

August 9, 2016



*It's Good to
be the King!*

(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Rob Schumacher)

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On the Cover

Lilly King of the U.S. celebrates a gold medal swim after winning the women’s 100 m Breaststroke over Russia’s World Champion, Yuliya Efimova. (Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Rob Schumacher)



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Lane One: The IOC's dilemma

The Greeks invented the Olympic Games and their poet Homer told of Odysseus's terrible choice between [*Scylla and Charybdis*](#) in *The Odyssey*.

The choice between the two sea monsters, risking death from either, is like the International Olympic Committee's situation in having chosen Rio de Janeiro to host the 2016 Olympic Games.

A dear friend of long acquaintance in international sport asked: "Why didn't the IOC do something about Rio?" The answer is that the IOC did what it could once it selected Rio.

As large and seemingly powerful as the IOC is, it's a shrimp compared to today's large cities, states and nations. It holds all the power before it selects a city, but then has little recourse if it's unhappy with the host it chose.

Brazil bid with joy in 2009, but is now in throes of a deep recession. The Games had never been in South America, and that's why Rio was chosen.

But as the IOC began to worry about the costs and pace of preparations, what were its options? Take the Games away? The IOC has never done that, even when it was suggested for Athens ahead of the 2004 Games.

If the IOC believes its mission is to spread the values of exercise, international cooperation and health through sport – and it does – it *must* take the Games to places around the world where has not been before. Brazil made sense.

And the IOC used its "bully pulpit" to warn Rio

in the news media, and then quietly sent experienced advisors to live in Rio, and money to help the cash-strapped organizers. It could not, given its resources, do more.

In some ways, the IOC is like U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower in 1944, holding all the cards until he green-lighted the invasion of Normandy. Then he held none and would succeed or fail on the efforts of others.

Just like the IOC in Rio.



Rich Perelman
Editor

What is The Sports Examiner?

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.

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 variety?

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!

Rio 2016: U.S. continues team scoring lead

The 2016 edition of the United States Olympic Team, the largest in history, is rolling with points from almost every sport it has entered so far and leads all teams in our unofficial team scoring. China is also scoring well as expected, but both the Italian and Russian teams have been strong so far, with Italy an unexpected third among all National Olympic Committee teams so far.

We're using the U.S. collegiate track & field scoring system of 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 for eight places (same as the number of diplomas given out by the International Olympic Committee), 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 3, with 40 of 306 events scored, the leaders:

1.	198.5	USA	12.	43.5	France	23.	15	Colombia
2.	130	China	13.	34	Thailand	24.	14	Croatia
3.	101	Italy	14.	27.5	Chinese Taipei		14	Mexico
4.	99	Russia	15.	22	Sweden	26.	13	Denmark
5.	95.5	Japan	16.	21	Spain		13	Mongolia
6.	84	Australia	17.	20	Ukraine		13	Vietnam
7.	72	Great Britain	18.	18.5	Belgium	29.	12	Egypt
8.	49.5	Brazil	19.	18	South Africa	30.	11.5	Azerbaijan
	49.5	Korea	20.	17	Germany	31.	11	Uzbekistan
10.	48	Canada		17	Netherlands	32.	10.5	Dom. Rep.
11.	45.5	Hungary	22.	16	New Zealand	33.	10	Argentina

Day 3-only scoring leaders:

1.	70.5	USA	16.	10	Germany		5	Mexico
2.	49.5	Russia		10	Indonesia	32.	4.5	Romania
3.	44.5	China	18.	9.5	Chinese Taipei	33.	4	Denmark
4.	38.5	Japan	19.	8	Azerbaijan	34.	3.5	Israel
5.	27	Great Britain		8	Egypt	35.	3	Dom. Rep.
6.	22	Italy		8	Mongolia		3	Belarus
7.	19	Ukraine		8	New Zealand		3	Iceland
	19	Hungary		8	South Africa		3	Papua- N.G.
9.	18	Australia	24.	6	Kazakhstan		3	Tunisia
	18	Thailand	25.	5.5	Belgium	40.	2	Spain
11.	17.5	France		5.5	Georgia		2	Lithuania
12.	15.5	Canada		5.5	Portugal	42.	1	Fiji
13.	14	Brazil	28.	5	Czech Rep.		1	Jamaica
14.	12	Colombia		5	Ecuador		1	Samoa
	12	Croatia		5	India			

Please note that 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’re picking 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. All together, over 306 events, there are 11,934 points to be awarded!

A total of 44 National Olympic Committees scored on the Day 3, same as on Day 2. We’ll update the scores daily for the leading countries, and have a full tally at the end of the Games.



*New Zealand’s Sarah Goss pushes through the Australian defenders Emilee Cherry (left) and Alicia Quick, but it wasn’t enough as the Aussies won the gold-medal Rugby Sevens match, 24-17.
(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Geoff Burke)*

Rio 2016: Capsule Previews of August 9 Finals

Olympic finals tracker:

Days completed: 3 of 16 / Events completed: 40 / Events Remaining: 266

Today: 14 finals in 8 sports

In advance of today's finals, here are capsule overviews of these events, with the likely medal contenders showcased to enhance your viewing experience, either live or on television. Summaries of events held so far are also included for reference.

Will we mention 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 finisher in a major international event – to receiving the gold medal in the Women's 10 m Air Rifle. 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
Aug 7	W Team	Korea	Russia	Chinese Taipei

As expected: the Koreans won both team titles, winning 6-0, 6-0, 6-0 in their three men's matches and then 5-1, 5-1 and 5-1 over Russia to claim the women's crown. Next final: Women's Individual division on August 8.

- ***Canoe Slalom/Men's Single (C-1)***

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Tony Estanguet (FRA)	Sideris Tasiadis (GER)	Michal Martikan (SVK)
WCh '13 Prague	David Florence (GBR)	Alex. Slafkovsky (SVK)	Benjamin Savsek (SLO)
WCh '14 Deep Creek Lake	Fabien Lefevre (USA)	Benjamin Savsek (SLO)	Franz Anton (GER)
WCh '15 London	David Florence (GBR)	Benjamin Savsek (SLO)	Ryan Westley (GBR)

The familiar names in C-1 paddling were at the top of the leaderboard after the heats on August 7: three-time World Champion **David Florence**, two-time Worlds silver medalist **Benjamin Savsek** and London silver medal-winner **Sideris Tasiadis** of Germany, who led all qualifiers. Florence is keen to make up for failing to even make the final in front of home crowds in London four years ago.

Tuesday's program begins (winds permitting) with semi-finals featuring 14 entries, leading to the final for the top 10 qualifiers. Athletes will start every three minutes in the final, in reverse order of their semifinal times.

Beyond the former medalists in the event, **Denis Gargaud Chanut** of France and **Takuya Haneda** of Japan have scored well in the pre-Olympic World Cup races and were strong – Gargaud Chanut, second and Haneda, fifth – in the qualifying rounds.

• **Cycling/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	M Road Race	Van Avernaet (BEL)	Fuglsang (DEN)	Majka (POL)
Aug 7	W Road Race	Van der Breggen (NED)	Johansson (SWE)	Longo Borghini (ITA)

Two late crashes on the final descent decided both road races: late-race leaders – Vincent Nibali of Italy and Sergio Henao Montoya of Colombia in the men's event, and Annemiek Van Vleuten (NED) on the women's side – all crashed and opened the way for Greg Van Avermaet of Belgium with Dane Jakob Fuglsang close behind and Anna van der Breggen (NED), Emma Johansson of Sweden and Elisa Longo Borghini of Italy. Next finals: Men's and Women's Time Trials on August 10.

• **Diving/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 8	M 10 m Synchronized	Chen-Lin (CHN)	Boudia-Johnson (USA)	Daley-Goodfellow (GBR)
Aug 7	W 3 m Synchronized	Shi-Wu (CHN)	Cagnotto-Dallape (ITA)	Kenney-Smith (AUS)

No trouble for China so far. Tingmao Shi and Minxia Wu won the women's springboard title by almost 32 points. Aisen Chen and Yue Lin were even better, claiming their gold medal by almost 40 points over the U.S. and British teams.

• **Diving/Women's 10 m Synchronized**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Chen-Wang (CHN)	Espinosa-Orozco (MEX)	Benfeito-Filion (CAN)
WCh '13	Barcelona	Liu-Chen (CHN)	Benfeito-Filion (CAN)	Rinong-Yee (MAS)
WCh '15	Kazan	Liu-Chen (CHN)	Benfeito-Filion (CAN)	Kim-Song (PRK)

The Synchronized Platform event for women entered the Games program in 2000 and the Chinese have won all four times. The anchor for the Chinese duo in Rio is **Ruolin Chen**, who already owns gold medals from the 2008 and 2012 Olympic events and five straight World Championships golds in the platform synchro from 2007-09-11-13-15. With **Huixia Liu**, the pair are two-time defending

World Champions and won the Diving World Cup in Rio earlier this year by more than 25 points.

Just as consistent, but usually for one place lower on the podium is Canada's experienced pair of **Meaghan Benfeito** and **Rose Filion**. They've collected medals in London in 2012 and in both World Championships since. Also back for another shot at a medal are Mexico's silver-winners from London, **Paola Espinosa** and **Alejandra Orozco**, fourth in the World Championships last year.

In addition, there's a close group of contenders ready to challenge the Canadians and Mexicans. Most of them faced off in Rio earlier this year in the World Cup and ended up this way (behind the Chinese, of course):

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---------------|
| 2. | Jun Hoong Cheong/Pandelela Pang | MAS | 318.90 points |
| 3. | Sarah Barrow/Tonia Couch
(Barrow will be replaced by Lois Toulson) | GBR | 308.82 |
| 4. | Amy Cozad/Jessica Parratto | USA | 299.94 |

• ***Equestrian/Eventing Individual Jumping Final***

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Michael Jung (GER)	Sara Algotsson Ostholt (SWE)	Sandra Auffarth (GER)
WEqG '14	Normandy	Sandra Auffarth (GER)	Michael Jung (GER)	William Fox-Pitt (GBR)

Michael Jung of Germany and **Christopher Burton** of Australia are 1-2 in the FEI World Rankings for Eventing and they stand in the top-two places entering the Jumping phase. Burton was second in the Dressage event and won the Endurance phase to lead the competition with 37.60 deductions. Jung, ranked no. 1 in the world, is next with 40.90 points after a fifth in Dressage and second in Endurance.

Astier Nicholas, 27, of France, world-ranked 17th, is making a charge through the first two events, standing third at 42.00; he was 11th in Dressage, but third in the Endurance phase. The other top contenders are familiar entries on the World Rankings: ageless **Mark Todd** (now 60!) of New Zealand (4th: 46.00) and **Phillip Dutton** of the U.S. (5th: 46.80). The top five all finished in the top five in Endurance, after lower placings in Dressage. The Jumping competition will include a full round, then the 25 top riders and horses will complete a second Jumping round to close out the scoring and fix the medalists.

Todd, the "Rider of the 20th Century," is in his seventh Olympic Games for New Zealand and won back-to-back gold medals in 1984 and 1988 in this event, as well as a bronze in 2000. Dutton won Team Eventing golds with Australia in 2000 and 2004, then switched his allegiance to the U.S. and made the 2008 American Eventing Team for Beijing. He's now 52.

• ***Equestrian/Eventing Team Jumping Final***

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Germany	Great Britain	New Zealand
WEqG '14 Normandy	Germany	Great Britain	Netherlands

Germany and Great Britain have dominated Team Evening, but both will have to try to climb the ladder after the Dressage and Endurance phases. Australia (led by Christopher Burton), New Zealand (led by Mark Todd) and France stand 1-2-3 at present, with only the Jumping remaining. The Germans led after the Dressage phase with the British fourth, but both faded in the Endurance segment. The gap among the first four squads is 22.6 points, but then another 65.8 back to fifth-place Netherlands.

• ***Fencing/Summary***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 7	M Foil	Garrozzo (ITA)	Massialas (USA)	Safin (RUS)
Aug 6	W Epee	Szasz (HUN)	Fiamingo (ITA)	Sun (CHN)
Aug 8	W Sabre	Egorian (RUS)	Velikaya (RUS)	Kharlan (UKR)

Hungary's 33-year-old Emese Szasz never had an international championship win until her come-from-behind, 15-13 battle against favorite Rossella Fiamingo of Italy, outscoring her 4-1 in the third period. Italy's youthful Daniele Garrozzo also had no major senior titles, but he ran out to a 14-8 lead in the first period over favored Alex Massialas of the U.S. and won, 15-11 in the second period. An open Sabre competition ended with 22-year-old Yana Egorian overcoming no. 1-ranked Sofiya Velikaya, 15-14, for the gold medal.

• ***Gymnastics/Summary***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 8	Artistic/M Team	Japan	Russia	China

Outstanding performances on the parallel bars in Rotation 4 and floor exercise in Rotation 6 keyed Japan's seventh Olympic men's title, and its first since 2004.

• ***Gymnastics~Artistic/Women's Team***

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	United States	Russia	Romania
WCh '14 Nanning	United States	China	Russia
WCh '15 Glasgow	United States	China	Great Britain

In a sport where places are determined by 1/1000ths of a point, the United States ran away with the qualifying program, nearly 10 points ahead of China: 185.238 to 175.279!

That makes the Americans the overwhelming favorites to win back-to-back Olympic team titles, which would be a first for the U.S. It's hardly new, however, as Romania did it in 2000-04 and the Soviet Union won eight straight from 1952-80.

The fight for silver and bronze figures to be tight between China (the silver-medal winners in the last two World Championships), Russia and Great Britain. The arena will be plenty loud for home-standing Brazil, which finished fifth in the qualifying, just 0.010 behind the British.

• **Judo/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	M 60 kg	Mudranov (RUS)	Smetov (KAZ)	Takato (JPN) Urozboev (UZB)
Aug 7	M 66 kg	Basile (ITA)	An (KOR)	Sobirov (UZB) Ebinuma (JPN)
Aug 8	M 73 kg	Ono (JPN)	Orujov (AZE)	Shavdatuashvili (GEO)
Aug 6	W 48 kg	Pareto (ARG)	Jeong (KOR)	Kondo (JPN) Galbadrakh (KAZ)
Aug 7	W 53 kg	Kelmendi (KOS)	Giuffrida (ITA)	Nakamura (JPN) Kuziutina (RUS)
Aug 8	W 57 kg	Silva (BRA)	Dorjsuren (MGL)	Montiero (POR) Matsumoto (JPN)

Six divisions contested and six countries with gold medals, but none as loud as for Brazil's Rafaela Silva – the 2013 World Champion – in front of her home fans! Joy for Argentina and Kosovo: Paula Pareto, the Argentina's only Judo medalist, now with a gold at -48 to go along with her bronze from 2008, and favored Majlinda Kelmendi earned Kosovo's first Olympic medal ever.

• **Judo/Men's -81 kg**

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12 London	Jae-Beom Kim (KOR)	Ole Bischof (GER)	Ivan Nifontov (RUS)-A. Valois-Fortier (CAN)
WCh '13 Rio de Janeiro	Loic Petri (FRA)	Avt. Tchrikishvili (GEO)	Alain Schmitt (FRA)-Ivan Vorobev (RUS)
WCh '14 Chelyabinsk	Avt. Tchrikishvili (GEO)	A. Valois-Foster (CAN)	Loic Petri (FRA)-Ivan Nifontov (RUS)
WCh '15 Astana	Takanori Nagase (JPN)	Loic Petri (FRA)	A. Valois-Foster (CAN)-V. Penalber (BRA)

Two decorated judokas – **Antoine Valois-Foster** of Canada and **Loic Petri** of France – must feel

they're getting no respect in Rio. Despite winning six medals between in the last four years at the Olympic Games or World Championships, they are scheduled to face each other in their first match in Rio, in the round of 32!

Whomever can move forward after that will find their way to the podium blocked by no. 1-ranked **Avtandili Tchrkishvili** of Georgia and no. 2-ranked and defending World Champion **Takanori Nagase** of Japan. If you're looking for a sleeper, consider 2016 Masters champion **Travis Stevens** of the U.S., Bulgarian **Ivaylo Ivanov** (world rank: 3) or Brazilian favorite **Victor Penalver**, a World Champs bronze medalist from a year ago.

• **Judo/Women's -63 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Urška Zolnir (SLO)	Lili Xu (CHN)	Yoshie Ueno (JPN)-Gevrise Emene (FRA)
WCh '13 Rio de Janeiro	Yarden Gerbi (ISR)	Cl. Agbegnenou (FRA)	Gevrise Emene (FRA)-A. van Emden (NED)
WCh '14 Chelyabinsk	Cl. Agbegnenou (FRA)	Yarden Gerbi (ISR)	Miku Tashiro (JPN)-Tina Trstenjak (SLO)
WCh '15 Astana	Tina Trstenjak (SLO)	Cl. Agbegnenou (FRA)	Miku Tashiro (JPN)-T. Monkhzayaa (MGL)

Slovenia's **Tina Trstenjak** (25) won the 2015 World Championship, won the 2016 European Championship and is ranked no. 1 in the world. Any more questions?

She may get her strongest argument from Japan's 22-year-old **Miku Tashiro**, bronze medalist at the last two Worlds, but who won the IJF Masters tournament earlier this year. European rivals **Clarisse Agbegnenou** of France (still just 23) and **Yarden Gerbi** (27) of Israel know Trstenjak quite well, and Austria's 24-year-old **Kathrin Unterwurzacher**, who was second to Trstenjak at the 2016 Europeans.

• **Rugby Sevens/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 8	Women	Australia	New Zealand	Canada

Australia claimed a 10-5 halftime lead over longtime foes New Zealand and held on for a 24-17 victory and the gold medal in rugby's return to the Olympic Games. The Aussies finished 5-0-1 for the tournament, with only a draw against the U.S. to mar their record. The Kiwis finished 5-1.

• **Shooting/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 6	M 10 m Air Pistol	Hoang (VIE)	Wu (BRA)	Pang (CHN)
Aug 8	M 10 m Air Rifle	Capriani (ITA)	Kulich (UKR)	Maslennikov (RUS)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 8	M Trap	Glasnovic (CRO)	Pelliello (ITA)	Ling (GBR)
Aug 7	W 10 m Air Pistol	Zhang (CHN)	Batsarashkina (RUS)	Korakaki (GRE)
Aug 6	W 10 m Air Rifle	Thrasher (USA)	Du (CHN)	Li (CHN)
Aug 7	W Trap	Skinner (AUS)	Rooney (NZL)	Cogdell (USA)

Talk about diversity: the first six events saw gold medals awarded to six different countries on four different continents! China leads the total medal count so far with four, with Italy, Russia and the U.S. with two each.

• **Shooting/Women's 25 m Air Pistol**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Jang Mi-Kim (KOR)	Ying Chen (CHN)	Olena Kostevych (UKR)
WCh '14	Granada	Jingjing Zhang (CHN)	Jang-mi Kim (KOR)	Renata Tobai-Sike (HUN)

Scheduled to be completed on August 9, the actual finals date is now to be re-scheduled, either for a time different than the expected 3:45 p.m. start, or to a different day. Whenever it starts, China's **Jingjing Zhang** will be the favorite. She won the 2014 World Championship, is ranked no. 1 in the world and has been first or second in three of her four 2016 tournament.

She will be tested by the London 2012 gold medalist, **Jang-mi Kim** of Korea, still shooting well and third in the World Cup tournament in Baku earlier this year. The London bronze medalist, **Olena Kostevych** also has a World Cup third from the Rio de Janeiro meet in 2016.

The other European contenders are **Antoaneta Boneva** of Bulgaria (rank: 2) and **Anna Korakaki** of Greece (rank: 5, tryin to win her second medal of these Games), both of whom have World Cup podium finishes in 2016. Germany's **Monika Karsch** also bears watching: she finished fourth in the Rio World Cup earlier in the year.

• **Swimming/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 8	M 200 m Freestyle	Sun (CHN)	le Clos (RSA)	Dwyer (USA)
Aug 6	M 400 m Freestyle	Horton (AUS)	Sun (CHN)	Detti (ITA)
Aug 8	M 100 m Backstroke	Murphy (USA)	Xu (CHN)	Plummer (USA)
Aug 7	M 100 Breaststroke	Peaty (GBR)	van der Burgh (RSA)	Miller (USA)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	M 400 m Ind. Medley	Hagino (JPN)	Kalisz (USA)	Seto (JPN)
Aug 7	M 4x100 m Free Relay	United States	France	Australia
Aug 7	W 400 m Freestyle	Ledecky (USA)	Carlin (GBR)	Smith (USA)
Aug 8	W 100 m Backstroke	Hosszu (HUN)	Baker (USA)	Masse (CAN)-Fu (CHN)
Aug 8	W 100 m Breaststroke	King (USA)	Efimova (RUS)	Meili (USA)
Aug 7	W 100 m Butterfly	Sjostrom (SWE)	Oleksiak (CAN)	Vollmer (USA)
Aug 6	W 400 m Ind. Medley	Hosszu (HUN)	DiRado (USA)	Belmonte (ESP)
Aug 6	W 4x100 m Free Relay	Australia	United States	Canada

It's the Olympics, right? So the world records – in five events so far – are falling: Katinka Hosszu (HUN) in the 400 m Individual Medley, then the Australian women in the 4x100 m Freestyle Relay, Britain's Adam Peaty in the 100 m Breaststroke heats and final, Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom in the 100 m Butterfly and, of course, American Katie Ledecky in the 400 m Freestyle. Almost lost: a 23rd Olympic medal (and 19th gold) for Michael Phelps on the U.S.'s winning 4x100 m Freestyle Relay.

• **Swimming/Men's 200 m Butterfly**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Chad le Clos (RSA)	Michael Phelps (USA)	Takeshi Matsuda (JPN)
WCh '13	Barcelona	Chad le Clos (RSA)	P. Korzeniowski (POL)	Peng Wu (CHN)
WCh '15	Kazan	Laszlo Cseh (CZE)	Chad le Clos (RSA)	Jan Switkowski (POL)

For all of the hype about a rematch of London's 2012 race between **Chad le Clos** of South Africa and USA's **Michael Phelps**, current World Champion **Laszlo Cseh** (CZE) says, "not so fast."

Cseh is the world leader with his European Championships win of 1:52.91 and won the first semi in 1:55.18. But the fastest qualifier was Hungary's **Tamas Kenderesi**, whose season best of 1:53.96 edged Phelps by 0.16. Translation: this is a wide-open race and the seasonal bests in semifinals for Kenderesi and Phelps says there is – shall we say – more in the tank for the final. Season's bests for the finalists:

1:52.91	Laszlo Cseh (CZE)	1:54.21	Misato Sakai (JPN)
1:53.14	Daiya Seto (JPN)	1:54.42	Chad le Clos (RSA)
1:53.96	Tamas Kenderesi (HUN)	1:55.28	Viktor Bromer (DEN)
1:54.12	Michael Phelps (USA)	1:56.03	Louis Croenen (BEL)

• **Swimming/Men's 4x200 Freestyle Relay**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	United States	France	China
WCh '13 Barcelona	United States	Russia	China
WCh '15 Kazan	Great Britain	United States	Australia

The U.S. has won the last three Olympic titles in this event and four of the last five. Neither the Americans or Australians race in this event except at major championships, they have no marks this year. But the Americans are the ones to beat.

The European Championships, held in London in May, showed off the continent's fastest teams: Netherlands, winners in 7:07.82; Belgium, silver medalists in 7:08.28 and Italy, third in 7:08.30.

• **Swimming/Women's 200 m Freestyle**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Allison Schmitt (USA)	Camille Muffat (FRA)	Bronte Barratt (AUS)
WCh '13 Barcelona	Missy Franklin (USA)	Feder. Pellegrini (ITA)	Camille Muffat (FRA)
WCh '15 Kazan	Katie Ledecky (USA)	Feder. Pellegrini (ITA)	Missy Franklin (USA)

Sweden's **Sarah Sjostrom**, fresh from her world-record win in the 100m Butterfly, laid down a season's best 1:54.65 to edge America's **Katie Ledecky** in the second semifinal on Monday evening. Along with Italy's 2008 gold medalist **Federica Pellegrini**, third in semi two, they're the favorites for medals. Ledecky is more vulnerable in this race than in her others, despite being defending World Champion from 2015.

China's **Duo Shen** won the first semi in 1:56.03, significantly slower than the second. The last qualifier for the final was Australia's 2012 bronze medalist, **Bronte Barratt**. The seasonal bests of the finalists:

1:54.43	Katie Ledecky (USA)	1:55.82	Duo Shen (CHN)
1:54.55	Federica Pellegrini (ITA)	1:55.88	Michelle Coleman (AUS)
1:54.83	Emma McKeon (AUS)	1:55.95	Bronte Barratt (AUS)
1:54.65	Sarah Sjostrom (SWE)	1:56.25	Charlotte Bonnet (FRA)

• **Swimming/Women's 200 m Individual Medley**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Shiwen Ye (CHN)	Alicia Coutts (AUS)	Caitlin Leverenz (USA)
WCh '13 Barcelona	Katinka Hosszu (HUN)	Alicia Coutts (AUS)	Mireia Belmonte (ESP)
WCh '15 Kazan	Katinka Hosszu (HUN)	Kan. Watanabe (JPN)	Siobhan-Marie O'Connor (GBR)

Hungary's **Katinka Hosszu** took the 400 m IM in world-record time, is the two-time defending World Champion and won her heat. Sounds like the favorite, except to Britain's **Siobhan-Marie O'Connor**, who led the qualifying with a season's best of 2:05.57. O'Connor was third to Hosszu at

the 2015 Worlds, so she's no stranger to the podium herself.

The rest of the field might be working for the bronze medal, and **Maya DiRado** of the U.S. also turned in a season's best in the qualifying, so she's in the hunt, along with **Shiwen Yee** of China and perhaps **Melanie Margalis** of the U.S. Season's bests for the finalists:

2:07.30	Katinka Hosszu (HUN)	2:09.62	Melanie Margalis (USA)
2:07.57	Siobhan-Marie O'Connor (GBR)	2:09.95	Alicia Coutts (AUS)
2:08.91	Maya DiRado (USA)	2:10.57	Sydney Pickrem (CAN)
2:09.33	Shiwen Ye (CHN)	2:09.56	Viktoriiia Andreeva (RUS)

• **Weightlifting/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 7	M 56 kg	Long (CHN)	Om (PRK)	Kruaithong (THA)
Aug 8	M 62 kg	Figueroa (COL)	Irawan (INA)	Kharki (KAZ)
Aug 6	W 48 kg	Tanasan (THA)	Agustiana (INA)	Miyake (JPN)
Aug 7	W 53 kg	Hsu (TPE)	Diaz (PHI)	Yoon (KOR)
Aug 8	W 58 kg	Srisurat (THA)	Sirikaew (THA)	Kuo (TPE)

The 15 medals awarded over the first three days of weightlifting are now in the hands of 11 different countries. Thailand has taken over as the women's power, with two golds and a bronze thus far; among the men, the six medals have gone to six different countries. This is a fine result to help encourage more interest worldwide in weightlifting, along with running, surely one of the oldest competitive sports in history.

• **Weightlifting/Men's 69 kg**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Qingfeng Lin (CHN)	Triyatno (INA)	Razvan Martin (ROM)
WCh '13	Wroclaw	Hui Liao (CHN)	Oleg Chen (RUS)	Myong-hyok Kim (PRK)
WCh '14	Almaty	Hui Liao (CHN)	Mohamed Ihab (EGY)	Myong-hyok Kim (PRK)
WCh '15	Houston	Zhiyong Shi (CHN)	Oleg Chen (RUS)	Daniyar Ismayilov (TUR)

A very strong field will contest the Men's Lightweight division in Rio. Twelve lifters comprise the Group A, led by World Champion **Zhiyong Shi** of China and twice Worlds bronze medalist **Myong-hyok Kim** of P.R. Korea.

Shi lifted a combo total of 348 kg (767 lbs.) to win the Worlds in Houston last year, but that's not far ahead of Turkey's **Danilar Ismayilov** (343 kg/756 lbs.), who won the bronze, follows by Kim (343/754).

In the next tier and not to be overlooked if one of the favorites has a bad day are Tunisia's **Karem Ben Hnia** (333/734 last year) and **Luis Javier Mosquera Lozano** of Colombia (338/745). How about a wild card: 2012 silver medalist **Triyatno** of Indonesia? He's been away from the World Championships since London, so who knows what his condition will be?

• **Weightlifting/Women's 63 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Maiya Maneza (KAZ)	S. Tsarukayeva (RUS)	Christine Girard (CAN)
WCh '13 Wroclaw	Tima Turieva (RUS)	Pok-hyang Jo (PRK)	Mengrong Deng (CHN)
WCh '14 Almaty	Wei Deng (CHN)	Tima Turieva (RUS)	Hyo-sim Choe (PRK)
WCh '15 Houston	Wei Deng (CHN)	Tima Turieva (RUS)	Hyo-sim Choe (PRK)

China's two-time defending World Champion **Wei Deng** is the favorite here. She had the biggest combined lift in the world last year (259 kg/571 lbs.) by 11 kg last year, set at Houston for the Worlds.

Behind her come three talented lifters, with the PRK's twice-bronze medalist **Hyo-sim Choe** the most decorated; she lifted a combined 248 kg (547 lbs.) in 2014. Not far behind are **Karina Goricheva** (KAZ) and **Tzu-chi Lin** (TPE), both of whom had combo lift totals of 246 kg (542 lbs.) in 2014. Those four women are the likely contestants for the three medals to be distributed in Rio.

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 8</i>				
<i>Event</i>	<i>Men's Performance</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Women's Performance</i>	<i>%</i>
200 m Freestyle	2/2 better at Games	100.0		
400 m Freestyle	1/2	50.0	1/2 better at Games	50.0
100 m Backstroke	1/2	50.0	2/2	100.0
100 m Breaststroke	1/2	50.0	2/2	100.0
100 m Butterfly			1/2	50.0
400 m Ind. Medley	1/2	50.0	2/2	100.0

Event	Men's Performance	%	Women's Performance	%
Totals:	5/8	62.5	8/10	80.0



*Fit to be THAI:
Thailand's Sukanya Srisurat on her way to the gold medal
in the women's 58 kg division Monday
(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Jason Getz)*

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