

August 10, 2016



Hungary like a Champion

(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Rob Schumacher)

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On the Cover

Hungary’s Katinka Hosszu, who won her third gold medal of the Games with a Tuesday-night win in the 200 m Individual Medley. (*Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Rob Schumacher*)



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August 10, 2016

Lane One: Only the Olympics Count?

The United States wins the majority of its Olympic medals in two sports: swimming and track & field. A year ago, both appeared to be in rough shape.

The swimmers, normally dominant in the World Championships as well as the Olympic Games, had only modest results in Kazan, Russia during the 2015 Worlds. Twenty medals in Olympic events, down from 24 in 2013 and 30 in London in 2012.

So there were worries about Rio. Forget it. The American swimmers are, so far, *awesome*.

Through just four days of the eight-day swim meet, the U.S. had 18 medals (!) already and can expect more in the coming days. Thank you Lilly King, Ryan Murphy, Maya DiRado and more, and, of course, Michael Phelps.

Much of the swim team is peaking perfectly, with 60% of the men and 79% of the women swimming faster in their final rounds at the Games than at the U.S. Trials in July.

Which shows that only the Olympics count.

In 2015, the U.S. Swimming national championships actually *overlapped* with the World Championships in Russia, and the World Champs team was picked from results of the 2014 season. Not the best way to maximize your results. But it didn't matter; it wasn't the Olympics.

The U.S. track & field team has the same issues. After 29 medals were awarded to it in London, the U.S. received 25 medals in the 2013 World Champs in Moscow and just 18 in Beijing in 2015. What about 2016? That remains to be

seen, but this is unquestionably a stronger team than last year.

For those who follow these sports all the time – like I do – the *only-the-Olympics-count* reality for swimming and track (and others) is a worry for the future. But we can enjoy the good times in Rio for as long as they last.

The swimmers have been sensational. Track & field waits in the wings. Then sleep until Tokyo?

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: Ultra-consistent U.S. rolls on

The U.S. Olympic team continues to roll up the points across the Games in Rio, scoring in 13 sports so far to assemble 267.5 points to lead the parade of nations. The Americans have been consistent as well, scoring 62-66-70.5-69 across the four days of finals competitions thus far.

China's solid squad is easily second at 179.5 points, scoring in archery, diving, equestrian, fencing, gymnastics, judo, shooting, swimming and weightlifting. Behind them is a battle royal between Japan, Russia, Australia, Italy and Great Britain, with the Japanese leading after four days at 136.5.

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 4, with 55 of 306 events scored, the leaders:

1.	267.5	USA	16.	32	Sweden	31.	15.5	Georgia
2.	179.5	China	17.	29.5	Netherlands	32.	14	Croatia
3.	136.5	Japan	18.	27.5	Chinese Taipei		14	Egypt
4.	127	Russia	19.	26	New Zealand		14	Vietnam
5.	117	Australia	20.	25	Colombia	35.	13	Mongolia
6.	112.5	Italy		25	Indonesia		13	Switzerland
7.	100	Great Britain		25	Mexico		13	Slovakia
8.	91.5	France	23.	23	DPR Korea	38.	12	Malaysia
9.	71.5	Hungary		23	South Africa	39.	11.5	Azerbaijan
10.	59.5	Korea	25.	22	Spain	40.	11	Uzbekistan
11.	58.5	Canada	26.	20	Belgium	41.	10.5	Dom. Rep.
12.	57	Brazil		20	Ukraine	42.	10	Argentina
13.	53	Germany	28.	16.5	Slovenia		10	Czech Rep.
14.	36.5	Kazakhstan	29.	16	Denmark			
15.	34	Thailand		16	Greece			

Day 4-only scoring leaders:

1.	69	USA	11.	13	Slovenia	10	Sweden	
2.	49.5	China	12.	12.5	Netherlands	22.	8	Malaysia
3.	48	France	13.	12	Switzerland		8	Slovakia
4.	41	Japan	14.	11.5	Italy		8	Turkey
5.	36	Germany	15.	11	Mexico	25.	7.5	Brazil
6.	33	Australia	16.	10.5	Canada	26.	6.5	Georgia
7.	28	Great Britain	17.	10	Colombia	27.	6	Kazakhstan
8.	28	Russia		10	Greece		6	Kyrgyzstan
9.	26	Hungary		10	Korea	29.	5.5	Israel
10.	15	DPR Korea		10	New Zealand		5.5	UAE

31.	5	Czech Rep.	36.	2	Belgium	40.	1	Cuba
	5	South Africa		2	Egypt		1	Spain
33.	3	Albania		2	Moldova		1	Estonia
	3	Denmark	39.	1.5	Austria		1	Ireland
35.	2.5	Bulgaria						

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 43 National Olympic Committees scored on the Day 4. We’ll update the scores daily for the leading countries, and have a full tally at the end of the Games.



Mexico’s Aida Roman shooting at the Sambodromo (USA TODAY Sports/James Lang)

Rio 2016: Capsule Previews of August 10 Finals

Olympic finals tracker:

Days completed: 4 of 16 / Events completed: 55 / Events Remaining: 251

Today: 19 finals in 11 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.

• ***Canoeing/Summary***

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 9	Slalom/M Single	Gargaud Chanut (FRA)	Benus (SVK)	Haneda (JPN)

Even with former Olympic medalists on the course, it was bearded Denis Gargaud Chanut of France who triumphed in his first Olympic appearance. That's why races are decided by athletes and not prognosticators!

• ***Canoe Slalom/Men's Kayak (K-1)***

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Daniele Molmenti (ITA)	Vav. Hradilek (CZE)	Hannes Aigner (GER)
WCh '13 Prague	Vav. Hradilek (CZE)	Jiri Prskavec (CZE)	Mateusz Polaczyk (POL)
WCh '14 Deep Creek Lake	Boris Neveu (FRA)	Sebast. Combet (FRA)	Mathieu Bizzizzo (FRA)
WCh '15 London	Jiri Prskavec (CZE)	Mat. Polaczyk (POL)	Michal Smolen (USA)

A total of 15 competitors will start the K-1 semifinals, led by the reigning World Champion, **Jiri Prskavec** from the Czech Republic. You could say that he was born to paddle, as his father – also Jiri Prskavec – competed in this same event in Atlanta (19th in 1996) and Sydney (13th in 2000).

He'll be challenged by 2014 World silver medalist **Sebastien Combet** of France, London bronze medalist **Hannes Aigner** from Germany and Italy's **Giovanni de Gennaro**, winner of the first World Cup race of the year in Ivrea, Italy. In fact, de Gennaro's emergence ensures that there will be a new Olympic champion once again – eight in eight Games – since only one entry is allowed per country, keeping 2012 champ Daniele Molmenti out of the event.

De Gennaro led the heats at 86.85 seconds (1:26.85), with nine paddlers under 90 seconds. **Joseph Clarke** of Great Britain was second (86.95), with Aigner (87.31), Slovakia's **Jakub Grigar** (87.85) fourth and Brazil's **Pedro Da Silva** sixth. Prskavec was eighth (88.71) and the 2015 Worlds bronze medalist – **Michael Smolen** of the U.S. – in 10th at 90.13. The 2009 and 2011 World Champion, **Peter Kauser** of Slovenia, is in the semis with the 12th-best time of 91.11.

• **Cycling/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
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.

• **Cycling/Men's Individual Time Trial**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Bradley Wiggins (GBR)	Tony Martin (GER)	Chris Froome (GBR)
WCh '13 Tuscany	Tony Martin (GER)	Bradley Wiggins (GBR)	Fabian Cancellara (SUI)
WCh '14 Ponferrada	Bradley Wiggins (GBR)	Tony Martin (GER)	Tom Domoulin (NED)
WCh '15 Richmond	Vasil Kiryienka (BLR)	Adriano Malori (ITA)	Jerome Coppel (FRA)

The men's Time Trials will comprise 54.56 km in Pontal, using two laps of the steep Grumari Circuit as the centerpiece of the 40-rider event.

London champ Bradley Wiggins is concentrating on the track events, so Britain's hopes rest with 2016 Tour de France winner and London bronze medalist **Chris Froome**. But the World Time Trial champions from 2013 (**Tony Martin** of Germany) and 2015 (**Vasil Kiryienka** of Belarus) will be present, along with prior Worlds medalists **Fabian Cancellara** of Switzerland and **Tom Dumoulin** (Netherlands). Spain's **Jonathan Castroviejo** missed a medal at the 2015 Worlds Time Trial by 2.74 seconds and will try to get to the podium this time.

Taylor Phinney of the U.S., twice a world champion on the track, also won silver in the World Time Trials back in 2010 and was 12th last year in the Worlds Time Trials held in Richmond.

• **Cycling/Women's Individual Time Trial**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Kristin Armstrong (USA)	Judith Arndt (GER)	Olga Zabelinskaya (RUS)
WCh '13 Tuscany	Ellen van Dijk (NED)	Linda Villumsen (NZL)	Carmen Small (USA)
WCh '14 Ponferrada	Lisa Brennauer (GER)	Hanna Solovey (UKR)	Evelyn Stevens (USA)
WCh '15 Richmond	Linda Villumsen (NZL)	Anna v.d. Breggen(NED)	Lisa Brennauer (GER)

All of the stars will be out for the 29.86 km time trial against the clock: defending Olympic champion **Kristin Armstrong** of the U.S., and teammate and 2014 World Time Trial bronze medalist **Evelyn Stevens**, who was 12th in the Rio 2016 road race.

The Rio 2016 road-race winner, **Anna van der Breggen** of the Netherlands and the 2013 World Road Time Trial champion, **Ellen van Dijk** are ready. Add in **Linda Villumsen** of New Zealand and **Lisa Brennauer** of Germany, and all four of the Olympic and World Championships Time Trial winners over the past four years will be at the start. So will the 2008 Time Trial silver medalist, **Emma Pooley** of Great Britain.

Not as decorated, but considered dangerous are **Katarzyna Niewiadoma** of Poland, sixth in the Road Race in Rio, and the London bronze medalist in this event, **Olga Zabelinskaya** of Russia (16th in the Road Race). Wild card: **Trixi Worrack** of Germany has been part of four straight World Time Trial team championships for Germany and returned from losing a kidney in time for the Olympics.

• **Diving/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
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)
Aug 9	W 10 m Synchronized	Chen-Liu (CHN)	Cheong-Pamg (MAS)	Benfeito-Filion (CAN)

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 men's teams. Ruolin Chen and Huixia Liu were challenged, but won by almost 10 points in the platform synchro event.

• **Diving/Men's 3 m Synchronized**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Qin-Luo (CHN)	Kuznetsov-Zakharov (RUS)	Dumais-Ipsen (USA)
WCh '13 Barcelona	Qin-He (CHN)	Kuznetsov-Zakharov (RUS)	Pacheco-Ocampo (MEX)
WCh '15 Kazan	Qin-Cao (CHN)	Kuznetsov-Zakharov (RUS)	Laugher-Mears (GBR)

Normally, you would look at this situation and say the Chinese were shoo-ins for the gold medal here. Maybe, but maybe not.

At the Diving World Cup in Rio last February, **Kai Qin** and **Yuan Cao** were upset by Germany's **Stephan Feck** and **Patrick Hausding**, 429.33-419.67, with Mexico's **Jahir Ocampo** and **Rommel Pacheco** third at 409.38 Said Feck, "It was raining and a little bit cold, so I think that we achieved to be more focused than the others."

All three pairs are entered in Rio, along with the ultra-consistent **Evgenii Kuznetsov** and **Ilia Zakharov** of Russia, winning of the silver medal in the last three major international championships, and Britain's 2015 Worlds bronze medalists, **Jack Laugher** and **Chris Mears**.

The U.S. pair of **Sam Dorman** and Kristian Ipsen in the Rio World Cup has been changed, with Dorman now paired with **Mike Hixon**; Dorman and Hixon won the U.S. Diving Trials in 3 m Synchro while diving together for the first time ever, defeating the London bronze-medal pair of Troy Dumais and Ipsen.

• **Equestrian/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 9	Eventing/Individual	Jung (GER)	Nicolas (FRA)	Dutton (USA)
Aug 9	Eventing/Team	France	Germany	Australia

Big days for Germany and France, and for the veteran Michael Jung and the youngster Astier Nicolas, who has a long and bright future ahead of him. Congratulations to the ageless Mark Todd of New Zealand, seventh at age 60!

• **Fencing/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 9	M Epee	Park (KOR)	Imre (HUN)	Grumier (FRA)
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.

• **Fencing/Women's Foil**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Elisa di Francisca (ITA)	Arianna Errigo (ITA)	Valentina Vezzali (ITA)
WCh '13	Budapest	Arianna Errigo (ITA)	Car. Golubyskyi (GER)	E. di Francisca (ITA)-Inna Deriglazova (RUS)
WCh '14	Kazan	Arianna Errigo (ITA)	Martini Batini (ITA)	Valentina Vezzali (ITA)-Ines Boubakri (TUR)
WCh '15	Moscow	Inna Deriglazova (RUS)	Aida Shanayeva (RUS)	Arianna Errigo (ITA)-Nzingha Prescod (USA)

Despite the hiccup in Moscow at the 2015 World Championships, Italy's **Arianna Errigo** is a solid favorite. She's ranked no. 1 in the world and has four medals (two gold) from the last four major individual championships. And she took the European title in June in her last competition.

Behind her come a series of contenders: **Elisa di Francisca**, the London winner, is back for Italy and Russia offers reigning World Champion (and no. 2-ranked) **Inna Deriglazova** and 2015 silver medalist **Aida Shanayeva** (second at the Europeans). Previous medal winners like Germany's Carolin Golubyskyi, Turkey's **Ines Boubakri** – bronze at the 2014 Worlds – and the bronze winner in 2015, **Nzingha Prescod** of the U.S. are also in the field.

Ranked third in the world at present is 22-year-old **Lee Kiefer** of the U.S., who won the Pan American championship in June and competed for the U.S. as a teenager in London four years ago. The U.S. has never won a medal in this event, while the Italians are working on their fifth Olympic women's foil title in a row and six in the last seven.

• **Gymnastics/Summary**

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

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 9	Artistic/W Team	United States	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. The U.S. women were expected to win easily and did, eight points ahead of Russia.

• **Gymnastics~Artistic/Men's All-Around**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Kohei Uchimura (JPN)	Marcel Nguyen (GER)	Danell Leyva (USA)
WCh '13	Antwerp	Kohei Uchimura (JPN)	Ryohei Kato (JPN)	Fabian Hambuchen (GER)
WCh '14	Nanning	Kohei Uchimura (JPN)	Max Whitlock (GBR)	Yusuke Tanaka (JPN)
WCh '15	Glasgow	Kohei Uchimura (JPN)	Manrique Larduet (CUB)	Deng Shudi (CHN)

Gymnastics feeds on its stars and the man of the hour today will be Japan's sensational **Kohei Uchimura**, looking to become the third man to win back-to-back Olympic All-Around titles, and first since Sawao Kato (JPN) did it in 1968-72. Since winning the silver in the All-Around in the 2008 Games, he's won every world title available: the 2009-10-11-13-14-15 World Championships and the 2012 Olympic Games. And he's still just 27 years old.

Behind him are the other medal winners of recent years: **Marcel Nguyen** of Germany, **Ryohei Kato** (JPN), **Max Whitlock** of Britain, **Manrique Larduet** of Cuba and **Deng Shudi** of China. In the qualifying during the team competition, **Oleg Verniaiev** of Ukraine (11th in the London All-Around) led all scorers at 91.964, followed by Uchmura (90.498 with a full-point-off fall on the horizontal bar!) and **David Belyavskiy** of Russia (89.799).

Uchimura's rotation in the final: floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars, horizontal bar. Verniaiev is in the same group.

• **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) van Tichelt (BEL)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 9	M 81 kg	Khalmurzaev (RUS)	Stevens (USA)	Toma (UAE) Nagase (JPN)
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)
Aug 9	W 63 kg	Trstenjak (SLO)	Agbegnenou (FRA)	Gerbi (ISR) Van Emden (NED)

Eight divisions contested and seven countries with gold medals, including two for a Russian team in need of happy results. The loudest cheers have been for Brazil's Rafaela Silva – the 2013 World Champion – winning 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 -90 kg**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Dae-Nam Song (KOR)	Asley Gonzalez (CUB)	Ilias Iliadis (GRE)-Masahi Nishiyama (JPN)
WCh '13	Rio de Janeiro	Asley Gonzalez (CUB)	Varl. Liparteliani (GEO)	Ilias Iliadis (GRE)-Kirill Denisov (RUS)
WCh '14	Chelyabinsk	Ilias Iliadis (GRE)	Krisztian Toth (HUN)	Kirill Vosporov (RUS)-V. Laparteliani (GEO)
WCh '15	Astana	Dong-han Gwok (KOR)	Kirill Denisov (RUS)	Mashu Baker (JPN)-V. Laparteliani (GEO)

Dong-ham Gwok won the World Championships last year and ranks no. 1 in the world, but he's not untouchable. He's finished third and fifth in his two tournaments in 2016, after an all-conquering 2015.

Determined to remove him from the top step on the podium is the 2016 Masters winner and current world no. 2, **Mashu Baker** of Japan, who was the bronze medalist in the 2015 World Championships. His co-bronze winner, the very experienced **Varlam Liparteliani** of Georgia is in good form, having won the 2016 European title earlier this year.

Former World Champion **Asley Gonzalez** of Cuba – also the 2012 silver medalist – won the Cuban Grand Prix earlier in the year, but has otherwise been quiet. Same for 2014 World Champion **Ilias Iliadis** of Greece, ranked 15th worldwide and fifth at the Europeans in 2016.

Russia's **Kirill Denisov** – World Champs silver winner last year – has also been fairly quiet in 2016, but Sweden's **Marcus Nyman** was third in the European Championships and could be a surprise.

• **Judo/Women's -70 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Lucie Decosse (FRA)	Kerstein Thiele (GER)	Yuri Alvear (COL)-Edith Bosch (NED)
WCh '13 Rio de Janeiro	Yuri Alvear (COL)	L. Vargas Koch (GER)	Kim Polling (NED)-Seong-Yeon Kim (KOR)
WCh '14 Chelyabinsk	Yuri Alvear (COL)	Karen Nun-Ira (JPN)	Onix Cortes (CUB)-Katarzyna Klys (POL)
WCh '15 Astana	Gevrise Emame (FRA)	Maria Bernabeu (ESP)	Yuri Alvear (COL)-Fanny Posvite (FRA)

Kim Polling of the Netherlands has won one bronze medal in World Championships competition, from 2013. But she's ranked no. 1 in the world going into Rio. That's because she's won the World Masters meet the last two years, the European Championship in 2015 and also fifth in the Europeans in 2016. She's been busy.

All of this will not deter Colombia's **Yuri Alvear**, the bronze medalist in 2012. She's won two World titles since and reached the semifinals last year before losing to eventual winner **Gevrise Emame** of France (who won the 2016 European title). Alvear picked up the Pan American title this year, but was only third at the Masters in 2016. She's going to have to step up to win.

Emame is world-ranked third and won the European title earlier this year over **Esther Stam** of Georgia. **Bernadette Graf** of Austria was second to Polling at the World Masters, but only seventh at the European Championships. The best Asian entry figures to be Korean **Seong-Yeon Kim**, bronze winner in the 2014 Worlds, third in the 2016 Masters and Asian Championships runner-up this year.

• **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.

• **Rowing/Men's Quad Sculls (M4x)**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Germany	Croatia	Australia
WCh '13 Chungju	Croatia	Germany	Great Britain
WCh '14 Bosbaan	Ukraine	Great Britain	Germany
WCh '15 Aiguebelette	Germany	Australia	Estonia

Australia (5:50.98) and Poland (5:51.28) had the fastest times in the heats over the 2,000 m course in Rio. Estonia (5:51.71) and Ukraine (5:52.90) were the best in heat 2 and also qualified directly to the final.

The Repechage qualified defending Olympic champ Germany (5:51.43) and Great Britain (5:53.10) into the final. Winds may play a significant factor here, with Australia, Poland, Germany and Estonia all close in for medals, just as in the 2015 World Champs.

• **Rowing/Women's Quad Sculls (W4x)**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	
OG '12	London	Ukraine	Germany	United States
WCh '13	Chungju	Germany	Canada	Poland
WCh '14	Bosbaan	Germany	China	United States
WCh '15	Aiguebelette	United States	Germany	Netherlands

Ukraine (heat 1: 6:35.48) and Germany (heat 2: 6:30.86) won comfortably to advance directly to the final. The remaining five boats vied for four places in the final, with Netherlands (6:24.61) ahead of Poland (6:25.49), China (6:28.49) and the U.S. (6:28.54).

That puts the U.S. and China in the end lanes, with Germany and Ukraine in the middle, despite their heats times being so much slower (wind played a major factor) than the Repechage. Off these results, the Dutch, Germans and Poles should be fighting it out for medals, but the winds could change everything.

• **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)	Kulish (UKR)	Maslennikov (RUS)
Aug 8	M Trap	Glasnovic (CRO)	Pelliello (ITA)	Ling (GBR)
Aug 7	W 10 m Air Pistol	Zhang (CHN)	Batsarashkina (RUS)	Korakaki (GRE)
Aug 9	W 25 m Air Pistol	Korakaki (GRE)	Karsch (GER)	Diethelm Gerber (SUI)
Aug 6	W 10 m Air Rifle	Thrasher (USA)	Du (CHN)	Li (CHN)
Aug 7	W Trap	Skinner (AUS)	Rooney (NZL)	Cogdell (USA)

Seven events so far and seven gold medals awarded to seven different countries on four different continents! China still leads the total medal count so far with four, with Greece, Italy, Russia and the U.S. with two each.

• **Shooting/Men's 50 m Pistol**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Jong-oh Jin (KOR)	Yeong-Rae Choi (KOR)	Zhiwei Wang (CHN)
WCh '14	Granada	Jong-oh Jin (KOR)	Jitu Rai (IND)	Wei Pang (CHN)

The dominant **Jong-oh Kim** of Korea will try for his third straight gold and fourth Olympic medal in his fourth Olympic Games. He's ranked no. 1 in the world in 2016, and is the only man to ever win this event twice in Olympic history. He's not unbeatable, however, having finished second in the Rio World Cup event earlier this year, and third in Munich's World Cup event.

Wei Pang of China won Beijing gold in this event and currently ranks second in the world. He finished second in the Munich World Cup event in 2016. World Champs silver medalist **Jitu Rai** won the World Cup tourney in Bangkok this year and was second in Baku.

Third-time Olympian **Oleh Olemchuk** of Ukraine may be peaking at the right time. Fourth in Beijing in this event and 29th in London, he won the Rio World Cup event in 2016, beating Kim on the final round. Olympic bronze medalist in London, **Zhiwei Wang**, has been steady, with thirds on the World Cup circuit in Bangkok and Rio. To the extent that there is cheering in shooting, it will be centered on Brail's **Felipe Almeida Wu**, already the silver medalist in the Air Pistol event.

The 41 competitors in the qualifying round will shoot 60 shots, with the top eight moving on to the finals and up to 20 shots. After the eighth shot of the finals, the lowest-scoring competitor will be eliminated, leaving only the top two to shoot for gold and bronze.

- **Shooting/Men's Double Trap**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Peter Wilson (GBR)	Hakan Dahlby (SWE)	Vasily Mosin (RUS)
WCh '14	Granada	Josh Richmond (USA)	Antonino Barilla (ITA)	Steven Scott (GBR)

Just about all of the players are back for more from London in 2012 and Granada in 2014. But even with five of the six medal winners from those competitions, it's Australia's **James Willett** who is ranked no. 1 in the world.

Willett won the Rio World Cup event in Double Trap earlier this year, and has finished in the top four in all three tournaments he's been in during 2016. Malta's **William Chetcuti** won the Baku World Cup this year and is looking for a medal in his fourth Olympic Games.

American **Joshua Richmond** is back from a seventh in this event in London and has a World Cup win to his credit this year; he currently ranked fourth in the world. London bronze winner **Vasily Mosin**, in his fourth Olympics for Russia, was runner-up to Willett in Rio earlier this year. And there are other contenders: Italy's **Marco Innocenti**, back for his third Olympics after 2000-04, second in the Baku World Cup; teammate **Antonino Barilla**, second in the 2014 Worlds and fourth in the Rio World Cup this year; the 2008 gold medalist, **Walton Eller** of the U.S., back for his fifth Olympic Games and 2014 bronze-medal winner, **Steven Scott** of Great Britain.

• **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)
Aug 9	M 200 m Butterfly	Phelps (USA)	Sakai (JPN)	Kenderesi (HUN)
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 9	M 4x200 m Free Relay	United States	Great Britain	Japan
Aug 9	W 200 m Freestyle	Ledecky (USA)	Sjostrom (SWE)	McKeon (AUS)
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 9	W 200 m Ind. Medley	Hosszu (HUN)	O'Connor (GBR)	DiRado (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 are falling ... in five events so far. In order:

- *Women's 400 m Ind. Medley:* *Katinka Hosszu (HUN)*
- *Women's 4x100 m Freestyle:* *Australia*
- *Men's 100 m Breaststroke:* *Adam Peaty (GBR) – twice*
- *Women's 100 m Butterfly:* *Sarah Sjostrom (SWE)*
- *Women's 400 m Freestyle:* *Katie Ledecky (USA)*

Almost lost in the shuffle: now 25 Olympic medals (and 21 gold) for Michael Phelps on the U.S.'s winning 4x100 m and 4x200 m Freestyle Relays and the 200 m Butterfly.

• **Swimming/Men's 100 m Freestyle**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Nathan Adrian (USA)	J. Magnussen (AUS)	Brent Hayden (CAN)
WCh '13 Barcelona	J. Magnussen (AUS)	Jimmy Feigen (USA)	Nathan Adrian (USA)
WCh '15 Kazan	Ning Zetao (CHN)	Cam. McEvoy (CHN)	Federico Grabich (ARG)

Defending champ **Nathan Adrian** had to swim his semifinal from lane eight after being the slowest qualifier in the heats. No matter: Adrian ripped off a 47.83 to lead all finalists with Aussies **Kyle Chambers** (18!) and **Cameron McAvoy** second and third in 47.88 and 47.93, respectively. **Santo Condorelli** of Canada (47.93) and American **Caeleb Dressel** (47.97) were also under 48 seconds.

Somewhere among those five are the medalists, with semi winners Adrian and Chambers favored. If Adrian wins, he'll be the first repeater in the event since Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands in 2000-04. Season's bests for the finalists:

47.04	Cameron McAvoy (AUS)	47.93	Santo Condorelli (CAN)
47.72	Nathan Adrian (USA)	48.01	Duncan Scott (GBR)
47.88	Kyle Chambers (AUS)	48.14	Pieter Timmers (BEL)
47.91	Caeleb Dressel (USA)	48.23	Marcelo Chierichini (BRA)

• **Swimming/Men's 200 m Breaststroke**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Daniel Gyurta (HUN)	M. Jamieson (GBR)	Ryo Tateishi (JPN)
WCh '13 Barcelona	Daniel Gyurta (HUN)	Marco Koch (GER)	Matti Mattsson (FIN)
WCh '15 Kazan	Marco Koch (GER)	Kevin Cordes (USA)	Daniel Gyurta (HUN)

Reigning world champ **Marco Koch** of Germany will be in the final, but as only the seventh-fastest qualifier. Instead, the favorite is now 19-year-old **Ipppei Watanabe**, who swam an Olympic Record 2:07.22 to lead all qualifiers. His best coming into the semis was 2:08.83 and he bettered that by more than a second and a half!

Behind Watanabe came a host of mostly new faces: **Andrew Willis** of Great Britain (in a seasonal best), **Josh Prenot** of the U.S. (the 2016 world leader), **Yasuhiro Koseki** of Japan (seasonal best) and 2015 Worlds silver medalist **Kevin Cordes** of the U.S. Both Americans are medal contenders, but need to swim back to their Olympic Trials form. Season's bests for the finalists:

2:07.17	Josh Prenot (USA)	2:07.81	Kevin Cordes (USA)
2:07.22	Ipppei Watanabe (JPN)	2:07.91	Yasuhiro Koseki (JPN)
2:07.69	Marco Koch (GER)	2:07.93	Anton Chupkov (RUS)
2:07.73	Andrew Willis (GBR)	2:08.20	Dmitriy Balandin (KAZ)

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

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Liuyang Jiao (CHN)	Mireia Belmonte (ESP)	Natsumi Hoshi (JPN)
WCh '13 Barcelona	Zige Liu (CHN)	Mireia Belmonte (ESP)	Katinka Hosszu (HUN)
WCh '15 Kazan	Natsumi Hoshi (JPN)	Cammille Adams (USA)	Yufei Zhang (CHN)

Australia's **Madeline Groves** owns the fastest time in the world this year and ran away from Olympic silver medalist **Mireia Belmonte** of Spain in the second semifinal on Tuesday night to stamp herself as the favorite.

Yulin Zhou of China edged the reigning World Champion **Natsumi Hoshi** of Japan in the second semi with a season's best, but they are both likely to be well behind Groves and fighting for lower places on the podium. Both of the Americans were well off their seasonal bests in the semifinals. Season's bests for the finalists:

2:05.47	Madeline Groves (AUS)	2:06.58	Brianna Throssell (AUS)
2:06.06	Mireia Belmonte (ESP)	2:06.67	Cammille Adams (USA)
2:06.32	Natsumi Hoshi (JPN)	2:06.67	Hali Flickinger (USA)
2:06.52	Yilin Zhou (CHN)	2:06.95	Yufei Zhang (CHN)

• **Swimming/Women's 4x200 m Freestyle Relay**

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

Australia, China, Sweden and the U.S. all had two semifinalists and Swedes were 2-7 and Australia 3-5 in the final. If the U.S. does not swim strongly in the early legs, this could be a Katie Ledecky-Emma McKeon rematch over the anchor leg.

Only the Europeans have done much relay racing this year, with the world-leading time belonging to Hungary (7:51.63), follows by Netherlands (7:52.06) and Spain (7:53.48).

• **Table Tennis/Women's Singles**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Xiaoxia Li (CHN)	Ning Ding (CHN)	Feng Tian Wei (SIN)
WCh '13 Paris	Xiaoxia Li (CHN)	Shiwen Liu (CHN)	Ning Ding (CHN)-Yuling Zhu (CHN)
WCh '15 Suzhou	Ning Ding (CHN)	Shiwen Liu (CHN)	Zi Mu (CHN)-Xiaoxia Li (CHN)

The semifinals in women's table tennis feature a familiar cast of characters: **Ning Ding** of China in one match and long-time rival **Xiaoxia Li** in the other. They'll both be favored over their opponents: **Song Kim** (PRK) and **Ai Fukuhara** of Japan, respectively.

Chinese players have won all seven Table Tennis golds since the sport joined the Olympic program in 1988, but Fukuhara – in her fourth Olympics – has been especially impressive, winning each of her three matches so far in straight sets: 4-0 each time. She was a silver medalist in the women’s team competition in London.

• **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 9	M 69 kg	Shi (CHN)	Ismayilov (TUR)	Artykov (KGZ)
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)
Aug 9	W 63 kg	Deng (CHN)	Choe (PRK)	Goricheva (KAZ)

The first world record of the 2016 Games was delivered by Wei Deng of China, who lifted 262 kg in her combined lifts (578 lbs.) to add one kilogram to the prior standard. It also lifted China into a tie with Thailand for the gold-medal lead with two each. A total of 13 countries have now won medals in weightlifting, including the third medal ever in the Olympic history of Kyrgyzstan.

• **Weightlifting/Men’s 77 kg**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Xiaojun Lu (CHN)	Haojie Lu (CHN)	Ivan Cambar (CUB)
WCh '13	Wroclaw	Xiaojun Lu (CHN)	Kwang-song Kim (PRK)	Ulugbek Alimov (UZB)
WCh '14	Almaty	Guoshun Zhong (CHN)	Kwang-song Kim (PRK)	Kirill Pavlov (KAZ)
WCh '15	Houston	Nijat Rahimov (KAZ)	Mohamed Ihab (EGY)	Andranik Karapetyan (ARM)

The return of 2012 Olympic champ **Xiaojun Lu** (also spelled “Lyu,” as on the Rio start list) will be the key to this division. Now 32, he’s the world-record holder for 77 kg with a combined lift of 380 kg (838 lbs.) from 2013. He won the Snatch competition at the 2015 Worlds, but was unable to lift 201 kg in the Clean & Jerk (443 lbs.) and did not place.

Instead, the World Champion was Kazakhstan’s **Nijat Rahimov** at 372 kg (820 lbs.), followed by Egypt’s **Mohamed Ihab** (Mohamed Mahmoud on the entry list) and Armenian **Andranik Karapetyan**, both at 363 kg (800 lbs.). These four men are the favorites for medals in the eight-man Group A competition.

• **Weightlifting/Women's 69 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Jong-Sim Rim (PRK)	Roxana Cocos (ROU)	Marina Shkermankova (BLR)
WCh '13	Wroclaw	Yanmei Xiang (CHN)	Un-hui Ryo (PRK)	Dzina Sazanavets (BLR)
WCh '14	Almaty	Un-hui Ryo (PRK)	Zhaz. Zhapparkul (KAZ)	Youjuan Chen (CHN)
WCh '15	Houston	Yanmei Xiang (CHN)	Zhaz. Zhapparkul (KAZ)	Asastasia Romanova (RUS)

China's **Yanmei Xiang** and Kazakhstan's **Zhazira Zhapparkul** battled for gold last year at the World Championships in Houston and will do so again in Rio. Xiang has the pedigree, with two World titles in the past three years and a combo lift of 263 kg (580 lbs.) in 2015, but Zhapparkul won silver the last two years.

Leidy Solis of Colombia was fifth in the 2014 World Champs and lifted a combined 256 kg in 2015 (564 lbs.), the same as Zhapparkul last year. Also watch out for Egypt's **Sarah Ahmed** (also known as Sara Samir), fourth in Houston in the 2015 Worlds.

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 9</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	1/2 better at Games	50.0
400 m Freestyle	1/2	50.0	1/2	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
200 m Butterfly	1/2	50.0		
200 m Ind. Medley			2/2	
400 m Ind. Medley	1/2	50.0	2/2	100.0

Event	Men's Performance	%	Women's Performance	%
Totals:	6/10	60.0	11/14	78.6



A happy U.S. women's gymnastics team after receiving their gold medals (l-r): Aly Raisman, Madison Kocian, Laurie Hernandez, Simone Biles and Gabby Douglas (USA TODAY Sports/Robert Deutsch)

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Inquiries may be sent to TheSportsExaminer@Perelman-Pioneer.com or by U.S. mail to Post Office Box 2368, Rancho Mirage, California 92270 USA.