerek Meinhardt and Miles Chamley-Watson make up the U.S. team.

21

Can the most decorated fencer in U.S. history earn another “first”? Mariel Zagunis was the first woman to win a saber fencing gold medal in 2004 – and also the first U.S. fencer to win gold in 100 years – when the discipline joined the Olympic program. Then she became the first woman to repeat as champion in the event, also winning the saber team bronze. After a disappointing finish in London, where Zagunis was elected U.S. flag bearer at the Opening Ceremony, she will try to be the first woman to win double gold in the individual and team events in Rio.

22

What impact will Ibtihaj Muhammad have as the first U.S. woman to wear a hijab (the headscarf worn by Muslim women) in Olympic competition? Muhammad, who will compete in the individual and team saber events, is a role model for not just Muslim girls, but all competitors. She says in her USA Fencing bio that she wants to “prove that nothing should hinder anyone from reaching their goals – not race, religion or gender. I want to set an example that anything is possible with perseverance.”

23

Can 10 returning Olympians help the U.S. women’s field hockey team rise in the standings? A disappointing last-place finish in the 12-team field in London four years ago spurred the veteran players to commit to another quadrennium. Their diligence has paid off, with a fifth-place world ranking marking a milestone for the program. Led by team captain Lauren Crandall, a three-time Olympian, Team USA won the gold at the Pan American Games. With new coaches, the implementation of cutting-edge technology and a move from the West Coast to the East Coast – they now train at the “home of hockey” at Spooky Nook Sports in Pennsylvania – Team USA looks to be a threat on the pitch.



PHOTOS CAPTIONS:
Claressa Shields (boxing)

Gabby Douglas
(gymnastics)

Kayla Harrison (judo)

In 1996, the U.S. women’s gymnastics team became the Magnificent Seven after winning the first team gold medal for the U.S. Team USA





Claressa Shields will be the only Team USA boxer – male or female – with Olympic experience.



24

It took 112 years, but golf is back in the Olympic Games. Can Jordan Spieth, the No. 1 player in the world, earn a gold medal to go along with his Masters green jacket? “Medaling for your country is something special,” he said. “Winning a gold would be, I believe, like winning a major championship.” The difference between a gold medal and a green jacket, though, is the athlete does not have to leave the gold medal back in the clubhouse.

25

Who’s got better honeymoon plans than Staci Lewis? The women’s pro golfer will marry University of Houston golf coach Gerrod Chadwell in Connecticut on Aug. 6 (the day after the Opening Ceremony in Rio). They’ve got plenty of time to honeymoon in Rio before the women’s tournament begins on Aug. 17. Lewis, who has 11 career victories, is ranked No. 4 in the world and hopes to be the bride, not the bridesmaid, in Rio.

26

Speaking of rankings, Lexi Thompson is ranked No. 3, one spot ahead of Lewis, in the world golf rankings. At age 16, she was the youngest golfer in history to win an LPGA event, emerging victorious in the 2011 Navistar Classic. During the final tournament of the 2015 season, Thompson began putting with her eyes closed and continued to do so in 2016. Will she see her way clear to Rio gold?

27

Will Simone Biles become the fourth straight U.S. female gymnast to win the Olympic all-around gold medal? Biles, from the felicitously-named Spring, Texas, became the first woman in history to win three consecutive world all-around gold medals. She was also the first to collect 10 world championship gold medals and the first U.S. gymnast – male or female – to win 14 world medals. Biles hopes to follow Carly Patterson (2004), Nastia Liukin (2008) and Gabby Douglas (2012) to the top of the all-around podium.

28

If anybody can keep Biles from ascending that top step, it could be Douglas, who yearns to defend her title. Douglas would be the first reigning all-around champion since 1980 to compete in back-to-back Olympic Games. Her predecessor? None other than Nadia Comaneci, the Romanian star who now lives in the United States. Douglas took about 2½ years off following her London victory. She then surged back to claim the silver medal at the 2015 world championships.

29

Know any good nicknames? In 1996, the U.S. women’s gymnastics team became the Magnificent Seven after winning the first team gold medal for the U.S. Team USA didn’t win the title again until 2012, when the squad was known as the Fierce Five. Douglas and team captain Aly Raisman return from the Fierce Five, and at the 2015 world championships they were joined by Biles, Maggie Nichols and Madison Kocian. If all make the team, expect Team USA to be just as fabulous as four years ago. Fantastic Five, anyone?

30

Did Sam Mikulak pick up where he left off in 2015? Mikulak was the first man to win three straight U.S. all-around titles (2013-15) since Paul Hamm, the 2004 Olympic gold medalist. At the 2015 Pan American Games, Mikulak was the first U.S. male to win the all-around title in 28 years and was instrumental in helping win the first team gold medal since 1995. A torn Achilles prevented him from competing at the 2015 world championships, but upon his return Mikulak won the 2016 Winter Cup Challenge all-around title. His ability to bounce back should come as no surprise. A year before the London 2012 Games, Mikulak broke both ankles. He subsequently worked on pommel horse and still rings, events which require upper-body strength, and used his new prowess to make the 2012 Olympic team.

31

Can Kayla Harrison repeat as Olympic champion in judo by taking down another hometown hero? In 2012, Harrison became the first American judoka – male or female – to win an Olympic gold medal. She was the surprise winner at 78 kg., throwing British rival Gemma Gibbons twice in the London final. In Rio, Harrison's top competition is expected to be Brazilian Mayra Aguiar. Harrison, currently ranked No. 1 in the world, defeated Aguiar at the 2015 Pan American Games, but the Brazilian prevailed at a 2016 tournament in Paris. The rivals appear to be heading for a showdown in Rio.

32

Can the only American judoka to beat Ronda Rousey win Rio gold? In her book "My Fight / Your Fight," Rousey, an Olympic judo bronze medalist before she became a mixed martial arts superstar, claimed that Marti Malloy was the only U.S. opponent to have beaten her. Alas, Malloy says she has no recollection of the encounter, and says it must have been in their youth training days. Malloy, who won the Olympic bronze medal in 2012 at 57 kg., also earned the respect of her teammates at San Jose State University, where she became the first female captain of a judo team composed primarily of larger males.

33

Will pentathlon be a family affair? The Isaksen sisters, Margaux and Isabella, and the Schrimsher brothers, Nathan and Lucas, could all qualify for Team USA. So far, only Nathan Schrimsher, a U.S. Army Specialist, is guaranteed a berth based on his third-place finish at the Pan American Games. Margaux Isaksen is vying for her third Olympic team. She was just 16 when she competed at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, then placed fourth in London, 2 seconds shy of a podium spot. Both sets of siblings train together.

34

Meghan Musnicki knows how to deliver. The 2012 Olympic rowing gold medalist won praise for her commencement address at Ithaca College, her alma mater, in May 2015. A few months later, she helped Team USA win its 10th consecutive world or Olympic title in the women's eight. The U.S. has not lost an Olympic or world championship in that boat since 2006. Will Musnicki and her teammates deliver the third straight Olympic gold medal for Team USA in Rio?



PHOTOS CAPTIONS:

Mary Whipple, Caryn Davies, Caroline Lind, Eleanor Logan, Meghan Musnicki, Taylor Ritzel, Esther Lofgren, Zsuzsanna Francia, and Erin Cafaro (rowing)

“While the Team USA women’s eight has long been a force to be reckoned with, 2015 was a breakthrough year for the women’s quadruple sculls.”

35

While the Team USA women's eight has long been a force to be reckoned with, 2015 was a breakthrough year for the women's quadruple sculls. The boat won an historic first gold medal at the world championships. Can they glide on that momentum to gold in Rio? The quadruple sculls boat from the 2015 worlds includes Megan Kalmoe, who capped the season with an unprecedented second straight USRowing Female Athlete of the Year award. She also received the 2015 Woman of the Year Award.

36

Paging Dr. Stone. The doctor is in – single sculls, that is. Gevvie Stone will try to win the first U.S. medal in the event since Michelle Guerette took silver in 2008. Stone had planned to retire after the London 2012 Olympic Games and finish medical school at Tufts University. But her seventh-place finish seemed to promise even faster races in the future. Stone kept her oars in the water and won silver and bronze medals in world cup regattas last year and was fourth at the world championships. Stone is the daughter of 1976 Olympian Lisa Hansen, who finished seventh in women's coxed quadruple sculls in Montreal, and 1980 Olympian Gregg Stone, who missed the Moscow Games because of the boycott. Her father is also her coach.

37

Seth Weil was a big man on campus whose college friends had even bigger plans for him. They were rowers who saw potential in the 6-foot-6 Weil. He took

to the sport and stayed with it, earning honors in the men's four. Weil and his teammates dug deep for the bronze medal at the 2013 world championships, followed by the silver a year later. Weil is USRowing's most recent Male Athlete of the Year. The four-man boat is the priority boat for the U.S. following its bronze-medal performance in Rio.

38

The last time rugby was played in the Olympic Games, the United States won its second straight gold medal in the sport. But that was 1924 and the format was 15-a-side. Now it's 2016 and rugby sevens, a faster-paced game, is on the program. Still, can the U.S. return to the podium? If Carlin Isles, "the fastest man in rugby" has something say about it, it's a done deal. Isles has so much speed he competed in the U.S. indoor track and field championships in the 60-meter dash. He made his debut for the U.S. national sevens team in October 2012 as a substitute and scored a try in his first minute on the pitch.

39

Can Jillion Potter complete her comeback by landing a spot on the U.S. women's rugby team? Potter suffered a broken neck in 2010, but had no intention of quitting the sport. Then she was diagnosed with cancer in August 2014. Within 14 months, Potter was back as captain. "In rugby, one of the biggest things you learn is resilience and persistence and getting knocked down in a tackle and having to get back up and support your teammates and play the game," she said. "It's the same in life."

40

Now that golf and rugby are in the Olympic Games, are they golden to stay on the program forever? No, they are only guaranteed through the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Their status will be reevaluated after the 2016 Olympic Games. According to the IOC, the key factors in determining a sport's suitability for the Olympic program include "youth appeal, universality, popularity, good governance, respect for athletes and respect for the Olympic values."

41

Will Paige Railey finally sail to an Olympic medal in the Laser Radial class? She has achieved almost everything else in her career. Railey is a world champion, Rolex ISAF World Sailor of the Year and US Sailing Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year. After placing eighth at the London 2012 Olympic Games, she was third at the 2013 world championships (to go along with bronze medals in 2010 and 2011). Railey was fourth at the Rio test event last year and last week won the silver medal in the 2016 world championships by a single point. Is this her year?

42

Can Kim Rhode go six-for-six? The shotgun athlete has never failed to bag a medal in her five Olympic Games dating back to 1996. Rhode is the only American to go five-for-five in an individual sport, winning her first three medals in double trap (gold in Atlanta, bronze in Sydney, gold in Athens) and her latest two in skeet (silver in Beijing, gold in London). She's gunning for her sixth straight Olympic

Games in Rio in skeet. A sixth straight medal that would tie Italian luger Armin Zoeggeler (1994-2014).

43

Will rifle shooter Matt Emmons “Czech” off another medal? The New Jersey native lives in the Czech Republic with his wife, Katerina Kurkova, whom he met at the 2004 Olympic Games. They married in 2007 and have three children. Emmons already has a medal of every color: gold in Athens and silver in Beijing in prone and bronze in three-position in London. He clinched his position on Team USA for Rio in three-position. Emmons’ wife also has competed in three Olympic Games and has a medal of every color. However, she retired a couple of years ago.

44

Vincent Hancock has earned more than Olympic medals for his country. He is the two-time defending Olympic gold medalist in skeet (2008 and 2012) and one of the most decorated athletes in shooting history as the first U.S. shotgun athlete to win three world championship titles. But Hancock, who served six years with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit in Fort Benning, Georgia, has other medals, too: the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Distinguished International Shooter Badge.

45

Can Team USA keep the ball rolling in women’s soccer? Since women got a tournament of their own 20 years ago, the U.S. has been a juggernaut with gold medals in 1996, 2004, 2008 and 2012. Even when the U.S. Women’s National Team was suffering World Cup woes, its Olympic fortunes remained bright. Now for the first time since 2000, Team USA is going into the Olympic Games as reigning World Cup champions following its stirring 5-2 victory over Japan. No women’s soccer team has ever won the World Cup and Olympic Games back-to-back. Team USA is led by Carli Lloyd, who scored the winning goal in the 2008 gold-medal game in overtime against Brazil and both goals in the 2012 gold-

medal match against Japan. Lloyd also won the Golden Ball as the best player in the 2015 Women’s World Cup and was named the U.S. Soccer Female Athlete of the Year and FIFA Women’s World Player of the Year.

46

If you are flying down to Rio and happen to be sitting behind U.S. soccer star Alex Morgan, keep your feet under your seat. Morgan says her biggest pet peeve is when someone kicks the back of her chair on an airplane. Morgan will be doing plenty of kicking, though, when she gets to Rio.

47

What Katie Ledecky did at the 2015 world championships with five gold medals was nothing short of amazing, but then that has become the norm for her. In Kazan, Ledecky won the 200, 400, 800 and 1,500-meter freestyle events, an even more impressive span than the 400-800-1,500 triple she accomplished two years earlier in Barcelona. Ledecky also swam a leg on the 800-meter relay at both world championships. Alas, Ledecky, who is also the world-record holder in the 400, 800 and 1,500, won’t be able to swim her longest event at the Olympic Games. That’s because the longest event for women is 800. Which events she swims in Rio remains to be seen, but she is sure to build on the one gold medal she won in London when she was just 15 years old.

48

Which current athlete is tied for second place in career Olympic medals among U.S. men with Mark Spitz and Matt Biondi? That’s Ryan Lochte with 11. However, Spitz and Biondi did not have to share the pool with the likes of Michael Phelps. Still, Lochte has carved out his own niche, winning the gold medal in the 400-meter individual medley in 2012 as well as gold in the 200 backstroke in 2008. He’s trying to become only the third U.S. male to qualify for four Olympic teams, joining Jason Lezak and... Phelps.

49

Will Tyler Clary parlay Olympic gold into another kind of racing career? Clary, the 200-meter backstroke gold medalist four years ago, is an aspiring race car driver. He recognizes that making a big splash in the pool can help him land sponsorships when he’s out of the water.

50

Can Jordan Wilimovsky win the first U.S. Olympic medal in men’s open water swimming? Wilimovsky won the 10-kilometer event at the 2015 world championships.

51

What can Missy Franklin do for an encore? She won four gold medals and a bronze in London and helped orchestrate the “Call Me Maybe” lip-synching video that helped bond the U.S. swimming team. Franklin followed her Olympic success with a six gold medals at the 2013 world championships – a record for female swimmers and something even Ledecky could not surpass. She still holds the world record in the 200 backstroke. Franklin turned professional after a successful collegiate career and with her natural effervescence, she’s sure to be called.

52

Can Nathan Adrian become the fastest swimmer on the planet? And can he help the U.S. get back on top of the world in the 400 freestyle relay? The defending champion in the 100-meter freestyle, Adrian hopes to also compete in the 50 in Rio as well as swim legs on the 4x100 medley, which won gold in London, and the 4x100 freestyle, which took silver four years ago behind France.

53

Will Natalie Coughlin become the most decorated female swimmer of all time, as well as the most decorated U.S. female athlete? With 12 Olympic medals, she is tied with fellow swimmers Jenny Thompson and Dara Torres. Coughlin, whose events are the 100 freestyle, 100 backstroke and relays, is now 33, but age is no deterrent. Torres was 33 when



she won Olympic gold medals in Sydney in 2000 and 41 when she captured silver medals in Beijing in the 50 freestyle and two relays.

54

Swimmer Simone Manuel says her worst habit is procrastinating. Well, she has no time to waste in the 50 and 100-meter freestyles, where she is one of the top U.S. hopes. Team USA is hoping to win gold in the 4x100 free, an event it has won 14 times, for the first time since 2000.

55

If swimmer Maya DiRado makes the U.S. Olympic team, the NBC cameras will surely be trained on her. DiRado, who won the silver medal at the 2015 world championships in the 400-meter individual medley and was fourth in the 200 IM, started swimming at age 6. Her first race was a 25-meter freestyle, which she won. Unfortunately, her dad was filming the race but accidentally focused on the girl in the lane next to DiRado – who did not have a good race. Will DiRado's dad get a chance to make up for his early error with video from the Olympic pool?

56

Olympians often get a tattoo of the Olympic rings as a reminder of their achievement. Swimmer Conor Dwyer got some ink after earning a gold medal in the 4x200-meter freestyle at the London 2012 Olympic Games, where he was also fifth in the 400 freestyle. Originally, Dwyer's grandfather had forbidden all of his grandchildren from getting a tattoo. He made one exception: They could get one if they made an Olympic team. He told all the other grandchildren they, too, can get a tattoo if they make an Olympic team.

57

When the U.S. synchronized swimming duet comes up for air in Rio, will it earn its first Olympic medal since 2004? Anita Alvarez and Mariya Koroleva finished seventh in the Rio test event in March. Koroleva will be making her second Olympic trip, while Alvarez is an Olympic rookie. They teamed up in 2015 and recently won their first international gold medal.

58

Table tennis player Lily Zhang is the only American to compete in the Olympic Games prior to a Youth Olympic Games. Two years after playing in London, Zhang won the 2014 YOG bronze medal in singles in Nanjing, China. No other Team USA athlete has won a medal in table



PHOTOS CAPTIONS:

Kimberly Rhode (shooting)

Matthew Emmons (shooting)

Vincent Hancock (shooting)

tennis at an Olympic or Youth Olympic Games. And yes, even she calls it ping pong sometimes.

59

Fifteen-year-old table tennis player Kanak Jha is the first U.S. athlete born in the 2000s to become an Olympian. Jha, born June 19, 2000, secured his spot by defeating 2012 Olympian Timothy Wang, the No. 1 U.S. player. Jha has been a member of the U.S. worlds team since 2014, when he was the youngest participant in the history of the world championships. As the newest U.S. hope for the 21st century, Jha likely has many more Olympic Games in his future.

60

If there's an Olympic taekwondo competition, Steven Lopez can't be far away. The most decorated athlete in the sport, Lopez, 37, won gold medals in 2000 (when taekwondo became a full-medal Olympic sport) and 2004 and the bronze medal in 2008. Although he had an ankle injury in 2012 and lost in the first round, Lopez had no intentions of retiring. However, new Olympic qualifying procedures required athletes to earn world ranking points at numerous international competitions, which took a toll on his body. Lopez won a bronze medal at the Pan American Games and then underwent shoulder surgery in late 2015. He qualified for the 2016 team in the welterweight class.

61

Jackie Galloway went to London four years ago under the Mexican flag, but was an alternate and did not compete. At age 14, Galloway had been the youngest athlete in Mexico national team history and trained in Mexico City for two years. Galloway, who has dual citizenship, then decided to compete under her native U.S. flag. She has known she was going to Rio since December, when she qualified based on her World Taekwondo Federation rankings. Competing at +67 kilograms, Galloway is the first male or female heavyweight to earn a spot on a U.S. Olympic Team since taekwondo joined the Olympic program as a full-medal sport in 2000.

62

Expect taekwondo to be a bit different in Rio compared to London. In 2015, the WTF introduced several measures in a bid to raise excitement levels. Octagonal mats, three points for a spinning kick to the body and sensors within the headgear were implemented for the first time at the 2015 world championships.

63

Team USA has won 13 Olympic gold medals in tennis, more than any other nation, since the sport was reinstated in 1988. Serena Williams has won four of those medals. She won her first singles medal in London four years ago, accomplishing the "Serena Slam" of all four majors singles titles and the gold medal. She then teamed up with older sister Venus to win her third Olympic doubles title (2000, 2008 and 2012).

64

Born three minutes apart, Bob and Mike Bryan are the winningest doubles team in tennis history. Now the 37-year-olds are aiming for their fourth straight Olympic team. Though identical twins, the Bryan Bros. are easy to tell apart: Bob is left-handed while Mike is right-handed. They won the bronze medal in Beijing, then upgraded to the gold medal in London four years ago. Mike was doubly busy in 2012. He also teamed up with Lisa Raymond for the bronze medal in mixed doubles in 2012 at the famed Wimbledon courts.

65

While Jack Sock has never competed in the Olympics, the U.S. tennis player already lives by the Olympic ideals of sportsmanship and fair play. Sock, who is the second-highest ranked U.S. singles player at No. 26 (behind John Isner, who has said he will not compete in Rio, at No. 16), was playing in the Hopman Cup in Perth, Australia, in January against soon-to-be-retired Lleyton Hewitt of Australia. Hewitt was down 4-5 in the first set when his first serve was ruled out. Sock then shouted to him, "That was in if you want to challenge it." Hewitt was taken aback, but challenged the call. The replay showed the ball had hit the line. Hewitt went on to win the match 7-5, 6-4.



Katie Ledecky (swimming)

66

Will the son and daughter of former NFL quarterback Randall Cunningham leap for the skies in Rio? Vashti Cunningham won the world indoor high jump gold medal in Portland, Oregon, earlier this year at age 18. Her older brother, Randall II, competes for the University of Southern California and is a contender for the U.S. men's team. Growing up, both Cunninghams were coached by their father – known in his NFL days as “The Ultimate Weapon” and together won gold medals at the Pan-American Junior Championships in 2015.

67

Is Tianna Bartoletta a long jumper who sprints or a sprinter who long jumps? Who cares? She's world class at both. Bartoletta won the long jump at the 2015 world championships, earning the gold medal 10 years after taking the crown in 2005. But at the London 2012 Olympic Games, she was strictly a sprinter, running a leg on the gold-medal winning 400-meter relay team that still holds the world record.

68

The same could be said for Torie Bowie. She competed in the long jump at the 2014 world indoor championships in Poland, then won the bronze medal in the 100-meter at last year's outdoor worlds. “I think I am a long jumper that can sprint well,” she has said.

69

People often say that the U.S. Olympic swimming and track and field trials

are tougher than the Olympic Games. “There's been a lot of times in our history where the third backstroker in the U.S. would have gotten an Olympic medal, but wasn't able to go,” said Olympic backstroke gold medalist Matt Grevers. Even though track and field allows as many three entrants in each event – compared to two for swimming – it's still just as hard to make the team. “What Olympic Trials does is it makes people rise to the occasion,” said hurdler Dawn Harper-Nelson, who won Olympic gold in 2008 in the 100-meter hurdles and the silver in 2012.

70

The world's greatest athletes – male and female – may live in the same house. Ashton Eaton won the decathlon gold medal in 2012, is the reigning world champion and holds the world record in the two-day, 10-event test. His wife, Brianne Theisen-Eaton, is a heptathlete from Canada. She won the silver medal at the 2013 and 2015 world championships and will try to match her husband with a gold in Rio.

71

So, what's that on Eaton's head? He plans to wear a “cooling hood” between events during competition with a goal of reducing the heat around his face and head in an effort to maximize recovery. Interesting.

72

Now this is pressure. Before a race, Justin Gatlin's son Jace tells him, “You better win, Daddy.” And for the past few years, Daddy has had to run against Jamaican

Ryan Lochte
(men's swimming)



women's soccer team



sensation Usain Bolt. Will Gatlin live up to his son's expectations in Rio? A U.S. sprinter has not won an Olympic gold medal in the 100-meter since Gatlin was victorious in 2004. He won the 100-meter bronze medal in 2012. In between, Gatlin served a doping suspension from 2006-10. At least something good came out of it: Jace was born three months before Gatlin's doping ban ended in 2010.

73

Some people who undergo kidney transplants go on to compete in the Transplant Games of America, which promote organ and tissue donation. Aries Merritt has his heart set on the Olympic Games. After all, he's the defending champion in the 110-meter hurdles, and if not for that kidney transplant last September, he would probably be the favorite to repeat as gold medalist. Against the odds and with only 20 percent kidney function, Merritt won the bronze medal at the 2015 world championships in Beijing. Days later, he went under the knife, his new kidney donated by his sister LaToya.

74

LaShawn Merritt admits that he does not enjoy walking. When he has to walk, he does so very slowly. So Merritt runs. He's one of the top 400-meter runners in the world, coming off his silver medal performance in the world championships in Beijing. He also helped the U.S. team win the 4x400-meter relay. Seven years earlier, Merritt won the Olympic gold medal on the same track in both events. Primed to defend his 400-meter title in London, he tore his hamstring two weeks before the Games and did not compete. At age 30, can Merritt win another individual gold?

75

Which track star can leg press 700 pounds and yet was saddled with the nickname "Chicken Legs," by her high school teammates? That would be Allyson Felix, who could be the first 200-400 double threat since Michael Johnson of the U.S. and Marie-Jose Pécé of France accomplished the feat in 1996. In 2012, Felix became the first female athlete since Florence Griffith Joyner in 1988 to win three track and field gold medals in a single Games (200, 4x100 and 4x400). Felix, whose "baby" is the 200-meter, focused on the 400 at the 2015 world championships, winning the gold in a personal-best time of 49.26 seconds.

76

English Gardner's mother gave her such an unusual first name because she predicted her daughter would be destined for greatness, thus needing a name that would be hard to forget. Gardner ran 10.79 in the 100-meter in 2015, ranking No. 8 all-time in the event in the United States and No. 2 in the world last season. Will the American English be unforgettable in Rio?

77

Alysia Montano could get one step closer to her life's dream if she makes it to Rio. Naturally, she wants to win an Olympic medal in the 800-meter. But she has another goal, too. Montano wants to meet Pele, the Brazilian soccer legend. Growing up, Montano played soccer and always asked for No. 10 because that was his number. Fifth in the London 800, will Montano make both her dreams come true?



PHOTOS CAPTIONS:

Ashton Eaton (track & field)

Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings (beach volleyball)

Nicole Ross (fencing)

Kendrick Farris (weightlifting)



Can Joe Kovacs bring the shot put gold medal back to the United States?





Bartoletta won the long jump at the 2015 world championships, earning the gold medal 10 years after taking the crown in 2005.



78

How does marathon man Meb Keflezighi find the time to write two books? He has published “Run to Overcome” (with Dick Patrick) and “Meb for Mortals: How to Run, Think, and Eat like a Champion Marathoner” (with Scott Douglas). Keflezighi will be 41 years old in Rio, making him the oldest U.S. marathoner to compete in the Olympic Games, thanks to his second-place finish in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials. He’s also the last American to medal in the event, claiming the silver in Athens on the historic marathon course. Four years ago, Keflezighi just missed the podium, placing fourth at the London 2012 Olympic Games. The native of Eritrea was 12th in the 10,000-meter in 2000, two years after becoming a U.S. citizen.

79

Can Galen Rupp pull off one of the most difficult Olympic doubles? So far, Rupp has only run one marathon in his life, but it was a doozy. He won the U.S. Olympic Trials in 2 hours, 11 minutes and 12 seconds, the sixth fastest time in trials history (and more than a minute faster than Keflezighi). The Rio Olympic marathon will be Rupp’s second attempt at the distance. But he also wants to run the 10K on the track, and will attempt to qualify in July at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Track and Field. Rupp won the silver medal in the 10K in London. In Rio, the events will be eight days apart, with the 10K on Aug. 13 and the marathon on Aug. 21. In 1952, Emil Zatopek of Czechoslovakia won the marathon, 10K and the 5K.



80

Can Joe Kovacs bring the shot put gold medal back to the United States? Kovacs is the reigning world champion, defeating two-time defending champion David Storl of Germany. The United States has won 17 of 27 gold medals in the Olympic shot put, but none since Adam Nelson in 2004 (although Nelson actually was upgraded from silver to gold nine years later when the original champion from Ukraine tested positive for doping). Christian Cantwell, the 2008 silver medalist, and Reese Hoffa, the 2012 bronze medalist, are also vying to make Team USA, so more than one man on the podium is not out of the question. The U.S. has won multiple Olympic shot put medals on 17 occasions and has not been shut out in a non-boycott year since 1976.



81

If ever there was a year for the U.S. to capture its first Olympic medal in triathlon since Susan Williams’ bronze in 2004, this is it. Gwen Jorgensen and Sarah True, both 2012 Olympians, and Olympic



Courtney Hurley and Kelley Hurley (fencing)



Zach Railey (sailing)

hopeful Katie Zaferes swept podiums at ITU World Triathlon Series events last season in Gold Coast, Australia, and London. The U.S. is only the second nation to claim a sweep and the first to earn two in one season. The three women also combined to win 16 of the possible 30 medals awarded in the 2015 ITU World Triathlon Series.

82

Forty must be the new 30 for triathlete Hunter Kemper. He is the only male triathlete in the sport to complete – not just compete – all four Olympic triathlons. Kemper's best finish is seventh in 2008.

83

Nothing says fun in the sun like beach volleyball. While the sport's venue at London's Horse Guards Parade was magnificent, it returns to its roots in Rio. No need to truck in sand – the iconic Copacabana Beach will host the competition. Team USA has won a gold

medal in either the men's or women's tournaments ever since beach volleyball became a full-medal sport in 1996, and the trend should continue in 2016.

84

If Kerri Walsh Jennings wins her fourth gold medal in her fifth Olympic appearance, she would become just the third American to win four gold medals in one event for a team sport. A medal of any color would make the mother of three the most decorated beach athlete, male or female. She would also break the tie with longtime partner Misty May-Treanor, who also has three beach gold medals from 2004 to 2012. Walsh Jennings, who played on the indoor volleyball team in 2000, is now partnered with 2012 Olympic silver medalist April Ross.

85

Better late than never for John Hyden, who at age 43 is trying to make his first Olympic team in beach volleyball. He

would be the oldest to qualify in the sport. Hyden, who is partnered with 26-year-old Tri Bourne, competed on the men's indoor national team at the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games.

86

Starting setter Micah Christenson's middle name is a mouthful. It is Makaanamaikjalani, which means "Gift from Heaven." His mother had to undergo surgery while she was pregnant with him and it was unknown if he would survive. Christenson is thriving in the USA Volleyball system. He became the team's starting setter when he still had two years to go at the University of Southern California. Christenson also was named Best Setter of the 2015 World Cup and played this winter with one of Italy's top professional teams.

87

Can Karch Kiraly lead another team to an Olympic gold medal? Chosen the



greatest volleyball player of the 20th century by the FIVB, Kiraly is the only athlete to win Olympic gold medals in both indoor (1984, 1988) and beach volleyball (1996). In 2012, he accepted the head coaching job for the U.S. women, whom he'd coached as an assistant from 2009-12. In Kiraly's three years at the helm, Team USA has a 99-20 overall record with eight tournament titles including the 2014 FIVB World Championships. After three Olympic silver and two bronze medals, could Kiraly have the magic touch to propel the U.S. onto the podium?

88

Receiver Kayla Banwarth was born to play volleyball. When she was little, she would sit on the living room floor. Her mom would sit on the sofa and they would pepper a stack of newspapers back and forth. Banwarth and Team USA are coming off the gold at the NORCECA Olympic qualification tournament.

89

Tony Azevedo is going back to his old stomping grounds, but will he have fond memories of his stay? The Rio de Janeiro native is attempting to make his fifth Olympic team, a U.S. water polo record. Azevedo also runs camps and clinics from Brazil to North America and speaks Portuguese, Italian, Serbo-Croatian-Montenegrin. Azevedo's father, Rich, is the women's head coach for China. He also helped launch the Water Polo Players Organization, which aims to unite water polo players around the world and improve the sport.

90

Will sisters Makenzie and Aria Fischer become the next generation in their family to play Olympic water polo? Their father Erich competed for Team USA at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. Maddie Musselman, another rising talent on the team, also has a

dad who played sports at a high level. Eric Musselman was a Major League Baseball pitcher for the Toronto Blue Jays and New York Mets.

91

Can Team USA lift a huge burden off its shoulders in weightlifting? The men haven't won an Olympic medal in 32 years – much less a gold in 56 years – and the women haven't reached the podium since Tara Nott's victory and Cheryl Haworth's bronze in 2000. Four years ago, Team USA posted three top-10 finishes, with Sarah Robles placing seventh and Holley Mangold 10th in the women's +75 kg. weight class and Kendrick Farris 10th in the men's 94 kg. division.

92

Could "The LeBron James of Weightlifting" end that men's medal drought? Or could it be "The Michael Jordan of Weightlifting"? Both terms describe CJ Cummings, who will turn 16 on June 6. He's the most promising young U.S. lifter in years. In 2015, Cummings competed in the youth, junior and senior world championships and has set more than 20 American records. He was the youngest athlete in any weight class to compete at the 2015 senior world championships, placing 31st in the 69 kg division. And Cummings – who lifted 153 kg. in the 62 kg. clean and jerk last year to set an American senior record – is only getting stronger.

93

Will weightlifter Norik Vardanian achieve his goal of making the Olympic team for a second country? Vardanian competed at the 2012 Olympic Games for Armenia, the country of his birth, placing 11th in London. Vardanian, who has dual citizenship, then moved back to the United States and is currently a resident athlete at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Not many athletes can boast that they are national champions in two countries. Vardanian won the silver medal at the 2015 Pan American Games and set American records for the snatch and total in the 94 kg. division. His father, Urik Vardanian, is an Olympic gold medalist and seven-time world champion.

94

What's the best motivational song for an athlete? For weightlifter Jenny Arthur, it's "Victory" by gospel singer Yolanda Adams. Arthur holds both senior and junior American records in the snatch, clean and jerk and total in the 75 kg. division. She was the first weightlifter of either gender to qualify for Rio and will be the first athlete to represent Team USA in the 75 kg. division since 2000.

95

How has the "CrossFit" craze helped U.S. weightlifting build its talent pool? The fitness program has a large focus on Olympic-style weightlifting, driving many new athletes to the sport. Over the past few years, USA Weightlifting's membership has more than doubled, with the growth spanning youth, junior, senior and masters levels.

96

Can Jordan Burroughs defend his Olympic gold medal in the men's freestyle 74 kg. division? And then can he make it three in a row in Tokyo? Whoa, let's not get ahead of ourselves, but Burroughs has already announced his intention to compete through 2020, when he hopes to surpass two-time Olympic champion and four-time world champ John Smith as the winningest U.S. wrestler of all time. Burroughs already has three world titles and a world bronze medal, which he earned while grappling with a leg injury.

97

Will Kyle Snyder surpass 2008 Olympic champion Henry Cejudo as the youngest



Hunter Kemper (triathlon)

Mary Killman and Mariya Koroleva (synchronized swimming)



U.S. Olympic wrestling champion in history? Snyder became the youngest U.S. world champion at age 19 when he won the 2015 world title following his freshman year at Ohio State. Earlier this month, he knocked off defending Olympic champion Jake Varner to earn the Team USA freestyle spot at 97 kg. Cejudo was 21 years, 6 months old when he earned Olympic gold in Beijing. Snyder will be 20 years, 8½ months when the Rio Games begin.

98

Can Adeline Gray become the first female U.S. gold medalist in wrestling? Gray, who competes at 75 kg., already has three world titles and five total world championship medals, second only to Tricia Saunders (with five world gold medals) and Kristie Davis with nine total world medals. Gray also boasts a winning streak of more than 35 matches dating back to July 2014. Can she keep it going all the way through Rio?

99

What difference does 2 kg. make? For people checking bags at airports ... a lot. The same goes for Helen Maroulis, the 2015 wrestling world champion at

the non-Olympic 55 kg. Maroulis had to choose between going up 3 kg. or down 2 kg. to make her first Olympic team. She opted to drop down to 53 kg., adopting a strict diet and exercise program. After her victory at the Olympic Trials, Maroulis traveled all the way to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where she won a tournament last weekend to secure the Rio qualifying spot. Four years ago, Maroulis was the runner-up at the Olympic Trials, losing by one point. She hasn't lost in international competition in more than a year. Losing weight, however, is her constant challenge.

100

Foreign competitors know him as "The Cowboy." In the U.S., he's called "The Stache" and even his Twitter handle (@Biseks_Stache) includes the nickname. But on the mat, Andy Bisek is simply known as the best Greco-Roman wrestler for Team USA. Competing at 75 kg., Bisek won back-to-back bronze medals at the 2014 and 2015 world championships. With wins over the reigning Olympic champ and several world champions, can Bisek wra



Dates of Operation:
August 5- 21, 2016

House Hours of Operation:
10:00am – 12:00am

Team USA Shop
Hours of Operation:
10:00am – 10:00pm

Cost to purchase
additional day passes:
\$300 USD each

Cost for Child Pass
(12 and under):
\$75 USD each

JOIN US IN RIO AT USA HOUSE

The Rio 2016 Olympic Games are just around the corner. As you finalize your travel arrangements, please include USA House on your itinerary. As alumni, every registered Olympian and Paralympian will receive an all access pass to USA House, valid August 5-21. You will also receive two day passes for guests.

#GO TEAM USA

Here is a quick glance at this year's USA House:

Located on Iconic Ipanema Beach at the Colégio São Paulo, Av. Vieira Souto, 22 – Ipanema, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, 22420-000, Brazil. USA House will serve as the hub of the USOC's Hospitality operation, featuring all day dining and beverage services, live Olympic Games coverage, Order of Ikko ceremonies and much more.



Please confirm your attendance by emailing Christine Taylor at: christine.taylor@usoc.org with your name, sport, years and dates of arrival/departure.

Access passes can be picked up at the USA House Registration Desk starting August 5th. To use your two one-day guest passes you will need to register your guests at the front desk.



ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESIRED ATTRIBUTES OF THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIANS & PARALYMPIANS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2016 USOPA Elections/Term of Service 2017-2020

- Candidates should have a keen interest in the United States Olympians & Paralympians Association (USOPA) and show a strong commitment to work, collaborate and advocate for and represent all USOPA members.
- USOPA Executive Committee (EC) members are expected to demonstrate initiative and leadership in setting and achieving the goals and objectives of the USOPA.
- The USOPA EC is responsible for developing the goals, objectives and strategies for the organization. Thinking strategically is a key attribute for EC members.
- The USOPA EC guides the governance standards for the EC, the Board and the Chapters. Recognizing the importance of governance and applying it within the organization is a desired trait in EC members.
- USOPA EC members possess a number of skills such as, leadership, prior board experience, management, design, production, finance, human resources, ethics, and compliance. As appropriate, it is expected that EC members will share their skills with the EC, Board and Chapters.
- The majority of the USOPA EC work is conducted over E-mail and teleconference calls, so it is therefore highly recommended that candidates have access to this communication medium. USOPA EC members are expected to return calls and reply to emails promptly.
- Candidates should be available to attend all USOPA meetings. The USOPA EC meets monthly via conference call, and face-to-face the first quarter of each year and at the full USOPA Board meeting which includes all chapter presidents and EC members which meets face-to-face once a year usually in conjunction with the USOC Olympic & Paralympic Assembly. Dates and selected city are communicated well in advance. All necessary travel and room and board are covered by the USOPA office.
- USOPA EC members are requested to actively serve on assigned committees and stay involved throughout their term of office. EC members are subject to loss of position (by a vote of the EC) if they miss any two consecutive meetings, without a justifiable excuse.
- USOPA EC members are requested to provide input to the meeting agenda and feedback to meeting minutes.
- In an effort to avoid even the appearance of any potential conflicts of interest, all USOPA EC members are required to sign a Conflict of Interest disclosure form.
- Additional time commitment may arise in an effort to keep the USOPA active in USOC events and activities.
- USOPA EC members may be asked to attend a chapter meeting or function.
- USOPA EC members are responsible for reporting regularly on the activities of the committee on which they may chair.
- USOPA EC members are expected to be an active member of the USOPA Chapter where they reside (if one exists).

CAMPAIGN REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

The 2016 election will be done by postal mail and possibly by electronic mail.

The 2016 election will be done by postal mail and possibly by electronic mail.

As stated in the United States Olympians and Paralympians Association Constitution ARTICLE V, Membership,
A. Regular: Everyone who has been an athlete member of the official U.S. delegation at any Olympic or Paralympic Games.

In order to be placed on the official ballot, all candidates' candidacy application forms must be postmarked by July 15, 2016. All candidacy application forms postmarked on or before that date will be accepted. The Election/Nominating Committee will review all candidates for eligibility, legitimacy and compliance. Candidates who have properly submitted their candidacy forms and are eligible and in compliance will have their names and statements appear on the official ballot. Candidates who submitted candidacy forms incorrectly or were nominated after the July 15, 2016 postmark date may still run for a United States Olympians and Paralympians Association officer position, however, their name will not appear on the official ballot and their platform statement will not be distributed through The Olympian newsletter or any United States Olympians and Paralympians Association office mass mailing.

The following dates are the chronological order in which the election process will take place.

June 2, 2016 – Campaign Requirements and Procedures mailed out to all members of the United States Olympians and Paralympians Association.

July 15, 2016 – All candidacy application forms must be postmarked on or before July 15, 2016 to have candidate's name appear on the official ballot. A candidate may be nominated after July 15, 2016 but their name will not appear on the official ballot. USOPA members may choose to "write-in" a candidate.

July 24, 2016 – Election/Nominating Committee completes verification on all candidates' eligibility and compliance for official ballot.

September 15, 2016 – The United States Olympic Committee/ United States Olympians Association office mails out official ballot to all members of the United States Olympians and Paralympians Association..

October 7, 2016 – In order for the vote to count, the Alumni must have their mail-in ballot postmarked no later than October 7, 2016.

October 14, 2016 – Ballots will be tallied by Waugh & Goodwin, LLP Certified Public Accountants in the presence of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee and a United States Olympians and Paralympians Association office staff. Ballots will be tallied several times to ensure accuracy.

October 14, 2016 – Announcement and notification of new Executive Committee.

November/December, 2016 – Officers-elect and departing officers meet at a time and place TBD to allow installation.

Procedure for Candidates

- 1) Obtain candidacy form from the United States Olympians and Paralympians Association office
- 2) All candidacy application forms must be completed and returned postmarked by July 15, 2016
- 3) Platform statements must not exceed 250 words which may be submitted with candidacy application form
- 4) A headshot photo may be included and is encouraged
- 5) All candidacy application forms must have a postmark by July 15, 2016 or earlier in order to be reviewed by the Nominating Committee for compliance
- 6) Official ballot to be mailed September 15, 2016 to all United States Olympians and Paralympians Association members
- 7) All ballots must be received with an "on or before postmark" of October 7, 2016 to be counted
- 8) Ballots will be counted on October 14, 2016
- 9) Results of election will be announced at an appropriate time to allow installation of newly elected officers

Election Procedures

- 1) Election Day is October 14, 2016.
- 2) All ballots must be signed by the voting individual.
- 3) Space will be available for write-in votes (candidate must be eligible).
- 4) Waugh & Goodwin, LLP, Certified Public Accountants will assist the Chairman of the Nominating Committee and United States Olympians and Paralympians Association staffer in tabulating the ballots (multiple counts to ensure accuracy).
- 5) The candidate with the most votes for the office of President will be named to that office.
- 6) The seven candidates receiving votes from higher to lower in subsequent order will be named as Vice Presidents and are considered Executive Committee members of the USOPA. There is a requirement that there be at least one Olympian and Paralympian. If the top 7 vote getters are all Olympians, the person in seventh position would be replaced by the highest Paralympian vote getter.
- 7) In the event of a tie the United States Olympians and Paralympians Association Board of Directors and newly elected Executive Committee members, not involved with the tie, will vote to break the tie. If a tie occurs after this procedure the President of the United States Olympians and Paralympians Association will break the tie.
- 8) The newly elected Executive Committee will be invited and expected to join the United States Olympians and Paralympians Association President and Vice Presidents at a time and place to be determined to allow installation.



CANDIDACY FORMS CAN BE MAILED/EMAILED TO:

Cynthia E. Stinger, Manager
United States Olympians and Paralympians Association
United States Olympic Committee
One Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5760

Email: cindy.stinger@usoc.org

OLYMPIAN & PARALYMPIAN HOTLINE
1-800-717-7555

UNITED STATES OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS ASSOCIATION ELECTION 2016



**U.S. OLYMPIANS &
PARALYMPIANS
ASSOCIATION**

CANDIDACY APPLICATION FORM

UNITED STATES OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS ASSOCIATION-MISSION STATEMENT

The U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association will foster Olympism in communities around the United States, motivate and encourage youth, develop camaraderie and honor all those who have shared the unique experience of representing their nation at the Olympic or Paralympic Games.

A candidate can run for any or all of the offices. Please declare for which of the two offices you are seeking, President (1) and/or Vice President (7). The person named below is hereby designated as an official candidate for the following office(s). Write in an X where applicable.

President (1) Vice-President (7) Both

Date: _____

First Name: _____

M.I. _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Birth date: _____

Preferred phone #: _____

Preferred e-mail: _____

Olympic Year(s) _____ Sport(s) _____

(Optional) Photograph enclosed: yes / no

(Optional) Platform Statement: (not to exceed 250 words) yes / no

All Candidacy Application Forms will be reviewed by the Election/Nominating Committee for compliance and legitimacy. The Nominating Committee will be receiving Candidacy Application Forms until July 15, 2016 in order to have your name appear on the official ballot. All write-in candidates not previously identified must meet the same criteria before assuming any office.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Candidate

CANDIDACY FORMS CAN BE MAILED/EMAILED TO:

**Cynthia E. Stinger, Manager
United States Olympians and Paralympians Association
United States Olympic Committee
One Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5760**

Email: cindy.stinger@usoc.org



The United States Olympic Committee's Athlete Career and Education program took a giant leap forward in 2015, assisting Team USA athletes with job resources,

encouraging sustained competitive excellence, and providing tools to help athletes successfully transition from the playing field into classrooms or professional fields. Last year, ACE accounted for over 200 athlete job placements. This was possible with a commitment from DICK's Sporting Goods to hire Team USA athletes in part-time, flexible jobs through the Contenders Program, more than one million dollars in education services with DeVry University, and over 500 athletes registered on the ACE online platform. Now, midway through 2016, ACE is excited to share some key initiatives as it continues to be a resource for retired, current and future Olympians and Paralympians.

New Interactive Platform

In an effort to better serve our athletes through career and education resources, mentorship, and a community of Team USA athletes, ACE is in the final stages of developing a new interactive online platform. Launching this summer, the platform will be a marriage of professional development resources and digital media networking, enabling Team USA athletes the ability to share content, form support groups and connect with each other. The ACE platform will feature a custom job board with specific opportunities catering to Team USA athletes, as well as over 2,000 jobs with companies who believe in the value of hiring athletes.

Another key feature of the new platform is the ACE Mentor Network. Through this feature, Team USA athletes can receive free, real-time advice through online, one-on-one video mentorship from fellow Olympians, Paralympians and business leaders. Mentors connect with athletes through the online platform via facilitated email connections and scheduled video calls. The ACE program is continually looking for quality mentors to give back and provide guidance to Team USA athletes, and welcomes the opportunity for alumni to share experiences of success and lessons learned.

Finally, the online platform is where alumni can stay connected, engaged and enriched with the community of Team USA athletes, as well as reconnect with former teammates by searching for them on the platform, exploring personal and professional opportunities and sharing the latest news.

Post-Olympic and Paralympic Summit 2016

The post-Rio Athlete Career and Education Summit will be held in October 2016 in conjunction with the Team USA White House visit in Washington D.C. All 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Team members will be invited. The Summit will kick off with a USOPA induction ceremony and include a three-day program of dynamic speakers and engaging workshops geared toward providing athletes with practical resources for personal and professional development. The Summit will also connect participants to a robust network of prospective employers, supporters, mentors and sponsors.

Athletes who will continue to compete can start the process of exploring career interests and education opportunities, while gaining professional skills and connections to enhance their sport careers. Retiring athletes will receive career counseling services and have the opportunity to explore and discuss what life is like after sport. The Summit is designed to help athletes understand USOC/ACE support resources and available networks, while opening dialogue around retirement and successful transition from sport.

Retirement/Transition Workshop Series

As many alumni are aware or have even experienced, many athletes live without developing identities beyond their "athlete-selves." Retiring from elite level competition can be a difficult road to navigate. Too often there are sad tales of retired athletes struggling with life after sport, experiencing substance abuse, bankruptcy and depression. The purpose of the ACE Transition Workshop Program is to address challenges that retiring Team USA athletes face, and provide them with a variety of tools and techniques to help maintain a "high performance" lifestyle as they transition. Facilitated by professional sports psychologists, groups of athletes engage in a shared understanding and support for success in the future.

With a lot to accomplish by year-end, the ACE team is proud and excited to be a resource for alumni and other Team USA athletes. As part of its commitment to serve athletes, please consider reaching out to the ACE team with ideas, questions, or interest in becoming an asset to fellow athletes.

USOC ARCHIVES & ARCHIVIST NEWS

TERESA HEDGPETH, USOC ARCHIVIST & HISTORICAL STEWARD



Allison and Allen Scott donating Jeremy Abbott's Short Program costume from Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games. Jeremy Abbott and Scott Family Collection

Photograph by Cassandra Cavness

As the archivist for the U.S. Olympic Committee, I have the wonderful job of assisting our Olympians and Paralympians in ensuring their Olympic artifacts are preserved and protected for years to come. For the most part, it is the older athletes who are looking for not only a home for their Olympic memorabilia but also for a caretaker of their Olympic history. Occasionally, I also have the opportunity to meet with our current athletes to discuss the

importance of capturing and preserving their history.

However, it is rare that I meet with the parents of Olympians who are concerned with preserving the history of their athletes. From scrapbooks of photographs and clippings of their little ones maturing into Olympic and Paralympic athletes, to hard-earned medals and multiple uniforms, family treasures are created to be passed down through generations.

A little over a year ago, I briefly met one such family. As the conversation progressed, I realized I was talking to the father of one of our Olympians – one who had faced significant challenges during his competition, yet rose above in a manner befitting the title of Olympian.

I explained my mission to preserve Olympic history, especially that of our Olympians and Paralympians. I hoped to

hear from him, but time passed.

Earlier this year, I was contacted by the same family. Curbing my excitement, I patiently waited until all parties were

Capturing and preserving the uniforms and gear our athletes used in competition has been a recent focus of the archives.

contacted and consent was given to donate items. With that, Allison and Allen Scott recently came to the archives with their son's Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games donation and presented it to the archives.

Jeremy Abbott epitomized what it meant to be an Olympian during his



Gold medal winning U.S. Paralympic Ice Sled Hockey Team, Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games.

competition in Sochi. It is not the points he garnered, nor the color of medal he earned which made his act remarkable, but his determination to persevere through pain that demonstrated his character. Jeremy stood after an agonizing fall and continued his routine, exemplifying what it means to be an Olympian. Those rare instances when character shines through are the moments in Olympic history we wish to capture and preserve in our archives.

Another recent donation came from Marine and Paralympian Pat Sapp, a member of the 2002 U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team that won gold at the Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games. Injured in 1970, while serving in Vietnam, Pat initially rebelled against his injuries. Ultimately, he accepted his new life which led to a new-found passion of wheelchair racing.

Pat won 97 national medals, 5 world medals and broke two world records in wheelchair racing before becoming a winter Paralympian and member of the 2002 U.S. Sled Hockey Team. I was thrilled to find out that Pat not only wanted to donate his sled, but also his gloves and the 4-wheel racing wheelchair he used while competing.

When we opened the four boxes containing Pat's donation and assembled the racing wheelchair, my first call was to the Olympic Museum consultants to inform them of the unique nature of the racing chair. The chair serves as a marker in how far we have come in the development of Paralympic racing chairs.

Capturing and preserving the uniforms and gear our athletes used in competition has been a recent focus of the archives. Let us not lose sight of our primary mission to safeguard all history of our Olympic and Paralympic athletes – the family scrapbooks, the medals earned, the memorabilia collected while competing – combining to make the rich tapestry of history we wish to preserve and present to others. Fans of the Olympic movement are immediately connected to our athletes when they see the same memorabilia collected while watching the Games. It truly is wonderful when people come to visit the archives, and exclaim, "I remember that!" Instantly, a bond is created between them and the Olympic movement. It is this bond that we wish to foster with all and thereby, inspire others. Soon, the new U.S. Olympic Museum will use these treasures from our archives to reach thousands, and present your history to the entire world. Thank you for entrusting the Crawford Family U.S. Olympic Archives with your Olympic history.



Jeremy Abbott, Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games.



Marine and Paralympian Pat Sapp's 4-wheel Racing Wheelchair and Ice Sled hockey sled and gloves from Salt Lake 2002.



WILLIAM E. SIMON OLYMPIC ENDOWMENT GIVES TEAM USA HOPEFULS AN EDGE 2016 GRANT FUNDING PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO 12 UP-AND-COMING U.S. ATHLETES

By Caryn Maconi

U.S. Olympic swimming hopeful Giles Smith consumes 4,000-5,000 calories per day.

That's what it takes to be an elite-level sprinter, contending with the likes of Michael Phelps in the 100-meter butterfly. Between three and four-a-day training sessions, proper fueling is extremely important.

All those calories, however, can add up to a pretty steep grocery bill.

That's one reason Smith is grateful to be a recipient of the 2016 William E. Simon Olympic Endowment for the Support of Athletes. The endowment, established in 1998 and named after the former U.S. Olympic Committee president, offers financial aid to a select group of athletes each year.

Since the grant's inception, more than \$920,000 has been awarded by the USOC to nearly 200 athletes. Its aim

is to offset training expenses, allowing athletes to focus more fully on chasing their Olympic and Paralympic dreams.

Smith is one of 12 Team USA hopefuls selected to receive support from the Simon Endowment in 2016. He plans to use the funding to aid in both nutrition and recovery.

"The grant allows me to be a little bit more consistent with putting quality food in my body, and really taking care of myself outside of the pool," Smith said. "Being able to afford massages when I need them, chiropractor visits – those things really help in terms of recovery."

The funding also offsets some of the expenses Smith faces when traveling for training camps and international competitions.

"When you're on the road with hotels and airfare, it adds up," Smith said. "Eating when you're on the road – you've got to eat well while you're competing,"

Smith said. "I'm very thankful to have the grant to be able to cover some of those costs."

Smith won gold in the 100 butterfly at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto last summer. Since then, he's had the flexibility to step away from a swim team coaching job – meaning hours on his feet in the sun after training – and commit fully to his athletic career.

Smith hopes to qualify for his first U.S. Olympic Team at the Olympic Trials for swimming in June, and he believes he has what it takes. Only the top two finishers in each event at the trials will punch their tickets to Rio.

"Obviously Michael Phelps swims my event, and he's the best swimmer in the world, hands down," Smith said. "And besides Michael, there are other guys who are great competitors. I think for me I'm just trying to swim my own perfect race, and if I do that, I believe I can get one of those spots."

TEAM USA REGISTRY

For U.S. freestyle wrestler Victoria Anthony, receiving the Simon Endowment means being able to focus more on training and work fewer hours at her retail job at Dick's Sporting Goods.

"The Simon grant gives me the necessary support to increase the value of my training," Anthony said. "It allows me to relax financially, with the knowledge that I can afford the things that truly aid in great training – organic food choices, massages, recovery tools and travel expenses."

Anthony kicked off 2016 in winning fashion, taking the women's 48kg title at the Dave Schultz Memorial in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in January. She narrowly missed making the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team, finishing second at the Olympic Trials in April.

However, she is already looking ahead, though, with aims of making the team for the 2017 World Championships in Paris – and winning a world title once she gets there.

"In order to achieve that goal, I will compete in a handful of domestic and international tournaments along the way," Anthony said. "My goal is less to win those, as it is to figure out what is and isn't working in my technique, fix it, and be prepared for the World Team Trials and the World Championships."

But for Smith, Anthony, and the 10 other Simon Endowment recipients for 2016, winning medals and setting records isn't all that drives them. Like most athletes of Team USA, they are motivated by something more.

"I want my story to inspire and encourage people to follow their dreams, regardless of being knocked down," Anthony said. "I lost this year in the finals of the Olympic Trials, but I'll be back better than ever because of it. I know my journey to the top will be one that others can pull encouragement from, in order to achieve whatever it is they are striving for."

Smith has a similar mission.

"It's really important to me to inspire minority kids," Smith said. "I'm an African-American swimmer, and there are not many of us out there. There's much more diversity on the pool deck than when I first started, but there's a lot that can be done. If I can impact that in any way – by my performance or by talking to a kid after a race – that's how you leave a legacy in a sport. You leave things better than they were when you were doing them."



U.S. Olympic swimming hopeful
Giles Smith



U.S. freestyle wrestler Victoria Anthony



New OORF Solidarity Grant established...

At a recent meeting of the OORF Board, a new policy was enacted that will allow any Olympian or Paralympian to request funds on behalf of their fellow Olympic or Paralympic teammates, without the recipient being involved. Prior policy required the recipient be aware of, and sign the application. These new "Solidarity Grants" are for smaller amounts, (limit: \$1,000) but should allow us to "care for each other" in a more tangible way, with less paperwork. The awarding of a Solidarity Grant does not in any way prevent the recipients from making additional requests on their own behalf in the future.

This new policy should allow more grants to be awarded to more individuals, but it does require a little more work by the rest of us: You will have to complete and submit the one-page form, and when possible you will be asked to personally present the gift to the recipient. If you want to be helpful, take a moment (or two) and get involved.

The OORF Solidarity Grant application form is available on the OORF website (www.OORF.org). If/when you hear of an Olympian or Paralympian who has suffered from an accident, illness or injury, please take the initiative to apply for a grant on their behalf. Let's be here for each other, and let's keep the Olympic Spirit alive!

ALUMNI IN HONOR

USRowing Hall of Fame

The 1976 Women's Rowing 8+ was inducted into the USRowing Hall of Fame in April.

These women won a bronze medal at the Montreal 1976 Olympic Games, which was the first time women's rowing was on the Olympic program.

The induction ceremony was held in Sarasota, Florida, in conjunction with the first round of Olympic Trials for rowing for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Their shared recollections from Montreal included noting that the heats of the Olympic Games were the first time the boat had ever sat on the starting line and raced anyone!

Other members of the team recalled that when the racing was over, the team members were on their own to get home with no plane or train tickets – just goodbye and good luck.



Rowing Hall of Fame ceremony picture: L to R: Gail Ricketson Helfer, Carol Brown, Peggy McCarthy Bailey, Anne Taubes Warner, Carie Graves, Anita De Frantz, Jackie Zoch Major, Lynn Silliman Reed

Not pictured: Angie Greig



1976 Rowing Team goes for a spin!

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM



Vince Boryla
(Basketball, 1948)

Vince Boryla passed away on March 27, 2016 at age 89.

Boryla orchestrated a blockbuster deal with Portland in 1984 that brought Wayne Cooper, Fat Lever and Calvin Natt to town for Kiki Vandeweghe. Denver made it to the Western Conference finals that season and Boryla was named the NBA's Executive of the Year.

Boryla played five seasons for the New York Knicks in the 1950s and averaged 11.2 points. He later took over as their coach for three seasons, going 80-85.

Boryla was a member of the U.S. team that won a gold medal at the 1948 Olympics.

Boryla is the only consensus All-American for the University of Denver in men's basketball history. In 2013, the program renamed the Pioneer Award to the Vince Boryla '49 Pioneer Award. It's presented to the player who takes the

extra step to make the program better. He's survived by his wife, Mary Jo, and five children, along with numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Sherri H. Cassuto
(Rowing, 1984, 1988)

Sherri H. Cassuto passed away on April 29, 2016 at age 59.

Sherri Honan Cassuto finally agreed to let death take her the evening of April 29, 2016. She was surrounded by family, in her own home, in her own bed, having been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer almost 2 1/2 years before. That time had been spent pursuing every known alternative, trying to support her already incredible immune system in its epic battle.

Sherri was a true Renaissance woman: she was a marine biologist, scuba diver, twice an Olympic rower (1984 and 1988), took silver in a pair at the Worlds (1985), medaled in Canadian Nationals in a marathon canoe, took gold in the Maccabiah Games in 1989 for Women's

single sculling (the event had been created with her in mind), won outrigger canoe races, and placed first in many kayak and surf ski events, besides coaching, which she always was honored to be able to do. In the last few months, Sherri had a UW straight four (competitive rowing boat) named for her, as well as the LWRC Head of the Lake trophy for the Women's Masters Single. She won the Masters Single for her age category for several years in a row in the last decade, and took delight in being that woman "with tight graying curls, an iPod in her ears and black pogies on her hands." Racing in the Deception Pass Dash, she calculated everything: the water speed, the wind, the ebb, eddies, her bow angle, to ultimately take first in Women's Sea Kayaks division. In her early days, she was competitive in swimming, track, and even took 2nd as a World power lifter. Sherri raced sailboats as far back as in her youth, and was a finalist for the all women Americas Cup crew.

Sherri expressed herself creatively in music as an oboist (also playing flute, sax, clarinet and ukulele), and mastered the art of Hawaiian slack key guitar. She drew beautifully, painted with watercolors, carved wood, wrote and published, cooked, repaired and maintained her own home expertly. She bicycled, hiked and backpacked (as in, summited Mt Rainer – everything Sherri did was masterful!), fished, skied . . .

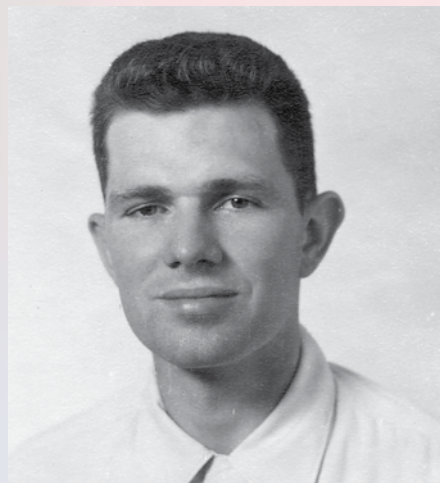
And, Sherri was a Certified Rolfer. Using that focused attention, and all the anatomy and creativity at her

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM (continued)

disposal, she helped many people resolve debilitating body problems that had previously kept them from their own passions. Oh, and of course she mostly bicycled and kayaked to her office in Fremont for 25 years.

Sherri was loyal, honest, humble, passionate, loving, optimistic, hardworking, brilliantly intelligent, and loved to laugh – intensely! She is survived by her siblings, mother, cousins, nephew and nieces, aunts and uncle, as well as her very many friends and communities of friends.

We miss her deeply.



John H. Eiseman
(Canoe/Kayak, 1948, 1952)

John Eiseman passed away on April 26, 2016, at age 90.

During his high school years John was captain of the basketball team, and played many other sports.

Eiseman enlisted in the U.S. Navy where

he was a Pharmacist Mate stationed at the Bethesda Naval Hospital until his honorable discharge. He received the American Theater Ribbon and Victory Medal.

He was a lifelong member of the Potomac Boat Club, Washington D.C. He represented the United States at the 1948 and 1952 Olympic Games in the sport of canoe/kayak.

After his discharge from the Navy, he attended and graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Business Management. After graduation, John was hired by IBM, where he remained until his retirement.

John had many hobbies that he enjoyed and was skilled in, including softball, refinishing and refurbishing furniture, wood working, his prized work bench, gardening and yard work.

John is predeceased by his parents, his wife Joan, his sister and brother. He is survived by his four daughters, Carol (Tom) Patterson, Susan (Michael) Brew, Joan (Rich) Davis and Nancy (Ed) Rasavage; 10 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.



Ray Essick
Executive Director, USA Swimming)

Ray Essick passed away May 21, 2016 at age 82.

Ray was born September 18, 1933 in Murphysboro, IL. He graduated from Senn High School in Chicago, IL and continued on to receive his bachelors and masters degree from the University of Illinois.

Ray was married to Frances (Toni) on June 14, 1958. They were married 57 years.

Ray's coaching career spanned 22 years including Lake Forest Swim Club, New Trier High School, Southern Illinois University and Harvard University. He led the Southern Illinois University team to seven appearances at the NCAA national championships, finishing in the top 20 each time with twenty one of his swimmers named as All-Americans. For this, he was recognized as NCAA Coach of the Year in 1972. He then moved his talents to Harvard University, where he

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM (continued)

lost only one meet during his tenure. In 1976, Ray took the reins of American swimming as the AAU's swimming administrator. When United States Swimming was created as the National Governing Body in 1980, Ray became its first Executive Director. He remained in that position for 17 years until his retirement in 1997, leading the sport through a period of enormous growth and prosperity.

Ray is survived by his wife Toni and his children -- Ray IV, Anne (Shimp), Brad and Kate. He is also survived by his sister Mary Bartolucci and his six grandchildren - Ray V, Reed, Kyle, Oliver, Chris, and Madeline. Ray is preceded in death by his mother Ida "Nanny" Essick Sutherland and his father Raymond "Doc" Essick, Jr.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to USA Swimming Foundation, a philanthropic arm of USA Swimming that raises funds to strengthen the sport from grassroots to gold medals, (www.usaswimming.org).



Lou Gellermann

(Rowing, 1960)

Louis Gellermann passed away on May 13, 2016 at age 79.

As the University of Washington's public-address announcer from 1985 until 2007, Gellermann welcomed fans with his signature greeting — "Hello, Dawg fans!" — accompanied by a siren before each football game. Fans would return the greeting with one of their own: "Hello, Lou!"

"I just love Husky athletics, and it will be very, very difficult to say goodbye," Gellermann told *The Seattle Times* before his last game as PA announcer in 2007.

Before becoming a PA announcer for UW football and basketball, Gellermann was a member of the Huskies' 1958 eight-oared crew that traveled to England for the Henley Royal Regatta, where the Huskies lost to the Leningrad Trud Club by a boat length.

Even so, the Russian rowers invited the UW crew to Moscow for a rematch, and in Moscow the Huskies beat the Leningrad Trud crew and three other Russian teams by about 2 lengths on the 2,000-meter Khimkinskoe Reservoir course. The victory made international news and remains one of the most notable achievements in the history of UW rowing.

The 1958 crew was inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame in 1984. Lou competed at the 1960 Olympic Games. A Roosevelt High School graduate, Gellermann rowed for four seasons at Washington and earned a degree in communications in 1958. He was the rowing coach at the U.S. Naval Academy before returning to Seattle in 1968 to coach the UW freshmen for three seasons.

In 1969, his freshman eight finished in an unprecedented dead heat with Penn to share the IRA crown.

He began working in the Husky Stadium press box as the internal announcer in 1968 and replaced Wendell Broyles as the stadium's PA announcer in 1985.

Gellermann is survived by three sisters (Margaret Hays, Joan Nykreim, NancyLou Patterson), son Kurt, daughter Casey McSweyn (Matt) and grandchildren Grady and Hattie.

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM (continued)



Janet Baier Howes

(Volleyball, 1980)

Janet Baier Howes passed away on April 27, 2016, at age 62.

Janet graduated from McCluer High School in 1972, devoted her life to her family and volleyball and is a member of the United States Volleyball Hall of Fame.

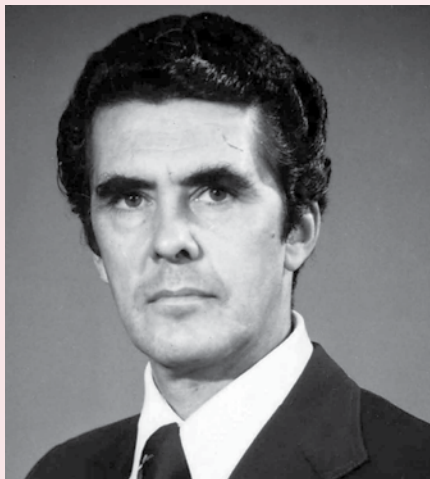
She began her volleyball career with the North County YMCA. After high school, Janet played at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, Mich. From there, she went to SIU-Carbondale, which at the time didn't have a varsity women's volleyball team. That didn't stop her from making the 1980 Olympic team, but she and her teammates never got the chance to compete due to the boycott.

Howes was on the U.S. National team from 1975-1983. She went on to coach volleyball on many different levels. She brought the same passion coaching a 12 and under team as she did coaching a NCAA Division I squad. She even

coached at St. Louis University in the 1980's.

She was also a volleyball official, presiding over matches anywhere from 12 and under to Division I. She also officiated postseason Division I matches. In fact, she was officiating a high school match the night before her passing.

Janet leaves behind her husband, Alan and two children, Emily and R.J.



Anthony "Jack" Keane, Jr.

(Fencing, 1968, 1972)

Anthony "Jack" Keane, Jr. passed away on April 17, 2016, at age 87.

Born and raised in The Bronx, NY, he resided in New York City before moving to East Brunswick in 1959.

He graduated from Stuyvesant High School, and received his Bachelor's Degree from New York University, where he was a member of the Student Hall of Fame.

He faithfully served his country from August 1946 to January 1948, while in the U.S. Army.

Jack enjoyed a long career in the advertising business, working on numerous successful ad campaigns. He was a recipient of a Clio Award, the industry's highest honor, for creative excellence.

In 1959 he became a member of the New York Athletic Club. He quickly developed a lifetime love for the sport of Fencing. This passion culminated in him becoming a two time Olympian. He won the gold medal for individual Saber at both the 1967 Pan American Games and the 1968 U.S. National Championships. After his competitive career he was the team captain of three Olympic teams. Along with Mrs. Keane, he traveled the world with Fencing. He experienced new cultures, people and adventures that lasted a lifetime.

He had many varied interests including painting, fly fishing, camping, cooking and golf. He had a thirst and curiosity for many new adventures, experiences and loved to explore new foods and wines.

Along with his wife, Beatrice, his generous spirit included being a founding member of St. Bartholomew Parish, sponsoring priestly missionary work in Africa, contributing to Doctors Without Borders and participating in Meals On Wheels.

Jack loved and enjoyed all his grandchildren and spent 25 years

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM (continued)

vacationing in Long Boat Key, FL, to be close to family.

Jack was a modest, humble man who had a spontaneous wit and keen intelligence. He was a loving and supportive father and grandfather.

He was predeceased in August of 2015 by his loving wife of 61 years, Beatrice Ballinger Keane, and in 2004 by his son, Sean C. Keane.

Surviving are his daughter, Marianne Cohen, and her husband Lou, of Osprey, FL, and their children, Meg, Alyssa and Rebecca; his son, Brian and his wife, Mary Ellen, of Alpha, NJ, and their children, Nick, Corey and Briana and his son A.J. and his wife, Rebecca, of Atlanta, GA. He is also survived by his brother, Robert, and his wife, RoseAnn of East Chester, NY, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Tommy Kono

(Weightlifting, 1952, 1956, 1960, 1976-Coach)

Tommy Kono passed away on April 24, 2016 at age 85.

Born in Sacramento, Calif., Kono moved to Hawaii in the 1970s after putting together an incredible career that included a gold medal at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, at 149 pounds. He then won another gold medal at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics at 182 pounds and captured a silver medal at the Olympics Games in Rome at 165 pounds.

Kono is the only Olympic weightlifter in history to have set world records in four different weight classes: lightweight (149 lbs.), middleweight (165 lbs.), light-heavyweight (182 lbs.) and middle-heavyweight (198 lbs.). He was named to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame on July 6, 1990 in Minneapolis, Minn., and the International Weightlifting Hall of Fame in 1994 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Kono was named the top weightlifter of

all-time by the official magazine of the International Weightlifting Federation. He also was an equipment innovator, helping to develop supportive knee and elbow bands that later became standard weightlifting gear.

In addition to Olympic success, Kono won six world championships in events that included the clean and jerk, clean and press, and snatch. Kono was the head coach of the United States' Olympic weightlifting team in the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal.

He was also a successful bodybuilder, winning the Iron Man Mr. World title in 1954.



Mamie Annette Rallins

(Track & Field, 1968, 1972)

Mamie Rallins passed away on May 16, 2016 at age 74.

Mamie was an Olympian and accomplished coach. At 15, on the south side of Chicago, she found her passion in track and field. She became an

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM (continued)

amazing hurdler. Those years of training paid off when at 27, she qualified for the 1968 Mexico City Summer Games. At 31, she qualified for her second Olympics, the 1972 summer games in Munich, Germany. In her 30s with the Olympic Games behind her, she went to school at Tennessee State University.

Rallins was named to serve as the Ohio State University's first African-American woman head coach of the track and field/ cross country program in 1976. The OSU track and field website credits Rallins with coaching 60 Big Ten indoor/ outdoor champions, 24 All Americans, nine Olympic trial qualifiers and one Olympian during an 18-year career.

Mamie was a trailblazer and a champion for all things Ohio State. She was a big supporter — mentor, coach, cheerleader, statistician and team grandma.

Rallins was the head coach of the U.S. Indoor World Championship team in 1987, assistant coach for the U.S. Olympic Team in 1996, and was head manager for the U.S. women's track and field team at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Rallins never married or had children, she bestowed her love on a niece and a nephew.



Verneda Estella Thomas

(Volleyball, 1964)

Verneda Thomas passed away on March 29, 2016, at age 79.

Thomas was a pioneer in the sport of volleyball as she made the inaugural U.S. Olympic Women's Volleyball Team roster at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, as well as only one of two active African-American players competing in USVBA Nationals at the time. She was an international elite high jumper in the 1950s, but made a quick impression when she started playing volleyball in 1960 with Chicago Rebels under legendary coach Bertha Lucas.

After the Olympics, Thomas continued to play with the Rebels before joining Locahi Hawaiians in the mid-1970s. She later transitioned to being a USA National referee in 1982 and was an FIVB qualified scorekeeper before retiring at the end of the 2012-13 season.

Thomas, fairly new to the sport in the

1960s, was tall, athletic and the only African-American on the Olympic Team in 1964. She had been a member of U.S. women's track and field team, winning the national high jump title in 1957, and had been coached by Dr. Donnis Thompson, who would later become the University of Hawaii women's athletic director.

"The California girls knew each other, and then there was me, from Chicago," said Thomas, a chemist and former research associate at The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu, in an interview with the Honolulu Star-Advertiser in June 2014. "I was a little older (28) and we had nothing in common. And in the 1960s, it was kind of devastating as far as the racial discrimination thing. At the nationals, I couldn't stay in the same hotel as my team. I had competed internationally in track and never had that same segregation in other countries that I encountered in the U.S."

OLYMPIAN & PARALYMPIAN

PHOTO Highlights





1. & 2. Members of the United States Olympians & Paralympians Association – Florida Chapter meet with the LA 2024 Committee in a Town Hall setting to share their feedback and aspirations regarding LA 2024’s game Plan.

3. On May 20, 2016, The Rotary Club of Villa Park, Calif., used their annual dinner to honor locally based Olympians and others including:
 (Men, Back Row: Steve Hegg (cycling), Ken Fuller (cycling), Michael Ker (swimming, CAN), Logan Dooley (gymnastics), Jim Wooley (judo), Peter Vidmar (gymnastics), John Naber (swimming), Andrew Strenk (swimming), Wayne Stetina (cycling), Bruce Furniss (swimming), John Howard (cycling), Ron Skarin (cycling).
 (Women, Front Row: Connie Paraskevin (cycling/speed skating), Shirley Babashoff (swimming), Denise Mueller (cycling), Kyla Ross (gymnastics), and Cindy Brown (basketball).

4. & 5. Members of the USOPA Executive Committee, Judi Brown Clarke and Willie Banks, continue to inspire kids all around the United States. Thank you!

“RECONNECT WITH YOUR FELLOW TEAMMATES” – KEEP IN TOUCH
 Join our private groups on Facebook and Linked In to stay connected.

FACEBOOK:
 United States Olympians and Paralympians
(918 members)

LINKED IN:
 United States Olympians and Paralympians
(364 members)
 Olympic and Paralympic Alumni
(12,876 members international)



USOC CHAIRMAN

Larry Probst

Robert Bach

James Benson

Scott A. Blackmun

Ursula M. Burns

Anita L. DeFrantz (rowing, 1976, 1980)

Daniel Doctoroff

Nina Kemppel (cross-country skiing, 1992, 1994, 1998, 2002)

Susanne Lyons

Bill Marolt (alpine skiing, 1964)

Steve Mesler (bobsled, 2002, 2006, 2010)

Dave Ogreaan

Whitney Ping (table tennis, 2004)

Angela Ruggiero (ice hockey, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010)

Kevin White

Bob Wood

USOC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Scott A. Blackmun

U.S. OLYMPIANS & PARALYMPIANS OFFICERS 2013-16

PRESIDENT

Gary Hall, Sr. (swimming, 1968, 1972, 1976)

VICE PRESIDENTS

Carol Brown (rowing, 1976, 1980, 1984)

Joey Cheek (speedskating, 2002, 2006)

Judi Brown Clarke (track & field, 1984)

Dick Fosbury (track & field, 1968)

Micki King (diving, 1968, 1972)

Carol Lewis Zilli (track & field, 1980, 1984, 1988)

Eli A. Wolff (Paralympic soccer, 1996, 2004)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Willie Banks (track & field, 1980, 1984, 1988)

PAST PRESIDENTS

John Naber (swimming, 1976)

Bill Toomey (track & field, 1968)

EDITORIAL STAFF

SENIOR EDITOR

Cynthia E. Stinger (team handball, 1984, 1988, 1992)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Christine Taylor

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

O'Shea Design

Photos by: Getty Images, USOC Archives and other sources



U.S. OLYMPIANS &

U.S. OLYMPIANS & PARALYMPIANS CHAPTERS

Alabama Olympians & Paralympians

President: Jennifer Chandler Stevenson (diving, 1976)
(205) 313-7436

Arizona Olympians & Paralympians

President: Misty Hyman (swimming, 2000)
(650) 248-6359

Austin-San Antonio Olympians & Paralympians

President: Randy Lipscher (field hockey, 1984)
(505) 453-6160

Colorado Olympians & Paralympians

President: Gene Kotlarek (ski jumping 1960, 1964)
(303) 807-3911

Florida Olympians & Paralympians

President: Carrie Zimmerman (gymnastics, 1976)
(850) 212-7846

Georgia Olympians & Paralympians

President: Bob Pickens (wrestling, 1964)
(773) 425-3254

Hawaii Olympians & Paralympians

President: Brent Berk (swimming, 1968)
(808) 395-0600

Houston Olympians & Paralympians

President: Jacqueline Washington (track & field, 1984)
(832) 488-8573

Idaho Olympians & Paralympians

President: Dick Fosbury (track & field, 1968)
(208) 720-2352

Indiana Olympians & Paralympians

President: Ollan Cassell (track & field, 1964)
(317) 253-1162

Louisiana Olympians & Paralympians

President: Hollis Conway (track & field, 1988, 1992)
(318) 237-2382

Michigan Olympians & Paralympians

President: Gary F. Morgan (track & field, 1988)
(248) 396-4936

Midwest Olympians & Paralympians

President: Diane Simpson (rhythmic gymnastics, 1988)
(847) 452-7843

Minnesota Olympians & Paralympians

President: Katrina Radke (swimming, 1988)
(651) 335-3647

Missouri/Illinois Olympians & Paralympians

President: John Carenza (soccer, 1972)
(314) 846-4124

National Capital Area Olympians & Paralympians

President: Arlene Limas (taekwondo, 1988)
(540) 720-1988

Nevada Olympians & Paralympians

President: Dean Willeford (water polo, 1968)
(775) 827-1775

New England Area Olympians & Paralympians

President: Sharon Ann Jewell (taekwondo, 1988)
(404) 668-7896

New Mexico Olympians & Paralympians

President: Trish King Porter (track & field, 1988)
(505) 459-9732

Northern California Olympians & Paralympians

President: Greg Massialas (fencing, 1980, 1984, 1988)
(415) 441-0521

Oklahoma Olympians & Paralympians

President: Josh C. Davis (swimming, 1996, 2000)
(210)-889-7667

Oregon Olympians & Paralympians

President: David Johnson (track & field, 1988, 1992)
(503) 302-3992

San Diego Olympians & Paralympians

President: Erin Aldrich-Shean (track & field, 2000)
(214) 725-9926

Southern California Olympians & Paralympians

President: Tamara Christopherson (canoe/kayak, 2000)
(206) 605-9265

Southwest Olympians & Paralympians

President: Sammy Walker (weightlifting, 1976)
(469) 955-3158

Tri-States Olympians & Paralympians

President: Diane Dixon (track & field, 1984, 1988)
(917) 538-3195

Utah Olympians & Paralympians

President: Debra Stark (gymnastics, 1972)
(801) 369-9918

Washington Olympians & Paralympians

President: Charles Ruthford (rowing, 1972)
(206) 819-3559

Western PA-OH-WV Olympians & Paralympians

President: Julie Koons (speedskating, 2002)
(216) 346-2650

No chapter in your area?

Interested in starting a chapter?

Contact the U.S. Olympians & Paralympians
Association office for details at: (800) 717-7555