



THE OLYMPIAN



THE TORONTO 2015 PAN AND PARAPAN AM GAMES

Fall Issue 2015

A Letter From Gary Hall, Sr.

U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association President



Dear Olympians and Paralympians,

2016 is almost here and this is not just another Olympic year. 2016 is an Olympic and Paralympic Reunion year! Las Vegas here we come. It has been 8 years since our first reunion in 2008 and we are overdue to celebrate our memorable achievements of qualifying to represent our country in the biggest sporting events on earth, the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We are overdue to honor those who excelled in competition and those who have dedicated their lives to promote Olympism. We are overdue to re-acquaint ourselves with our teammates and friends who share the

passion of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We are overdue to have a little fun!

I am so proud of the job that Anne Warner Cribbs, Willie Banks and their extensive committee have done in organizing this remarkable event. You really should not miss it. Here is a taste of what is in store for you when you come to Las Vegas from February 19-21 for our USOPA Reunion 2016!

Friday: Arrival, press conference and reception. After hours party.

Saturday: Breakfast and Gala Dinner Celebration and Program "Salute to the Olympic Spirit"

Sunday: Farewell breakfast with commemorative gift and Reunion photo

Throughout the weekend you can enjoy these optional events:

- The Great Las Vegas Table Tennis Tournament
- 2016 Reunion Celebrity Golf Tournament at Revere Golf Club
- 2016 Reunion Olympic Film Festival featuring some recently and newly released documentaries
- 2016 Blackjack Tournament to benefit the OORF (Olympians for Olympians Relief Fund)
- Team Gatherings by Games
- Record your own Olympic and Paralympic History and record your favorite Olympic moments
- Exhibit of Olympic and Paralympic Memorabilia
- Share Olympic spirit with community outreach at Las Vegas schools
- Other surprises and all that Las Vegas has to offer

Our goal is to have at least 500 Olympians and Paralympians attend the Reunion. Now is the


time to register. You can do so by going to the following link: <http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/USOPA/Reunion-2016>. Here is where the fun part begins.

I know how competitive we all are, so we have decided to make this reunion into a little competition among sports. The Olympic or Paralympic sport that can register the most athletes (based on percentage of total athletes in each sport...not the total number) will be recognized during the Gala Celebration dinner on Saturday night. So get going!

So far, I am proud to say that swimming is in the lead. But the race is just starting. So come and get your teammates to come to the greatest Olympic celebration of all time: the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Reunion in Las Vegas!

See you in February!

Yours in Olympic spirit,



Gary Hall, Sr., President

U. S. Olympians and Paralympians Association



The USOPA Board attend their annual meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., Sept. 24 & 25, 2015.

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Cover image: Closing Ceremony at the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games
(Photo credit: Richard Bittles)



THE TORONTO 2015 PAN AMERICAN GAMES

A member of the USA delegation participates in the closing ceremony for the 2015 Pan American Games at the Rogers Centre in Toronto, Ontario, on July 26, 2015.

The Toronto 2015 Pan American Games drew to a close Sunday, July 26, following 17 days of competition between nearly 7,000 athletes representing all 41 member nations of the Pan American Sports Organization. The Games, which featured 39 sports – including for the first time all 28 sports on the Olympic program – saw Team USA top the medal chart in every category, leading all nations with 265 medals, including 103 gold, 81 silver and 81 bronze.

The winning campaign extended Team USA's reign atop the overall medal count to 16 straight Games, dating back to 1955. Overall, 448 U.S. athletes contributed to Team USA's medal count, including 81 multiple-medalists and 22 who won multiple gold medals.

"This has been an excellent all-around effort by Team USA," said USOC CEO Scott Blackmun. "Our athletes had an incredible experience in Toronto, and performed in a way that made our nation proud. I'd also like to commend the city of Toronto and our hosts for creating such a fantastic Games experience for our entire delegation."

Canada closed the Games with 217 medals (78 gold), shattering its previous best of 196 – and 64 gold – set at the 1999 Pan Ams in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Looking ahead with an eye toward the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil rounded out the top-three spots with 141 total medals, including 41 gold. Canada's historic performance on the field of play was one of many highlights for the host nation, which delivered a

successful Games by any measure. The Pan Ams marked the largest multi-sport event ever held in Canada – double the size of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, which featured just under 2,600 competitors.

"Toronto exceeded our expectations," added Blackmun of Toronto 2015's efforts. "Whether it was the organizing committee or the local authorities, our team operations went very well, and it really couldn't have been a more positive experience for us. The city and fans brought a lot of positive energy to the venues, and overall our athletes had a fantastic time."

The 621-member U.S. team competed in 54 disciplines, winning medals in all 37 sports in which it competed. Team USA

collected the most hardware in track and field, winning 13 gold and 41 medals overall, marking the team's biggest medal haul since 1999. Of that total, 23 podium spots went to U.S. women, surpassing the previous high from 1987. U.S. swimmers also impressed in the pool, topping all nations in both the overall (32) and gold-medal (12) charts.

Team USA's Laura Zeng (Libertyville, Ill.) was the winningest athlete of the Games, earning five gold medals and becoming the second woman ever to sweep the individual rhythmic gymnastics titles. Swimmer Allison Schmitt (Canton, Mich.) was also among the most decorated athletes in Toronto, earning four medals, including three gold. Additionally, Kim Rhode (El Monte, Calif.) was the only athlete to either set or tie a world record at these Games as she defended her title in women's skeet shooting.

The U.S. also picked up five gold medals in team sports, with women's field hockey, and men's and women's water polo defending their titles from 2011.

Additionally, the U.S. women's indoor volleyball team won its first Pan Am gold medal in 48 years, and Team USA won the inaugural Pan Am championship in women's baseball on the final day of competition.

Other historic highlights include middleweight champion Claressa Shields (Flint, Mich.) becoming the first American to win a medal of any color in women's boxing, Amanda Sobhy (Sea Cliff, N.Y.) claiming gold in all three women's squash events, and men's water polo team captain Tony Azevedo (Long Beach, Calif.) winning his fifth consecutive Pan Ams gold medal, dating back to 1999. Also rewriting history, the U.S. men's artistic gymnastics team captured gold for the first time since 1995, while Sam Mikulak (Corona del Mar, Calif.) became the first American to win the men's all-around title in 28 years. The U.S. also earned podium spots in all four sports to debut on the Pan Ams stage, highlighted by medal-winning performances in all five new canoe/kayak slalom events.

With less than a year to go until the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the U.S. also took advantage of available Olympic qualification spots in canoe/kayak, equestrian (dressage and eventing), women's field hockey, men's water polo, modern pentathlon, shooting and table tennis. Pentathlete Nathan Schrimsher (Roswell, N.M.) became the first qualified member of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team with a podium finish, and table tennis player Jennifer Wu (Fort Lee, N.J.) also punched her ticket to Rio with a winning effort in women's singles.

"These were an important two weeks in terms of Olympic qualification, but we also wanted to ensure that all our athletes had positive experiences, especially for those who were representing their country in a multi-sport environment for the first time," said Alan Ashley, USOC chief of sport performance and Team USA chef de mission. "This is what makes the Pan Ams so special and unique, and we're extremely proud of everything our athletes accomplished here".

Laura Zeng of the United States competes in the rhythmic gymnastics ball finals on Day 9 of the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games on July 19, 2015 in Toronto, Canada.





USA women's 4x200-meter freestyle gold medal team, Kiera Janzen, Allison Schmitt, Courtney Harnish and Gillian Ryan.

RECORD MEDAL HAUL FOR TEAM USA AT PARAPAN AMERICAN GAMES

The 2015 Parapan American Games came to a close on August 15 after eight days of competition. The 239-member U.S. team competed in 14 of the 15 sports on the competition schedule, finishing third in the medal standings with 135 total medals, including 40 gold, 51 silver and 44 bronze. The lion's share of medals went to the track and field team, which won 51, followed by 32 for the swimming team and 19 podium appearances made by the cycling team. The finish marked the most medals ever won by Team USA at a Parapan American Games. The competition included approximately 1,600 athletes from 28 countries within the Americas region.

In addition to medals, Team USA had two world record-breaking performances, both of which were on the track. Jarryd Wallace set the mark in

The finish marked the most medals ever won by Team USA at a Parapan American Games.

the men's 100m T44 with a time of 10.71. Teammate Roderick Townsend broke his own world record in the high jump event, jumping 2.12-meters.

Team USA had multiple athletes who earned several medals. Swimmers Haley Beranbaum and Mallory Weggeman tied with the most medals of the Games – five a piece. Cyclist Joe Berenyi won four medals, three of which were gold. Track star Raymond Martin also topped the podium with three gold medal wins, after leading two U.S. podium sweeps in the men's 100 and 1500 T52 events.

Team USA medaled in seven out of eight team sports, including golds in women's wheelchair basketball and men's wheelchair basketball. The women's sitting volleyball team also won gold by defeating Brazil, making history as the first-ever U.S. women's sitting volleyball title at the Parapan American Games.



The U.S. women's wheelchair basketball team lines up before playing El Salvador on Day Four of the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games on Aug. 11.



Ivonne Mosquera-Schmidt and U.S. Paralympics Track and Field coach Joaquim Cruz speak to reporters at a press conference during the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games.



Jarryd Wallace poses with the clock after breaking a world record in the men's T44 100-meter race on Aug. 11 at the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games.



The U.S. Para-archery team after winning eight medals, including two gold, and sealing four Paralympic quota spots for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

After more than a decade, the U.S. men's sitting volleyball team punched its ticket to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games with a silver medal. Failing to qualify in 2008 and 2012, the team was last seen at the Athens Paralympic Games in 2004.

With a win against Argentina, the men's basketball team qualified for a spot in Rio with a 59-36 finish in the semifinal game. The team went on to take gold in the final round defeating Canada, 62-39. The U.S. women's basketball team also

won against host country Canada, and in doing so clinched a berth to the Rio Paralympic Games.

The women's goalball team won silver against Brazil, and the men's team echoed their feat, also winning silver against Brazil. Both teams came to Toronto having already qualified for Rio.

U.S. archers tallied eight medals including two gold by Andre Shelby in the men's compound open and Natalie Wells in the women's recurve open.

Eight medals were nabbed by U.S. table tennis players including first place finish for Benjamin Hadden and Tahl Leibovitz.

U.S. judokas won four medals, including a silver by Myles Porter in the men's -100 kg., and three bronze medal finishes.

On the court, wheelchair tennis athletes hauled in two silver and a bronze medal in singles play, and a bronze in women's doubles by U.S. partners Emmy Kaiser and Kaitlyn Verfuert.



Lebananon, Pa. Cedar Crest FIELD HOCKEY, Dana Sensenig-Risser (field hockey, 2008)

OLYMPIC DAY WRAP UP

2015 OLYMPIC DAY EARNS GOLD

This date in history marks the revival of the Olympic Games and the birth of the Modern Olympic Movement, thanks to the efforts of a man by the name of Pierre de Coubertin. His proposal led to a unanimous vote by the International Athletics Congress and, in 1896, the International Olympic Committee was born along with the first Modern Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

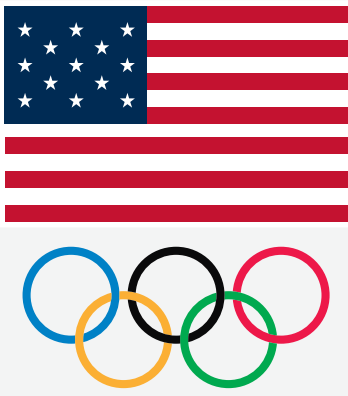
119 years later, more than 630,000 people in the United States, and thousands more around the world, experience the Olympic Movement with the annual celebration of Olympic Day on June 23rd. This year, the U.S. Olympic Day celebrations exceeded previous marks by reaching 1,820 events throughout all 50 states and 11 international locations. The Olympic Movement of blending sport with culture, and the values of excellence, friendship and respect were brought to life in 1,297 communities. Whether it be at Major League Baseball games, high school state tournaments, or community fun runs and field days, Olympians, Paralympians, coaches, hopefuls and communities were joined together in the spirit of Olympic Day.

The success of these events is driven by the incredible involvement of Olympic and Paralympic athletes, coaches and hopefuls. Nearly 975 athletes registered, participating at 362 different events, where they taught kids about their sports and took part in various activities. There were 54 Olympic Day events hosted by an Olympian or Paralympian through the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association, the third most hosted by a Multi-Sport Organization. The history of Team USA was strongly represented by the involvement of an athlete from every Olympic Games dating back to the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games. There were even 29 athletes representing 23 foreign countries that participated in U.S. celebrations. In addition to the incredible number of athletes, 40 National Governing Bodies were represented by athletes taking part in Olympic Day 2015. It is in true Olympic spirit that athletes of different ages, different sports and different countries come together to be a part of the Olympic Movement in communities around the country.

Some highlights of this year's Olympic Day 2015 celebrations include the

Squaw Valley Kid Adventure Games in California. Olympian Stacey Evans (ski/snowboard, 1998) spoke with several hundred youth before they set out on an adventure course filled with a variety of sport obstacles and problem-solving challenges like mountain biking, a Tarzan swing and archery. Down in Texas, the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority was joined by a handful of athletes including Mark Henry (weightlifting, 1992, 1996), gold medalist Michelle Burrell (track and field, 1992), and five-time medalist Chad Hedrick (speedskating, 2006, 2010). The day was spent teaching local children the fundamentals of weightlifting in anticipation for the 2015 World Weightlifting Championships being held in Houston in November. On the east coast in Philadelphia, Gail Marquis (basketball, 1976), Theresa Andrews (swimming, 1984), Tyler Carter (Paralympic alpine skiing, 2014), and Pamela Golding (rowing, 1976) joined the Philadelphia Sports Congress and 40,000 fans in celebrating Olympic Day at a Phillies game.

The participation of athletes brings the excitement of the Olympic Games to the



OLYMPIC DAY 2015

community. Olympians and Paralympians can share how his or her hopes and dreams started, and the hard work and dedication it has taken to make those dreams come true. It is an opportunity to share Olympic experiences and teach the community the various sports included in the Olympic Games.

Nations come together every two years to celebrate and compete on the international platform of the Olympic Games. And every year on June 23rd, the international inspiration of the Olympic Games is connected to the passions and energy of local communities everywhere. You can be a part of inspiring your community with the Olympic Movement by getting involved with a 2016 Olympic Day event. Share your story and Olympic experience, teach others about your sport, and get active with Team USA's biggest supporters. Your presence is what drives the success of Olympic Day around the country and gets people excited to move, learn and discover more about sport, the Olympic Values and building a better world.



Arlington, Texas Boys & Girls Club of Arlington, Greg Speed (Paralympian, track & field, 1992)

To register to attend or host an Olympic Day 2016 event, visit: TeamUSA.org/OlympicDay.

A big thank you to the Olympians, Paralympians, coaches and hopefuls who were a part of the record-breaking Olympic Day 2015 celebrations. The USOC appreciates your participation and looks forward to what 2016 will bring.



Farmington Hill, Mich. Novi Memorial Run, Gary Morgan (track & field, 1988)



Cheektowaga, N.Y. Town of Cheektowaga Youth & Rec Services, Jack Mathias (sailing, 1976) and Allen James (track & field, 1992, 1996)



Colorado Springs, Colo. CSOTC, Michael Phelps (swimming, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012) Sherry Von Riesen, "Team Mom," Allison Schmitt (swimming, 2008, 2012)

TEAM USA REGISTRY



HOW BRAD SNYDER WENT FROM LOSING HIS SIGHT IN AN IED EXPLOSION TO PARALYMPIC GOLD, AND HOW YOU CAN HELP ATHLETES LIKE HIM

On Sept. 7, 2012, exactly one year to the day after losing his eyesight to an improvised explosive device while serving with the U.S. Navy in Afghanistan, Brad Snyder swam to Paralympic gold in the 400-meter S11 freestyle, his third podium appearance in London.

Snyder went on to carry the U.S. flag during the Games' Closing Ceremony. President Barack Obama honored him on national television, and newspapers around the world quoted him saying, "I am not buried in Arlington. I am here in London competing, so I get a lot of motivation from that."

Snyder took off the entire next year to reset himself, officially retiring from the U.S. Navy and finally finding the time to fully adapt to being blind before chasing another Paralympic dream.

"The Rio experience is going to be totally different than the London experience," Snyder said this week. "In London, I had no idea what I was getting into. I was new to the Paralympics, new to being blind. Everything was crazy. Now, instead of being the underdog, I need to attempt to defend my titles from London."

Upon starting his next Paralympic

journey, Snyder began to see his expenses as an athlete rise rapidly, as he invested in everything from a stopwatch and guide dog to international travel and sports medicine.

And that's why he's been speaking volumes to the recently launched Team USA Registry — a new way in which he hopes to garner America's support.

In April, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation launched the Team USA Registry, inviting donors to purchase symbolic gifts that represent an athlete's needs, which could include



Brad Snyder

anything from swimming goggles to a sport dietitian session.

While most U.S. athletes accrue nearly \$40,000 in expenses each year they train for an Olympic or Paralympic Games, the average athlete only earns \$20,000 annually.

"Since we don't receive any federal funding from the government, we need to be supported by the people," Snyder said.

When donors purchase a symbolic gift, they will become a part of the "Team Behind The Team," helping ensure the best possible athletes are sent to the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, not just those who can afford to get there.

Snyder knows that winning gold at an Olympic or Paralympic Games — or just competing at a Games — can change one's life.

"The opportunity to compete for Team USA, personally, meant so much," Snyder said. "For me, being able to win that medal on the one-year anniversary was taking something that was very negative and traumatic in my life, and my family's life, and turning it into a positive memory."

The Team USA Registry is also an indirect platform for athletes like Snyder to educate the American public about the resources it takes to become an Olympian or Paralympian.

Take for example Snyder's guide dog Gizzy, who racks up expenses from vet visits to food purchases. Fans can donate one month of a guide dog's care for \$50 on the Team USA Registry. A donation like that plays a giant role in an athlete's Road to Rio.

"My guide dog means the world to me," Snyder said. "I can't just hop in a

car and go somewhere. Mobility is just something to easily take for granted. Using a guide dog to go get a haircut, go to the grocery store or whatever, has been really amazing for me."

Snyder doesn't take anything for granted these days. Not Gizzy, and especially not the magical moment when he walked his Paralympic gold medal up to his family in the London Aquatics Centre stands.

Help athletes like Snyder get to the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games by visiting TeamUSARegistry.org.



1. Dartanyon, London 2012
Getty Images
2. Dartanyon and Teri
photograph by Sherry von Riesen
3. Steve Lopez, Sydney
2000 Taekwondo
Getty Images

From current Olympians and Paralympians to those further removed from competition, the Crawford Family U.S. Olympic Archives has been fortunate enough to receive some outstanding donations this year. This month, we are proud to share a few of our newest artifacts with you.

If you were to write a story of tenacity overcoming adversity, you would be hard-pressed to beat U.S. Paralympian Dartanyon Crockett. His life and the challenges he faced growing up have been captured by ESPN and the nation as a whole.

Dartanyon has Leber's Disease, a genetic disorder that causes chronic vision loss. However, that did not stop

him from wrestling in high school and becoming one of Lincoln High's most decorated wrestlers. If the story ended there, it would be inspiring enough; but, the story continues.

After graduating high school, U.S. Paralympics took notice of Dartanyon and asked him to try various sports. Judo became Dartanyon's new sport in 2009 and he moved to the Colorado Spring Olympic Training Center in 2010 to train full time. Just two short years later, Dartanyon won a bronze medal at the London 2012 Paralympic Games in the men's 90 kg. division.

This past July, Dartanyon graciously donated one of his London 2012 Paralympic judo gi's to the Crawford

Family U.S. Olympic Archives. We are so excited to preserve Dartanyon's Paralympic history and look forward to his continued success through the year's beginning with the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

Taekwondo Olympian Steve Lopez also donated to the Archives this summer. Five-time world champion and four-time Olympian, Steve is the most decorated U.S. taekwondo Olympian, winning his first gold medal in the men's featherweight division at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Competing in the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, Steve won gold again in the welterweight division. The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games saw not only Steve competing, but also, his brother, Mark, and sister, Diana, with

We are so excited to preserve Dartanyon's Paralympic history and look forward to his continued success through the years beginning with Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

each sibling winning an Olympic medal in taekwondo. This summer, before heading off to the Pan American Games and ultimately earning the bronze medal in the 80 kg. division, Steve stopped by the archives and donated a signed taekwondo jersey to add to our growing collection of competition uniforms.

Another Olympian who donated to the archives this summer was Chris Larson-Mason, a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team and Los Angeles 1984 Olympic bronze medalist in women's field hockey. Chris and her 1984 teammates have the honor of winning the only Olympic medal in women's field hockey to date. We were excited to receive four of Chris' field hockey sticks to add to our increasing collection of sports equipment.

One of our largest donations this year came from Cathy Oerter, Al Oerter's widow. Al Oerter was the Olympic champion in men's discus from 1956 to 1968. In each of his Olympic Games, he came from behind to throw not only for a gold medal, but also a new Olympic record. Al's four back-to-back gold medals still stand as a record for the most medals by any discus Olympian. Earlier this year, Cathy toured our archives and just recently donated numerous artifacts from Al's Olympic career – including his participation medals, identification cards and badges, IOC pins, competition bibs, podium jackets, practice discus and Olympic luggage.

These are just a few of the highlights of donations received by the archives this summer. If you would like to view a few of these artifacts, they will be on display in the U.S. Olympic Committee headquarters on the 2nd floor in our new display featuring sports at the Rio 2016

Olympic Games as well as many others from our collection or on loan from our Olympians. We would be happy to give a private tour of the archives, upon request, to view more aspects of the Crawford Family U.S. Olympic Archives anytime you are visiting Colorado Springs.



4. Steve Lopez signing jersey
photograph by Steve Jezewski
5. Field Hockey Sticks
photograph by Teri Hedgpeth
6. Chris Larson-Mason
Crawford Family U.S. Olympic Archives

7. Al Oerter on podium, Mexico City 1968 OG
Crawford Family U.S. Olympic Archives
8. Al Oerter Mexico City 1968 OG podium jacket
photograph by Steve Jezewski

ANGELA RUGGIERO EARNS HALL OF FAME HONORS

By Amy Rosewater

When Angela Ruggiero was in second grade, she showed up on career day wearing her hockey equipment.

Never mind that at the time there were

“Growing up, what could I dream about as a little girl? I didn’t dream about playing in the NCAA because I was unaware of the potential to play in the NCAA. I didn’t dream about the Olympics because there were no women playing in the Olympics. And

Sergei Fedorov and Chris Pronger. In addition, USA Hockey recently announced its Hall of Fame class, and Ruggiero will be inducted into that Hall of Fame, as well. USA Hockey’s inductions will be held in December in Boston, where Ruggiero makes her home.



Angela Ruggiero

no women playing professional hockey, nor were women playing hockey in the Olympic Games. Angela was unaware of women playing for NCAA titles in hockey. Nonetheless, Ruggiero had her mind set on having a career in hockey.

Not only did she achieve that goal, she exceeded it.

She is an Olympic champion, a world champion, a college national champion, a pro player and in November, she will be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

“It’s really just amazing,” said Ruggiero.

I didn’t dream about the Hall of Fame because there were no women in the Hall of Fame.”

In November, Ruggiero, one of the toughest and most decorated defensemen for Team USA, will be the fourth woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. She will join Olympic teammate Cammi Granato as the only two American women in the Hall. Canadians Angela James and Geraldine Heaney are also in the Hall of Fame.

Ruggiero will be inducted along with fellow American and U.S. Olympic silver medalist Phil Housley, Nicklas Lidstrom,

Ruggiero was raised in a hockey household with her brother, Bill, who went on to play professional hockey, and sister, Pam, who played hockey as a child. The two made hockey history as the first brother-sister pair to play on the same professional team when they played for the Tulsa Oilers of the Central Hockey League in 2005.

As for being elected to the Hall of Fame as an individual player, the 5-foot-9 Harvard graduate never gave it much thought. Someone sent her a message via Facebook last fall saying her name was being considered for the Hall of Fame, but that was pretty much the first and last she had thought about it.

“People speculate a lot, but it was not something I spent much time thinking about,” Ruggiero said.

Then she was flying to San Francisco to attend a U.S. Olympic Committee board meeting on June 29. She took an early flight, checked into her hotel and looked at her cell phone.

“Three calls in a row came from the 416 area code,” she said. “I thought, ‘Who’s stalking me from Toronto?’”

Then she got a text saying the Hockey Hall of Fame was trying to contact her.

She called and got a strange response: “Uh,” said the voice on the other line, “can I call you back in one minute?”

Ruggiero didn’t know what to think at that point.

A minute later, Hockey Hall of Fame officials called to formally tell her she had been elected to the Hall of Fame.

“I was literally speechless,” Ruggiero said. “I did a radio interview and they replayed my reaction. I was sitting in a hotel in San Francisco and not expecting this at all. To get a call like that out of the blue... There have been so many great players in the Hall of Fame and I was just so proud and so honored. It is an amazing accomplishment and I feel so fortunate to be a part of such a prestigious group of hockey players and such an outstanding body as the Hockey Hall of Fame”

She has made a few visits to the Hall of Fame over the years. She and her brother and sister all played and her dad, who was a goalie, wanted to go visit. Her father even videotaped one of their visits.

Over the years, the Hall of Fame has put some of her equipment on display. Her gloves from the 2008 Women’s World Championship are already in Toronto, as is a jersey she wore from the 2000 World Championship when she was named the best defenseman. So are a stick and

jersey she used when she played with her brother in Tulsa.

But being inducted, no doubt, will be a totally different experience. She will not be a tourist. She will become a permanent fixture among the greatest hockey players to have ever played.

“To be honest, I can’t really wrap my head around this,” Ruggiero said. “What did I dream of? Whether it was realistic or not, I wanted to play in the NHL. I just wanted to be a hockey player. When

In November, Ruggiero, one of the toughest and most decorated defensemen for Team USA, will be the fourth woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

people asked me what I wanted to be, I would say, ‘Wayne Gretzky.’ Now young girls might be able to see me, or Cammi Granato, or Angela or Geraldine and say, ‘Wow, maybe I can achieve that dream.’

“The hockey community is really starting to recognize both genders. It’s becoming more of the norm, and I hope people see the growth potential of women’s hockey.”

Although Ruggiero announced her retirement as a player in December 2011, she has led an extremely busy post-retirement life. She is an IOC member, the current vice-chair of the Athlete’s Commission within the IOC,

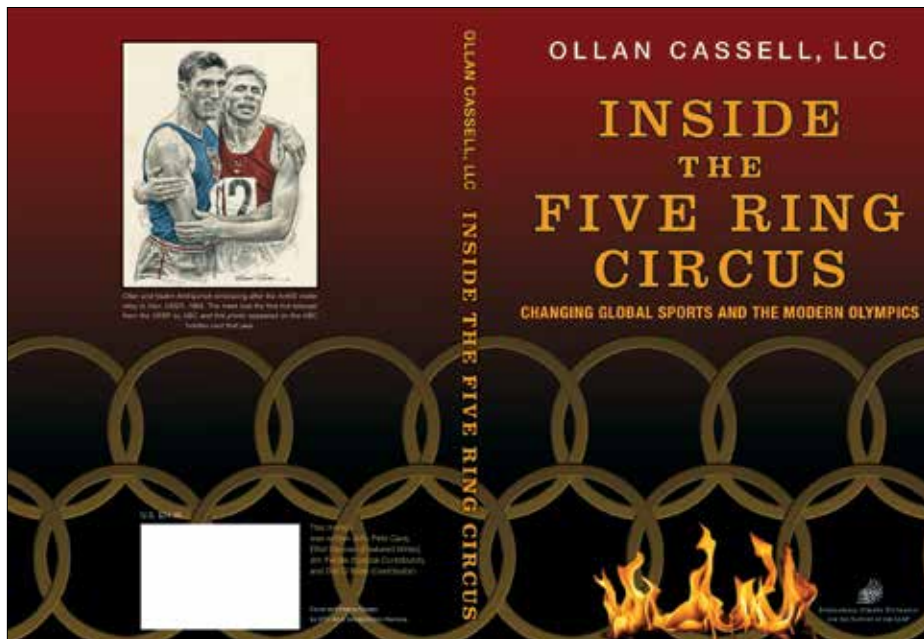
a board member of the USOC, trustee and past president with the Women’s Sports Foundation, and a member of the International Ice Hockey Federation’s Athletes’ Commission. She is also on the executive board of the World Olympians Association.

She did take time out from her busy schedule to watch the FIFA Women’s World Cup final and cheer on several of her friends on the Team USA squad. She sees a lot of similarities in women’s hockey and women’s soccer in that both sports have grown so much in recent years.

“You see that when you put a good product out there people will watch,” said Ruggiero. “So many amazing things came out of that game. I remember watching the ’99 World Cup, the year after we won the Olympics in Nagano. The women on the ’99 committee pushed to get the games into bigger arenas and now boys and girls are seeing the potential of women’s sports.”

Ruggiero might never have dreamed the women’s sports landscape would look the way it does now, but sometimes dreams turn out to be even better than one could have imagined.

BOOK REVIEW



OLLAN CASSELL'S “INSIDE THE FIVE RING CIRCUS”

Book review by: Elliott Denman (track & field,
1956)

Recommended reading for devotees of track and field, the Olympic world and all sports is the recently released “Inside The Five Ring Circus,” Ollan Cassell’s 352-page retrospective on his life and time as an Olympic gold-medal athlete and subsequent career as an administrator at the highest levels of Olympic sport.

Subtitled “Changing Global Sports and the Modern Olympics,” Cassell sheds major insights on his era that saw the sports world evolve in an array of tumultuous directions.

He’d been a U.S. national track champion and won a gold medal as a member of the winning 4x400-meter team at the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games. But his life turned irrevocably once he got the opportunity to build a new life as an executive involved in every facet of sport, first with the Amateur Athletic Union, then with its track and field-only successor, The Athletics Congress, then with the national and international federations representing virtually all other Olympic sports.

And so we learn “the real story” of the Olympic world’s change from the purest form of amateurism to outright professionalism, high-stakes USA-Soviet Union confrontations through the heights of the Cold War, the ongoing battles over the scourges of drug use,

the hundreds of millions of dollars (and pounds/rubels/Euros) that hung in the balance through each episode, and the myriad major players at each step along the way.

From the days of “Bullet Bob” Hayes to Carl Lewis, Butch Reynolds, Michael Johnson, Mary Decker Tabb and so many more, Cassell played key roles behind-the-scenes of their greatest triumphs – and the trials and tribulations along the way.

Handling the major assignments in getting this project done were featured writers Elliott Denman (an Olympian himself) and Peter Cava, special contributor Jim Ferstle and contributor Dan O’Brien (not the decathlon champion.)

Their combined efforts are an insightful volume on the life and times of a man who did it all, saw it all, and helped change it all.

“Inside The Five Ring Circus” is now available by mail order (\$24.95) from the Cardinal Publishers Group, 2402 North Shadeland Avenue, Suite A, Indianapolis 46219; telephone 800-296-0481; Cardinalpub.com.

Also available on www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com

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REUNION2016

The United States Olympians and Paralympians are Going to Las Vegas!

All Teams, All Games, All Together, Always!

**Deadline for Registration and Hotel Room Block
Is December 15, 2015**

OUR GOAL - To be sure All Olympians and Paralympians know about our 2016 Reunion and know that all are welcome to come!

Why? To Renew our friendships, support the current Olympic and Paralympic Teams on their Road to Rio, Celebrate the Unique Experiences of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and have Fun!

By the Numbers, as of 2015 – there are just about 6200 living Summer Olympians and Winter Olympians..... Quite a unique club!

Reunion Dates: Friday, February 19, 2016 – Sunday, February 21, 2016 (you may come earlier or stay later – hotel rates will be extended)

Hotel: Tropicana Las Vegas (a Hilton Property – yes, Hilton is an Olympic sponsor)

Cost: Attendees pay for the following:

1. Hotel
2. Transportation
3. Registration – here's the registration info:

Many of you have indicated that you are coming and are excited about Reunion 2016. That's the good news – the not so good news is that you have not yet registered! Rooms in the hotel block at the Tropicana are going fast. So please register **TODAY!**

To Register for Reunion and Hotel

<http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/USOPA/Reunion-2016>

Air Travel: Suggestions – United, Southwest or check any online travel website.

1. United Airlines: Go to www.united.com to make a reservation.

Scroll down to **all search options** at the bottom of the screen.

Enter this code in the code offer box.

ZVMB730445 (no spaces please)

2. Southwest – information available on November 1, 2015

3. Check Orbitz Travelocity or any travel site you like for best rates to Las Vegas

Registration fee of \$200 per person includes the following:

- Welcome Reception on Friday night, February 19, 6:00pm
- Saturday Breakfast, February 20
- Gala Dinner Celebration and Program, "Salute to the Olympic Spirit", February 20

Once an Olympian, Always an Olympian, Never Former, Never Past



- Sunday Farewell Breakfast, February 21
- Commemorative Gift & Reunion Photo
- Other surprises and lots of fun

More fun.....

1. Friday (afternoon), Press conference at Tropicana Las Vegas
2. Vegas “Afterhours” Friday night
3. *The Great Las Vegas Table Tennis Tournament* – produced by USA Table Tennis. Awards given
4. The *2016 Reunion Celebrity Golf Tournament* at Revere Golf Club, Lexington Course, Henderson, NV
5. The *2016 Reunion Olympic Film Festival Marathon* – film schedule to be announced, (Popcorn included)
6. The *First Ever Blackjack Tournament* to benefit the OORF (Olympians for Olympians Relief Fund) www.oorf.org
7. Team Gatherings by Games
8. Record your own Olympic and Paralympic History
9. Olympic and Paralympic Memorabilia 101
10. Share “*Olympic and Paralympic Spirit*” with Las Vegas schools and community groups
11. And all that Las Vegas has to offer!

2016 Reunion Planning Committee

Willie Banks (track & field, 1980, 1984, 1988) Event Chair
 Anne Warner Cribbs (swimming 1960) Event Producer
 Joey Cheek (speedskating, 2002, 2006)
 Micki King (diving, 1968, 1972)
 Tom Lough (modern pentathlon, 1968)
 Susie Paxton (fencing, 1996)
 John Register (Paralympic swimming 1996, Paralympic track & field, 2000)
 Cindy Stinger (team handball, 1984, 1988, 1992)
 Eli Wolff (Paralympic soccer, 1996, 2004)

Plus All 24 Chapter Presidents!

“We are thrilled to bring this exciting event to Las Vegas as we celebrate the camaraderie and enduring legacies of our Olympic and Paralympic Games. The reunion will provide a great opportunity to share the Olympic spirit as we look forward to the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio and the possibility of returning the Games to Los Angeles in 2024.” Gary Hall, Sr. President, USOPA

More information www.teamusa.org/usopa
 Contact acribbs@basoc.org

Send a message via our Facebook page – United States Olympians and Paralympians and let everyone know that you will be there.

This could be the largest gathering in the history of U.S. Olympians and Paralympians outside the Games!

Once an Olympian, Always an Olympian, Never Former, Never Past

ALUMNI IN HONOR



Jackie Fie

Jackie Fie Enters the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame for Lifetime Achievement, which took place in May 2014 in Oklahoma City.

As gymnastics will never cease to evolve in terms of athletic achievement, so too must the rules by which it is governed. Complicating matters more is that the sport cannot be measured in the competitive arena by any truly objective system. Instead, that task is left to human beings, each vulnerable to his/her own natural biases, to determine the champions of any given contest. So it takes a special individual

to not only enter such a political theater, but also to reshape the sport in terms of credibility.

For nearly four decades, women's international gymnastics benefited greatly from the character and vision of Jackie Fie. From 1976-2004 she worked in various roles on the Women's Technical Committee of the International Gymnastics Federation. When she took over as WTC President in 1992, she worked tirelessly to implement transparency in a sport clouded by political interests. She introduced a Judges Objectivity Evaluation system, which added a level of accountability throughout the

judging ranks. Through her determined diplomacy, Fie established a new, higher standard for judges worldwide, emphasizing honesty and fairness as the only path to global growth for gymnastics.

Fie was more than qualified to undertake and succeed in such a position within the FIG. A native of Chicago, Jacquelyn "Jackie" Klein was active in speedskating, and track and field as a youth. She took up gymnastics at the Lincoln Turners, and success followed. In 1956 she made the U.S. team to the Melbourne Olympics.

Gymnastics remained Fie's life focus even after she retired from competition. In 1959 she graduated Magna Cum Laude from Northwestern University and started her career as a physical education teacher, gymnastics coach, judge and administrator. During the 1960s she reshaped the U.S. women's gymnastics competition program and judges training. In the 1970s she began her affiliation with the FIG, for which she was named an honorary vice president upon her retirement in 2004.

It is impossible to fully measure the impact Jackie Fie has had on the sport she loves. But when you consider her volume of work as an FIG official—41 FIG events, comprising 20 World Championships, 11 World Cups and 10 Olympic Games—it would be equally challenging to name an individual who has contributed more.

Today, Fie lives with her husband, Larry Fie, in Jefferson, Iowa, and the couple enjoys visiting their children and grandchildren.

Statue honoring legendary TSU track coach Ed Temple unveiled on Aug. 28

Published August 12, 2015 by David Boclair

A 15-year effort to memorialize Ed Temple concluded on Aug. 28 when a statue of the legendary Tennessee State University track and field coach was dedicated near the right field entrance to First Tennessee Park.

The 9-foot statue on a 13,000-ton granite base is the product of a fundraising effort that drew contributions from 114 people, including more than 20 of Temple's Tigerbelles. Donations ranged from \$15 to \$10,000.

Temple was the women's track coach at Tennessee State University from 1953 to 1994, coach of the U.S. women's Olympic track team in 1960



Temple posed: Statue sculptor Brian Scanlon, TSU president Glenda Glover, Coach Ed Temple, Bo Roberts, Edwina Temple

and 1964, and assistant coach of the U.S. women's Olympic track team in 1980.

"The Coach Temple Statue Committee is grateful to those who have given. Each is now part of Nashville's

history and a part of Temple's team," committee member Bo Roberts said in a release. "The Coach's impact on Nashville will forever be immortalized by this statue. We hope locals and visitors will come to this statue to learn about and honor one of the city's most important citizens."

The statue unveiling ceremony took place at 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 28 and it featured local politicians and dignitaries. The public was also invited to attend.

The Nashville Sports Authority will own the statue site.

"Coach Ed Temple is one of the most impressive leaders in the history of sports. With strength and compassion, he led his Tigerbelles to unparalleled achievements on and off the track," Mayor Karl Deans said. "His contributions to our city are immeasurable, and he is most deserving of this honor."



Temple Reveal: Coach Ed Temple, with his daughter Edwina to his left, sees his statue for the first time.

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM



Don Holder
(Gymnastics, 1956)

Don Holder passed away on September 1, 2015, at the age of 87.

Don was born on September 29, 1928 in Jersey City, N.J. Don Holder was a member of the U.S. Olympic gymnastics team at the 1952 Games in Helsinki, a member of the Florida State University's gymnastics team in 1950's and was inducted into the U.S. Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 1994.

His wife Connie passed away a few years ago after being incapacitated by a stroke. They were married for sixty years. Please visit fsugymnastics.org to learn more about Don and other members of the FSU gymnastics community.

"Very sad news. I first saw Don compete in 1950 at the CYO meet in Jersey City and later saw him win the AA in the 1951 Metropolitan AAU Sr. Championships. Also, watched him compete at Penn State when he made the 1952 Olympic team. And, Don was my teammate at the 1955 Pan American Games. He was a wonderful person and I always respected him. My deepest sympathy to his family said," Abie Grossfeld (gymnastics, 1956-1960).

"When I was a kid (9 or 10 years old) my dad took me to the Swiss Hall in Union City, N.J. That is where Olympians like

Vincent D'Autorio (gymnastics, 1948, 1952) and Ed Scorbe (gymnastics, 1948, 1952) worked out. One Tuesday evening, a guy named Don Holder another Olympian showed up. WOW. I was taking my turn (learning double leg circles) on the "side horse" with this new Olympic guy. And what a nice guy he was. I have very fond memories of that time," said, Greg Weiss (gymnastics, 1964).



Andrew Scrivani
(Boxing, 1936)

Andrew Francis Scrivani passed away on June 1, 2015, at the age of 98.

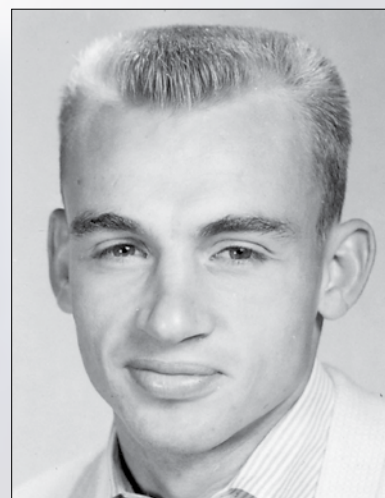
Andy was a boxing Olympian, highly decorated WWII hero and a professional boxer. He was born in Chicago and grew up on the West Side where he joined a boxing group at the local CYO and was coached by Packy McFarland. In 1934, he qualified for the Golden Gloves team with Joe Louis. He later went on to win the Golden Gloves title and qualified for the Olympic team along with Jesse Owens and Louis Zamperini. He boxed in the Berlin 1936 Olympic Games, making it all the way to the quarterfinals.

After the Games, Andy came home and turned pro under George Blake, one of the most famous managers of his era. Andy was rated as a top-10 lightweight fighter in the country, fighting Cecil Hudson to a draw who later defeated Jake Lamotta, "the Raging Bull."

During the rise of his boxing career, Andy was drafted into the United States Army during World War II, and once again returned to Germany. There he earned the Bronze Star for heroism after saving another soldier's life, and the Purple Heart after being shot in the leg on the front lines, which saved his life as the war ended while he was in the hospital.

When he returned from the war, Andy settled down to raise his family in Miami, Fla., where he trained his son at the world famous 5th St. Gym with many championship fighters, including Cassius Clay. He also worked the wickets at several racetracks. Andy retired early at age 60 and was able to enjoy the family house at Lake June, Fla.. In 1993, he moved to Las Vegas, Nev., to teach boxing at Johnny Taco's Gym. He recently moved to Wall to live with his son. Andy was an all-around outstanding man, role model and father.

Andy is predeceased by his wife, Vivian (Ryan) Scrivani; his grandson, Michael Robert Scrivani; his five brothers, Bob, Tony, Richard, Emil and Melvin; and his sister, Mary. He is survived by his son, Robert Scrivani of Wall, N.J., and many nieces and nephews.



Lonnie V. Spurrier
(Track & Field, 1956)

Lonnie Spurrier passed away on June 23, 2015, at age 83.

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM (continued)

Lonnie was a world-class athlete who represented the United States in the 800-meter at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, where he placed sixth.

He was one of six children of John and Golda Spurrier, who migrated to the Central Valley of California during the Dust Bowl, eventually settling in the agricultural town of Delano, about a half an hour north of Bakersfield. He grew up playing sports like his two older brothers, and when he graduated from Delano High School in 1950, he had established himself as an all-around athlete playing varsity football as halfback, basketball (named outstanding defensive player of the year), and both baseball and track. Lon was also active socially in high school, where he was student council president and voted by classmates as best all-around senior boy.



Karen Stives

(Equestrian, 1980, 1984)

Karen E. Stives passed away on August 14, 2015, at age 64.

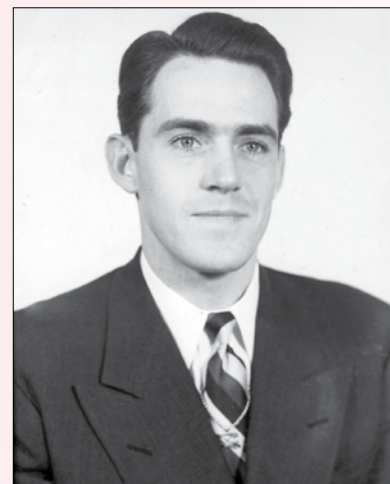
Karen bravely battled cancer for more than five years. Born in Wellesley, MA, Karen was introduced to horses at an early age and developed a passion for competing in both local and national events. This passion led her to become a championship equestrian rider and was subsequently named the United State

Eventing Association's "Rider of the Year" in 1981, 1987, and 1988. In 1982, she represented the United States at the Luhmuhlen World Championships, and in 1984, she anchored the United States Olympic Eventing Team that won the Team Gold Medal at the Los Angeles Olympics while also winning the Individual Silver. Karen earned numerous other awards over her long riding career, including the Leading Lady Rider title in 1981, the Mercedes-Benz Horsewoman of the Year in 1984, and the prestigious Wofford Cup.

Karen graduated from Dana Hall School in Wellesley and from Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY. Following her retirement from international competition, Karen became an FEI judge and was the Chairman of the USET Three-Day Event Selectors committee for many years. After a successful career riding, Karen spent the next 25-years running the Barn Shoe store in West Newton, MA.

Karen leaves her partner Robert Hutchinson, her sister, Linda M. McCabe of Weston, MA, her niece Jennifer Regan and her husband Mike of Wayland, MA, her nephew Mike McCabe and his wife Polly of Weston, MA and her nephew Bill McCabe and his wife Wendy of Weston, MA, as well as numerous grandnieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her mother, Lillian Maloney and her father, Russell Wennberg. Karen also leaves a countless number of wonderful friends. She was passionate about her relationships with her friends and they were equally supportive of her.

In lieu of flowers, Karen's family requests that donations be sent in her name to Dana Farber Cancer Center in Boston.



David Turner

(Rowing, 1948)

David "Dave" Lindsay Turner Sept. 23, 1923 - June 26, 2015.

David "Dave" Lindsay Turner, 91, passed away on June 26, 2015, in Jacksonville, Fla. Born in Oakland, Calif., in 1923 to Scottish immigrants, he and his brother Ian G. Turner spent their early school years in Edinburgh, Scotland, and graduated from Piedmont High School in California. Enlisting as a Naval Aviator during World War II, he interrupted his studies at the University of California at Berkeley until after the war. While finishing at Cal, he and his brother Ian both went on to win Olympic gold medals for Rowing as part of the Cal Crew 8 at the London 1948 Olympic Games. He was a dedicated athlete all his life. Dave returned to the Navy in 1952 and served in Korea and Vietnam. As a Naval officer, he and his family were stationed throughout the U.S. until he retired from the Navy in 1969 as Lt. Commander. Dave joined NOAA based out of Miami, Fla., as a civilian hurricane pilot adding another 22 years of flight time before retiring in 1993. He holds the record for the most flights into hurricanes by any pilot in the world.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Dorothy Easson Turner, Oakland, Calif., his second wife Inez Brown Turner,

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM (continued)

Ocala, Fla., and his brother Ian G. Turner, Piedmont, Calif. He is survived by his daughters, Eleanore (Wayne) Hewitt, Encinitas, Calif., and Polly (Mike) Casey, Orange Park Fla., and grandsons David Hewitt, Robert Hewitt, Stephen Casey and Matthew Casey. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Dee Dee Turner, Piedmont, Calif., nephew Bruce Turner, Piedmont, Calif., and his niece Nancy Newman. David Turner will receive a Navy burial at sea with full Military honors at a later date.



Joan Louise Lind Van Blom
Rowing, 1976, 1980, 1984)

Joan Lind Van Blom passed away on August 28, 2015, at age 62.

Joan Lind Van Blom was Long Beach's own on-the-water hero, role model and motivator.

Joan was the first woman to win an Olympic medal for the United States in rowing, taking silver in the single sculls at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, and another in the quadruple sculls at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. She was also a member of the 1980 Olympic team that boycotted the Moscow Games. She not only medaled as a rower, but also medaled internationally as a coach in the Pan American Games. Joan won

14 national titles during her career and currently holds 11 world records on the indoor ergometer.

Of equal significance is the impact she had motivating students to live a healthy active life. She had a 35-year career with the Long Beach Unified School District as a physical education teacher and curriculum leader, and was instrumental in securing a million-dollar grant for rowing machines in each of the school district's nine high schools. She retired in 2012.

LBUSD teacher Marisela Richardson said, "Joan was such an inspirational person. She changed the tone of what physical education is for Long Beach. She helped me develop a fun PE program for my fifth graders and told me not to stress about the fitness-gram test at the end of the year, to just get them to love being active."

Another teacher, Kelly Dale, declared, "I dedicate my year teaching at Sato/Hill to Joan VB. What an awesome mentor you have been."

That is the legacy that Joan has left our community: she taught educators to teach students to enjoy an active lifestyle. Her Facebook page has countless entries from fellow competitors, educators and friends sharing their appreciation for the gentle guidance she offered over the years.

Two years ago, on August 21, at the Pete Archer Rowing Center, she collapsed after an indoor rowing session and was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), the most aggressive form of brain cancer. While fighting the disease, she continued to be the role model of grace and style by sharing memories with friends and expressing gratitude to those she teamed with, taught and came in contact with.

Through the years, Joan was inducted in the Wilson, 49er (Long Beach State), Century Club and National Rowing halls of fame and was declared a Lifetime Member of the Long Beach Rowing Association, marking her never-ending achievement in advocacy for the sport and healthy living.

This spring, the Beach Crew Alumni Association announced the dedicated a racing Women's Resolute 8+ shell as the Joan Lind Van Blom. For all of her accomplishments, dedication to rowing and contributions to the sport's growth, she was named the recipient of the 2014 USRowing Ernestine Bayer Award, formerly Woman of the Year, which recognizes outstanding contributions to women's rowing and/or to an outstanding woman in rowing. The award is named in honor of the late Ernestine Bayer, a pioneer in women's rowing who is seen as the matriarch of the sport in the United States.

Joan is survived by her husband of 30 years, Hall of Famer John Van Blom, their son, John Jr., and her sisters Loretta Madsen and Carol Hansen.



ACE MENTOR NETWORK



In the USOC's continued efforts to provide career and education services to current and retired athletes, the Athlete Career and Education (ACE) program has recently launched the ACE Mentor Network. As part of this network, athletes have the opportunity to be mentored by current and retired athletes, as well as top executives within their respective fields. Olympians will mentor on topics such as Handling

Promoting Yourself, Careers after Sport and Post Career Nutrition and Fitness.

This service, as with the others, is free to the athletes. The goal of this program is to provide current elite athletes with access to expertise and advice from Olympians and professionals. These mentors who have successfully navigated various issues and challenges can help athletes prepare for their best performances at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Mentors can also assist athletes with their transition to life after their competitive international sports careers.

career in sport and sports business. She worked in the Olympic movement for 15 years. She served 10 years with USA Canoe/Kayak in various roles including marketing director, then five years as Managing Director of the National Off Road Bicycle Association (NORBA), USA Cycling's mountain bike association. Following her tenure with USA Cycling, Leslie spent 11 years as General Manager of SRM, a German cycling technology company based in Colorado Springs.



Leslie Klein

The ACE Mentor Network is a 1-year pilot program jointly managed by the USOC and InstaViser. InstaViser is an on-line mentor program started by Olympians, Tommy O'Hare (Speed Skating, 1998) and Pete Cipollone (Rowing, 2000, 2004(gold)). If you are an Olympian or Paralympian who is interested in serving as a mentor, please e-mail ace@instaviser.com. Elana Meyers Taylor, (Bobsled 2010 (bronze), 2014 (silver) is currently working for InstaViser, facilitating the onboarding of mentors and pilot mentor/athlete sessions. Following the pilot phase, the program will be rolled out to ACE athletes later this year.

"I am thrilled with the prospect and the challenge of bringing career and educational opportunities to this deserving group of athletes. Representing the United States in the Olympic or Paralympic Games should and can be a stepping stone to future successes in life," said Klein. "I look forward to enlisting the support of my fellow Olympians to build this program to serve all Olympians and Paralympians," she added.

A 1980 and 1984 in kayak Olympian with best place finish of 4th in K2 500 meters in LA, Leslie is also World Champion in Wildwater Team Time Trial event. Leslie received a BA in Geology and Biology from Middlebury College in Vermont and her MA in Exercise Physiology from University of Kentucky.

Hype and Distractions at the Games, Handling your Entourage at the Games, Making your first Olympic Team, Preparing for the Games as an "Expected Medalist" and Moving out of an Olympic Training Center. Beyond sport topics mentored by Olympians and luminaries in their fields include How to Budget, Marketing and

In addition to new services, the ACE Program also has a new Director, one of our own alumni, canoe/kayak Olympian, Leslie Klein. She started in the position on June 8th. Leslie has spent her professional

OLYMPIAN & PARALYMPIAN

PHOTO Highlights



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1. Members of the USOPA Colorado Chapter attend a Rockies Game at Coors Field, Denver, Colo.

2. 1980 Olympic Volleyball teammates with “Jenny” Lang Ping at the USA-China match at UC Irvine. L to R: Sue Woodstra, Diane McCormick French, “Jenny” Lang Ping, Laurie Flachmeier Corbelli, Debbie Green, Sharon Moore Furlong, Laurel Brassey Iversen, Debbie Landreth Brown, and Patty Dowdell.

3. Amy Purdy receives the Rings of Gold Award – Individual from AAC Chair, Sarah Konrad.

4. 2015 Jack Kelly Fair Play Award winners, Trey McDonald and Miles Gould meet Duke University and Olympic Basketball Coach, Mike Krzyzewski.



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- 5. USOPA Board members Micki King and Willie Banks present the Olympic Torch Award to Anne Warner Cribbs.
- 6. Olympians and Paralympians gather for the 2015 U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Assembly Gala Dinner on September 25, 2015 in Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 7. Olympic Torch winner Anne Warner Cribbs and daughter, Christina Cribbs Broccoli.
- 8. Miles Gould and Trey McDonald pose with Sandra Kelly, the Jack Kelly Fair Play Award Committee Chair.
- 9. 1968 decathlon Olympic champion Bill Toomey receives the 2015 Dorothy Franey Langkop Ambassador Award from fellow decathlete Barry King.

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

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