

August 7, 2016



# *Golden Eye: Ginny Thrasher*

*(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Geoff Burke)*



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***About The Sports Examiner***

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The Sports Examiner is a new publication. Our purpose is to cover international sports – with a special emphasis on those sports and events that are part of the Olympic/Winter Games programs. You can get it sent directly to your e-mail inbox (free) by signing up at [www.Perelman-Pioneer.com](http://www.Perelman-Pioneer.com).

These athletes deserve the comprehensive coverage given to a fairly small number of sports which are so popular in individual countries, such as baseball, basketball, football (several kinds), ice hockey and others. Why not offer a journal, available online, which can provide fans with a 360-degree view of the top level of world sport in all its diversity?



August 7, 2016

That's the goal. We've started with a fresh look at the Olympic Games from the *team* perspective, as well as previewing upcoming finals to make you better informed whether watching in person in Rio, or on television or online (or both!).

After the Games are completed, we'll begin the continuous coverage of international sport because even though the program in Rio will be completed, sport does not stop. Tell your friends to join us for free by entering their e-mail address in the subscription form at [www.Perelman-Pioneer.com](http://www.Perelman-Pioneer.com)!

## **Rio 2016: Diploma-based Team Scoring Debut**

The Olympic Charter, the constitution and rule book of the worldwide Olympic Movement, states with clarity in Rule 57: *"The IOC and OCOG (organizing committee of the Olympic Games) shall not draw up any global ranking per country."*

So we'll pick up the slack ... unofficially, of course. The IOC and Rio 2016 organizers will award not only medals to the top three finishers, but also elegant diplomas to the top eight place winners. That recognition is the basis on which points can be awarded to each place-winner and totaled up by National Olympic Committee (NOC). All together, over 306 events, there are 11,934 points to be awarded!

We're using the U.S. collegiate track & field scoring system of 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 for eight places, giving extra weight to the gold and silver medalists, but also recognizing that third and fourth are very close (and shared in some combat sports). After day 1, with 12 of 306 events scored:

1.	62	USA		11	Spain	27.	4	Sweden
2.	39	China	15.	10	Argentina		4	Tunisia
3.	36	Japan		10	Belgium	29.	3.5	Azerbaijan
4.	33	Australia		10	Canada		3.5	Georgia
5.	25.5	Korea		10	Thailand		3.5	Mongolia
6.	24	Italy		10	Vietnam	32.	3	Iran
7.	21.5	Hungary	20.	8	Denmark	33.	2	Chinese Taipei
8.	18.5	Kazakhstan	21.	7	Netherlands		2	Croatia
9.	17	France	22.	6	Poland		2	South Africa
10.	16	Russia	23.	5.5	Uzbekistan	36.	1	Cuba
11.	15	Great Britain	24.	5	Dom. Rep.		1	India
12.	14	Brazil		5	Germany		1	Ukraine
13.	11	Indonesia		5	Slovakia			

Some 38 National Olympic Committees scored on the first day alone! We'll update the scores daily for the leading countries, and have a full tally at the end of the Games. But we have to be sure our abacus stays in working order!



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## Rio 2016: Capsule Previews of August 7 Finals

Twelve events decided, 294 to go!

The second full day of competition at the Games of the XXXI Olympiad will feature finals – events that award medals – in 12 events, spread across seven sports. Following are capsule overviews of these events, which we will continue over the 16 days of competition following the Opening Ceremony.

Will we preview every medal winner? Not a chance. *Our perfect record went out the window with the first event of the Games*, when American Ginny Thrasher moved from 23rd in the World Rankings – and never a top-3 finish in a major international event – to receiving the gold medal in the Women’s 10 m Air Rifle event. But we thought the Chinese would do well and they won silver and bronze.

That’s the fun of sport; theater is great, but you know that Hamlet isn’t going to be chatting with his old friend Yorick after the curtain comes down! On with the Games!

- **Archery/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	M Team	Korea	USA	Australia

*No surprises: the Koreans didn’t lose a round in any of their three matches, winning 6-0, 6-0, 6-0 en route to another gold, their fourth in the last five Games. The U.S. was also good, winning 6-2 vs. Indonesia and 6-0 over China before running into the Korean supremos in the final.*

- **Archery/Women’s Team**

The women’s Ranking Round on Friday confirmed what everyone already knows: barring an earthquake, Korea *should* win the women’s team title once again.

Since the event commenced with the 1988 Games in Seoul, the Koreans are unbeaten: seven Games, seven gold medals. And it’s usually not close. Same this time.

The Korean trio of **Mi-Sun Choi** (669), **Hye-Jin Chang** (666) and **Bo-bae Ki** (663) scored 1,998 points, an astonishing 60 points ahead of Russia (1,938) and China (1,993). Chinese Taipei was close behind at 1,992 with Mexico fifth at 1,922. The top four have byes into the quarterfinals and only have to win three matches for a gold medal.

But in head-to-head elimination matches, strange things can happen. Russia defeated Korea in last year’s World Championships semifinals and took the World team title over India. But the Koreans are favored.

Russia, China (which has won three Olympic silvers in a row) and Chinese Taipei look like the likely medal winners. Japan was fourth in the World Champs last year, but ninth in the Ranking Round. Mexico was third in the 2013 Worlds in this event and shot well on Friday and is the best of the Western Hemisphere teams in this final.

• **Cycling/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	M Road Race	Van Avernaet (BEL)	Fuglsang (DEN)	Majka (POL)

*A fabulous race at Fort Copacabana took an wild turn when the late-race leaders – Vincent Nibali of Italy and Sergio Henao Montoya of Colombia – crashed with about 16 km left and turned Poland’s Rafal Majka loose as the sole leader. He was overtaken in the final kilometer by sprint star Greg Van Avermaet of Belgium with Dane Jakob Fuglsang close behind. The race was accompanied by the typically uninhibited crowd for cycling; the only things missing were “fans” dressed as the devil-with-pitchfork and Christ the Redeemer.*

• **Cycling/Women's Road Race**

The scenic Fort Copacabana course is expected to have 68 riders in the women’s road race, with loads of experienced, world-class medalists vying for the individual title. Of these, more than half belong to “teams” of riders from 10 leading cycling countries that include the max-sized teams of four riders from Australia, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and the United States, and three-rider teams from Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, Poland and Sweden.

The course is the same as for the men, but with fewer loops. The total of 130.3 km (80.96 miles) has two laps of the Grumari Circuit (climbs up to 166 m/545 ft.) and one of the tough Vista Chinesa Circuit, with an ascent of 530 m (1,739 feet) in the final third of the race. The favorites are familiar to cycling fans:

- Pauline Ferrand-Prevot (FRA): 2014 World Road Race Champion
- Lizzie Armitstead (GBR): 2015 World Road Race Champion  
2012 Olympic Road silver medalist
- Lisa Brennauer (GER): 2014 World Race Road silver medalist
- Megan Guarnier (USA): 2015 World Road bronze medalist
- Emma Johansson (SWE): 2014 World Road bronze medalist  
2013 World Road silver medalist  
2008 Olympic Road silver medalist
- Elisa Longo Borghini (ITA): 2015 World Road Race fourth placer
- Anna van der Breggen (NED): 2015 World Road silver medalist
- Marianne Vos (NED): 2012 Olympic Road Race Champion  
3-time World Road Race Champ (2006-12-13)

Vos – who has the best nickname in the field: [“The Cannibal”](#) – and Ferrand-Prevot are coming back

from injuries, but could be terrors if fit. **Evelyn Stevens** of the U.S. is an excellent time-trial rider, but was 24th in London in the Road Race and merits watching into the final climb. Poland's **Katarzyna Niewiadoma** keeps improving: 11th in the 2014 World Road Champs, seventh in Richmond in 2015. At that rate, she'll be on the podium in Rio!

- ***Diving/Women's 3 m Synchronized Springboard***

One word: China.

Chinese pairs have dominated diving in general and the 3m Synchronized event in specific. The women have won three Olympic titles in a row, and six straight World Championships titles in this event in 2005-07-09-11-13-15.

The current *grande dame* of China's diving dynasty is 30-year-old **Minxia Wu**, now paired with **Tingmao Shi**. The pair won the 2013 and 2015 World Championships by 31.83 and 30.6 points, respectively.

Who else? Canada's **Jennifer Abel** has anchored medal performances in four straight major championships, including bronze in London in 2012. She's now diving with **Pamela Ware** and the pair won silver and bronze in the last two World Championships. Australia (**Annabelle Smith** and **Maddison Keeney**) and Italy (**Tania Cagnotto** and **Andrea Chiarabini**) look to be in the fight for a spot on the podium as well.

- ***Fencing/Summary***

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	W Epee	Szasz (HUN)	Fiamingo (ITA)	Sun (CHN)

*The 33-year-old Emese Szasz has been winning medals in international championships since 2005, but never a win in a major event ... until now. She had solid, 15-11 win in the first two rounds, then turned up the heat in the quaters and semis with 15-4 and 10-6 wins before a come-from-behind, 15-13 battle against favorite Rossella Fiamingo of Italy, outscoring her 4-1 in the third period.*

- ***Fencing/Men's Foil***

The French (nine titles) and Italians (eight) have dominated Olympic epee fencing. But the favorites among the 35 competitors at Carioca Arena 3 in Rio are just as likely to come from America or Asia.

The U.S., which hasn't won a medal in men's epee since 1960 (and never gold), has three entries, including the no. 1-ranked **Alexander Massialas**, the 2015 World Championships silver medalist. Teammate **Gerek Meinhardt** ranks fourth in the world and reached the World Championships semifinals before losing to share the bronze medal. What about the 2013 World Epee Champion **Miles Chamley-Watson**? He's also ready to go, but ranks 18th according to the FIE World Rankings standings. Unfortunately, the draw has all three Americans in the same bracket and

Massialas and Meinhardt could meet as early as the round of 16.

Also in the lower bracket with the Americans is defending Olympic champ **Sheng Lei**, who lost to Ota in the 2015 World Championships quarterfinals, and Russia's **Artur Akhmatkhuzin**, who shared the bronze with Massialas at last year's World Champs.

In the top bracket are defending World Champion (and 2008 silver winner) **Yuki Ota** of Japan, **Ma Jianfei** of China (world rank: 3), **Alexey Cheremisinov** of Russia (the 2014 World Epee Champion) and teammate **Timur Safin**, the 2014 World Championships bronze medalist. Tough scheduling: the two Russians are already scheduled to meet in the round of 32.

For the traditional powers, the top hopes are **Jeremy Cadot** and **Enzo Lafort** of France and **Andrea Cassara** of Italy. Great Britain has two contenders in **Richard Kruse** and **James-Andrew Davis**, but we're in Rio and not in London this time.

- **Judo/Summary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze(s)</b>
Aug 6	M 60 kg	Mudranov (RUS)	Smetov (KAZ)	Takato (JPN) Urozboev (UZB)
Aug 6	W 48 kg	Pareto (ARG)	Jeong (KOR)	Kondo (JPN) Galbadrakh (KAZ)

*Smiles all around for Int'l Judo Federation Honorary President Vladimir Putin of Russia with Beslan Mudranov's win, the second in a row in this class for Russia after Arsen Galstyan's triumph in London. Joy for Argentina, too, for the triumph of Paula Pareto, the country's only Judo medalist, now with a gold to go along with her bronze from Beijing in 2008.*

- **Judo/Men's -66 kg**

The men's half-lightweight (under 66 kg or 145.5 pounds) was introduced in 1980 and a Japanese judokoda has won a medal in four of the last five Olympic tournaments. But the favorite is Korea's **Ba-ul An**.

He's the defending World Champion from 2015 and sits atop the International Judo Federation rankings after a victory in the 2016 Masters tournament earlier this year. He's been given a bye in the first round, along with **Mikhail Puliaev** of Russia, world-ranked third and the silver medalist in the last two World Championships in this class.

Second-ranked **Tumurkhuleg Davaadorj** of Mongolia was second to An at the 2016 Masters, but only got as far as the quarterfinals in the 2015 World Championships. There's a big drop in the rankings after these top three, but someone out of this group is going to win a medal:

- Masahi Ebinuma (JPN): 2013-14 World Champion
- Goran Pollack (ISR): 2015 World Championships bronze medalist
- Rishod Sobirov (UKR): 2015 World Championships bronze medalist
- Georgii Zantaraia (UKR): 2013-14 World Championships bronze medalist

• **Judo/Women -52 kg**

A woman who was without a country in international sport enters the 2016 Games with an opportunity to win the first-ever medal for Kosovo: **Majlinda Kelmendi**.

She stormed to World Championships in the half-lightweight women's division (under 115 pounds) in 2013 and then in 2014, competing under the International Judo Federation flag because of the territorial dispute between Kosovo (seeking independent status) and Serbia. Kosovo was admitted as a National Olympic Committee in time for Rio and Kelmendi will represent it. Injured in 2015, she showed her fitness with a win at the European Championships earlier this year.

She will get an argument from **Andreea Chitu** (ROU), the 2014 and 2015 World Champs silver medalist (ranked second) and Japan's **Misato Nakamura**, the defending World Champion.

The home crowd will be going wild for **Erika Miranda**, a consistent medalist in this class: silver in the 2013 Worlds and bronzes in the 2014 and 2015 Worlds. Can the cheers in Rio get her past the semifinals?

A very tough first-round draw has bronze medalists from two recent World Championships facing each other: **Darya Skrypnik** of Belarus (2015) vs. **Mareen Kraeh** of Germany (2013). Russia has a solid hope in this division as well with **Natalia Kuziutina**, second to Kelmendi in the 2016 Masters.

• **Shooting**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	M 10 m Air Pistol	Hoang (VIE)	Wu (BRA)	Pang (CHN)
Aug 6	W 10 m Air Rifle	Thrasher (USA)	Du (CHN)	Li (CHN)

*The Chinese looked to dominate the women's 10 m Air Rifle and they won two of the three medals. But who would have bet on 19-year-old Ginny Thrasher (USA), who's only been a competitive shooter for five years, and was only 23rd in the ISSF World Rankings? But she was the one standing on the highest step on the podium. The U.S. also picked up a diploma with Sarah Scherer in eighth place, an impressive showing in the Games' opening event.*

• **Shooting/Women's 10 m Air Pistol**

Two women who have won the last three Olympic gold medal winners will face off: Ukraine's **Olena Kostevych** (2004) and Wenjun Guo (2008 and 2012). Kostevych is ranked no. 1 in the world and won the pre-Olympic World Cup in Rio earlier in the year.



After winning the Bangkok World Cup title in March with her last shot, Guo *noted* that “I am trying to improve these psychological aspects of the game. You need good technical and physical preparation to compete, but a strong mind can make the difference in the fight for the medals.

“I never look at my previous medals. Every time I win a medal, I save it a home, and never look back at it again. Every competition is a new start.”

The 44 women will qualify by shooting 40 shots each from 10 m, with the top eight moving on to the finals. There, a gradual elimination round will drop competitors over 20 more shots until only the final two shoot for the gold medal.

Serbia’s **Bobana Velickovic** ranks second worldwide and won the Munich World Cup in 2016; she was 22nd in this event in London ‘12. If you’re looking for another surprise like Ginny Thrasher in the Air Rifle, how about Greece’s 20-year-old **Anna Korakaki**, fourth in the Youth Olympic Games in 2010? She’s rocketed her way up to fourth in the world rankings. Count China’s no. 2 – **Mengxue Zhang** – and Spain’s three-time Olympian **Sonia Franquet** as contenders for medals as well.

• **Shooting/Women’s Trap**

A compact field of 21 will shoot three sets of 25 shots in the qualifying round, with the top six continuing to the finals to shoot 25 more targets, with the final standings a combination of the two competitions.

Shooting royalty will be display with defending gold medalist **Jessica Rossi** of Italy, Finland’s 2008 winner **Satu Makela-Nummela** and American bronze medal-winner **Corey Cogdell** (2008) ready to go. The 2014 World Championships silver (**Fatima Galvez** of Spain) and bronze (**Catherine Skinner** of Australia) will also toe the line.

None of these stars are ranked no. 1 in the world at present, however. That’s **Ray Bassil** of Lebanon, in her second Olympics, who won the World Cup in Nicosia this year and was second in the World Cup in Baku and the pre-Olympic World Cup in Rio. Lebanon hasn’t won an Olympic medal since 1980, none in shooting and none by women. It could be historic.

• **Swimming/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	M 400 m Freestyle	Horton (AUS)	Sun (CHN)	Detti (ITA)
Aug 6	M 400 m Ind. Medley	Hagino (JPN)	Kalisz (USA)	Seto (JPN)
Aug 6	W 400 m Ind. Medley	Hosszu (HUN)	DiRado (USA)	Belmonte (ESP)
Aug 6	W 4x100 m Free Relay	Australia	USA	Canada

*The first final, the men’s 400 m medley, followed the year-list exactly: Kosuke Hagino first,*

American Chase Kalisz second and Daiya Seto third. Almost the same for the men's 400 m Freestyle, with Australia's 20-year-old Mack Horton – owner of the world-leading time – outlasting 2012 winner Yang Sun of China for the gold medal. Katinka Hosszu as favored in the 400 m Freestyle and she delivered with a world-record swim of 4:26.36, ahead of American Maya DiRado. In the women's 4x100 m Freestyle, Australian sisters Bronte and Kate Campbell swam final legs of 52.15 and 51.97 to set new world record of 3:30.65, against Dana Vollmer (53.18) and Katie Ledecky (52.79) of the U.S., who settled for silver.

- **Swimming/Men's 100 m Breaststroke**

South Africa's **Cameron van der Burgh** won in London four years ago, but he and six others are trying to catch Britain's **Adam Peaty**. The world-record holder since April 2015, Peaty lowered his own standard to 57.55 in the heats and then swam the second-fastest time ever in the semis at 57.62. He was unchallenged in his semi, winning by a very comfortable 1.43 seconds.

There are two other medals to award and **Cody Miller** of the U.S. (season-best of 59.05 in his semi, behind Peaty), van den Burgh (59.21) and semifinal one winner **Yasuhiro Koseki** (59.23) were the most impressive on Saturday evening. Hot seasonal times for **Kevin Cordes** of the U.S. and Brazil's **Felipe Franca** make them podium possibilities as well. Season's bests for the finalists:

57.55 Adam Peaty GBR	59.05 Cody Miller USA
58.91 Yasuhiro Koseki JPN	59.06 Joao Gomes BRA
58.94 Kevin Cordes USA	59.21 Cameron van der Burgh RSA
59.01 Felipe Franca BRA	59.45 Dmitry Balandin KAZ

- **Swimming/Men's 4x100 m Freestyle Relay**

While the United States has not done any serious relay swimming in 2016, the Americans will once again face off against their long-time nemeses in this event, France and Australia.

The French had owned the event of late: golds in London '12 and the World Championships in 2013 (3:11.18) and 2015 (in 3:10.74). Australia ripped off a 3:12.26 mark during their national champs in April, with the French not far behind in winning the European Champs in May in 3:13.48.

Those three teams should medal, but others in contention could be Russia (silver in 2015, bronze in 2012 and 2013), Italy (3:14.29 for second at the Euros and bronze in the 2015 Worlds), Belgium (3:14.30) or Greece (3:14.42).

- **Swimming/Women's 400 m Freestyle**

Subject to the end of the world, Vesuvius-style, this race should be all about **Katie Ledecky** and whether her 2014 world record of 3:58.37 will be intact by the end of the evening. The Bethesda, Maryland native owns distance swimming and at just 19, already owns an Olympic gold medal in the 800 m Free and nine World Championships golds, including the 2013 and 2015 races at this distance. She owns the four-fastest times in history and eight of the top nine.

Behind her are the silver and bronze medalists from the last two Worlds:

- 2015 Silver: Sharon van Rouwendaal of the Netherlands
- 2015 Bronze: Jessica Ashwood of Australia
- 2013 Silver: Melanie Costa of Spain
- 2013 Bronze: Lauren Boyle of New Zealand

They will be challenged by 21-year-old **Leah Smith** of the U.S., four-time NCAA champ at Virginia and a gold-medal winner in the 2015 Worlds 4x200 m relay. Smith has the second-fastest time in the world in 2016, set while chasing Ledecky at the U.S. Trials, but will have to keep her composure and also hold off European champ **Boglarka Kapas** of Hungary. But this could be the first U.S. 1-2 since 2000, when Brooke Bennett and Diana Munz collected gold and silver in Sydney. The top 2016 marks from entered contestants:

3:58.98	Katie Ledecky USA	4:03.84	Brittany MacLean CAN
4:00.65	Leah Smith USA	4:04.33	Jazmin Carlin GBR
4:03.47	Boglarka Kapas HUN	4:06.35	Anja Klinar SLO
4:03.66	Coralie Balmy FRA	4:06.38	Tamsin Cook AUS
4:03.71	Jessica Ashwood AUS	4:06.65	Sarah Kohler GER

If Smith swims under 4:00.00, she's be only the third in history behind Ledecky and Italy's former world-record holder, Federica Pellegrini.

• **Swimming/Women's 100 m Butterfly**

London 2012 champion **Dana Vollmer** of the U.S. is back to defend, but she's hardly the favorite. Today, the event belongs to Sweden's 2013 and 2015 World Champion and world-record holder **Sarah Sjostrom**, who set an Olympic Record of 55.84 to win her semifinal on Saturday night. She now has the six fastest marks in the event of all time and seven of the top 10. She's a prohibitive favorite to win.

Vollmer swam well in the prelims, with a season's best of 56.48, but was runner-up in her semi to peaking **Rikako Ikee** of Japan, who has lowered her 2016 best in both rounds so far. Australia's **Emma McKeon**, although well back of Sjostrom, had the second-fastest time in the semis by 0.25. **Jeanette Ottesen** of Denmark chased Sjostrom home in both the 2013 and 2015 Worlds to take silver and could be on the podium again. **Ying Lu** (CHN) was second to Vollmer in London and third in the 2015 Worlds in this event, but was only sixth fastest in the semis. An experienced, quality field to watch Sjostrom try to improve her own world record of 55.64. Bests in 2016 for the finalists:

55.68	Sarah Sjostrom SWE	56.83	Jeanette Ottesen DEN
56.56	Dana Vollmer USA	56.81	Emma McKeon AUS
56.73	Penny Oleksiak CAN	57.05	Rikako Ikee JPN
56.82	Xinyi Chen CHN	57.08	Ying Lu CHN

• **Weightlifting/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	W 48 kg	Tanasan (THA)	Agustiana (INA)	Miyake (JPN)

Thailand's Sopita Tanasan had been out of the medals – fourth – at both the 2013 and 2015 World Championships. This time, she snatched 92 kg (203 lbs.) to take a solid lead over the field and cleared 108 kg (238 lbs.) in the clean & jerk for a 200 kg (441 lbs.) total. Sri Augustiana of Indonesia was the only other lifter to clean a combined 190 kg (419 lbs.) for second.

• **Weightlifting/Men's 56 kg**

The bantamweight division (up to 123.4 pounds) will be led by the defending Olympic gold medalist and three-time defending World Champion **Yun-choi Om** of North Korea (PRK). He is not simply the world's best lifter in his class, but is one just a handful of men who have lifted *more than three times* their bodyweight! His world record in the clean-and-jerk of 169 kg (372.6 lbs.) from 2013 set that mark. Can you do that? Answer: **no (and please do not try it)**. Best of the rest:

- **Qingquan Long** of China was the 2008 gold medalist in this class and was World Champs bronze medalist in 2014 and silver medalist in 2013.
- Vietnam's **Kim Tuan Thach** has won medals in the last three World Championships, including silver in 2014 and bronze in 2013 and last year.

They'll be challenged by Philippine **Nestor Colonia**, fourth in the 2015 Worlds, **Witoon Mingmoon** of Thailand, sixth in Houston '15 and **Arli Chontey** (KAZ), sixth in the 2013 and 2014 World Championships. But consider that Om could lift two of them over his head at the same time!

• **Weightlifting/Women's 53 kg**

Just 10 competitors will vie for medals in the women's featherweight division (116.9 pounds). **Su-Ching Hsu** of Chinese Taipei will try to move up from her silver medal in London in this class, but will be chased by China's **Yajun Li**, the 2013 World Champion and 2014 bronze medalist.

**Hidilyn Diaz** of the Philippines had the third-highest lift total in 2015 among the entered contestants and came through with a bronze-medal finish in the 2015 World Championships. She's a clear favorite for bronze.

## ***Trials Tracker***

One of the raging debates, especially in track & field, is about the dates selected for the U.S. Olympic Trials vs. the competition dates at the Olympic Games. Too soon, and it makes it hard for athletes to keep their edge, some say. Too late and there isn't enough recovery time.



So we're keeping track of the Trials vs. Games performance of U.S. athletes in swimming and track & field, comparing the Trials finals marks vs. the last round achieved in the Games. Let's see how the U.S. does:

<i>Trials vs. Games – Swimming: through August 6</i>				
<i>Event</i>	<i>Men's Performance</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Women's Performance</i>	<i>%</i>
400 m Freestyle	1-2	50.0		
400 m Ind. Medley	1-2	50.0	2/2	100.0
<i>Totals:</i>	2-4	50.0	2/2	100.0

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Gold medal and a world record for the Australian 4x100 m Freestyle Relay: Emma McKeon, Brittany Elmslie and Bronte Campbell celebrate (Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Rob Schumacher)