

August 11, 2016



Golden Girls!

(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Jack Gruber)



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On the Cover

Allison Schmidt, Maya DiRado and Leah Smith celebrate with Katie Ledecky on a golden U.S. swim in the 4x200 m Freestyle Relay. (*Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Jack Gruber*)



August 11, 2016

Lane One: Television comes first

Take a look at today's cover ... a close look.

You'll see three happy members of the U.S. women's 4x200 m Freestyle Relay congratulating anchor Katie Ledecky for bringing home another gold medal in Rio.

Look carefully, however and you'll also see *three* – count 'em – television cameras all around the U.S. team, almost as many cameras as swimmers!

This is what the Olympic Games are now: an enormous athletic event which is an even larger television show.

The cameras on the pool deck in Rio do not belong to any individual network; they are part of the Olympic Broadcast Service (OBS) team which produces a basic signal of all of the competitions which can be used as desired by those national broadcasters which have purchased rights to the Games.

And it is those broadcasters, led by NBC in the United States, which have made the Olympic Games the financial behemoth it is now. Without television, the value of corporate sponsorships would be considerably less, and as it is now, the International Olympic Committee receives 80% of its revenues from broadcast rights sales.

Yet, the value of television has not yet been appreciated. In the organization of the Games, the choice of venues comes from the host city years in advance and the facilities are then engineered to handle the phalanx of people and equipment needed for a world-class broadcast.

Shouldn't it be the other way around? Isn't it

time to recognize that the Games are a television show and venues should be arranged with broadcast needs first. Build *smaller* arenas, but build them smarter.

Rio will have about six million live spectators for its Games, but the worldwide TV audience is in the billions. Time to change the priorities, and if organizing committees are smart, they'll save tens to hundreds of millions in the process. That would good for everyone.

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!



August 11, 2016

Rio 2016: China takes Day 5

Table Tennis and weightlifting led China to the top point total for Day 5 of the Games of the XXXI Olympiad, supplanting the U.S. for the first time in the Games. In fact, the American team scored a quite respectable 55 points, was but only third on the day, also behind Great Britain.

The U.S. maintains its overall lead after five days, with 322.5 points in all, ahead of China (252). The Americans have been consistent, scoring 62-66-70.5-69-55 across the five days of finals competitions thus far. Japan is having an outstanding Games thus far, standing third at 185.5.

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 5, with 72 of 306 events scored, the leaders:

1.	322.5	USA	17.	41	Colombia	33.	19	Slovakia
2.	252	China	18.	39.5	Sweden	34.	17.5	Mongolia
3.	185.5	Japan	19.	37	DPR Korea	35.	16	Czech Rep.
4.	168	Russia	20.	30	Chinese Taipei		16	Denmark
5.	158.5	Great Britain	21.	29	Mexico		16	Greece
6.	154	Australia		29	New Zealand	38.	14	Croatia
7.	137.5	Italy	23.	28.5	Belgium	39.	13	Azerbaijan
8.	101	France	24.	28	Ukraine		13	Tunisia
9.	80	Korea	25.	27	Egypt	41.	12	Malaysia
10.	77	Germany	26.	25	Indonesia	42.	11	Uzbekistan
11.	75	Canada	27.	24.5	Slovenia	43.	10.5	Dom. Rep.
12.	74.5	Hungary	28.	23.5	Georgia		10.5	Israel
13.	64.5	Kazakhstan	29.	23	South Africa	45.	10	Argentina
14.	62	Brazil		23	Switzerland		10	IOA (Kuwait)
15.	48.5	Netherlands	31.	22	Vietnam		10	Kosovo
16.	41.5	Spain	32.	19.5	Portugal			

Day 5-only scoring leaders:

1.	68.5	China	10.	20.5	Korea	19.	9.5	France
2.	58.5	Great Britain	11.	19.5	Spain	20.	8	Belgium
3.	55	USA	12.	19	Netherlands		8	Georgia
4.	49	Japan	13.	16.5	Canada		8	Slovenia
5.	41	Russia	14.	16	Colombia		8	Ukraine
6.	37	Australia	15.	14	DPR Korea		8	Vietnam
7.	28	Kazakhstan	16.	13	Egypt	25.	7.5	Sweden
8.	25	Italy	17.	10	IOA (Kuwait)	26.	6	Czech Rep.
9.	24	Germany		10	Switzerland		6	Slovakia

	6	Tunisia		4	Moldova		3	Poland
29.	5	Brazil		4	Mexico	41.	2.5	Chinese Taipei
	5	Singapore	36.	3.5	Austria	42.	2	Ecuador
	5	Thailand	37.	3	Belarus		2	Portugal
32.	4.5	Mongolia		3	Hungary	44.	1.5	Azerbaijan
33.	4	Armenia		3	New Zealand		1.5	Israel

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 45 National Olympic Committees scored on the Day 5. We’ll update the scores daily for the leading countries, and have a full tally at the end of the Games.



*Olympic Champion: A happy Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland, after winning the Cycling Men’s Time Trial
(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Jack Gruber)*



August 11, 2016

Rio 2016: **Capsule Previews of August 11 Finals**

Olympic finals tracker:

Days completed: 5 of 16 / Events completed: 72 / Events Remaining: 234

Today: 21 finals (2 re-scheduled from Aug. 10) 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.

• ***Archery/Women's Individual***

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12 London	Bo-bae Ki (KOR)	Aida Romain (MEX)	Mariana Avitia (MEX)
WCh '13 Belek	Maja Jager (DEN)	Xu Jing (CHN)	Ok-Hee Yun (KOR)
WCh '15 Copenhagen	Bo-Bae Ki (KOR)	Shih-chia Lin (TPE)	Mi-Sun Choi (KOR)

The Koreans – **Mi-sun Choi**, **Hye-jin Chang** and reigning Olympic Champion **Bo-bae Ki** – led the qualifying round, well ahead of the rest of the field. But that guarantees nothing in the merciless head-to-head format of the elimination rounds.

Each match consists of five rounds of shooting with three arrows per round. Win a round and you get

two points; ties are a point apiece. So most matches are won 6-0, 6-2 or 6-4. Have a small slump, and you're out. It already happened to Mexico's Aida Romain, silver medalist in London, who was eliminated in the round of 32, 6-4, by Romania's **Alexandra Mirca**, who was then thrashed by China's **Jiaxin Wu**, 6-0. That's archery at the Olympic level.

Choi, Chang and Ki moved through the rounds on Tuesday to reach the round of 16. Chinese Taipei's **Ya-Ting Tan**, ranked no. 2 in the world, is also through and could meet China's **Hui Cao** in the round of 16.

Wild cards: Myanmar's **San Yu Htwe**, who already dispatched no. 4-ranked Mackenzie Brown of the U.S., and Russian **Inna Stepanova**, who ended the hopes of countrywoman (and no. 5-ranked) Ksenia Perova. The winds in and around the Sambodromo will play a significant role in the competition, adding even more unpredictability.

• **Canoeing/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 9	Slalom/M Single	Gargaud Chanut (FRA)	Benus (SVK)	Haneda (JPN)
Aug 10	Slalom/M Kayak	Clarke (GBR)	Kauzer (SLO)	Prskavec (CZE)

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 Doubles (C-2)**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Great Britain	Great Britain	Slovakia
WCh '13	Prague	Great Britain	Czech Rep.	Slovakia
WCh '14	Deep Creek Lake	Slovenia	France	Slovakia
WCh '15	London	Germany	France	France

Eleven boats were qualified into the semi-finals, led by Slovakia's well-respected cousins, **Ladislav and Peter Skantar**, bronze medalists in the 2013 and 2014 World Championships and World Champions back in 2009. Their best mark of 100.89 seconds (1:40.89) was well ahead of France's **Mathieu Peche and Gauthier Klauss** (1:02.43), last year's World Champs bronze winners.

Poised to strike is Britain's veteran duo of **David Florence and Richard Hounslow**, silver medalists from London 2012 and the third-fastest qualifier at 1:03.27. **Jonas Kaspar and Marek Sindler** of the Czech Republic were fourth in qualifying at 1:03.43 (and fourth at the 2013 Worlds in this event), followed by the defending World Champions from Germany, **Franz Anton and Jan Benzien** (1:03.43).

Wind has made the conditions a bit unpredictable at the Whitewater Stadium. As the top were within 2 1/2 seconds of each other in qualifying, those with better conditions may find themselves on the podium.

- **Canoe Slalom /Women's Kayak Singles (K-1)**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Emilie Fer (FRA)	Jess Fox (AUS)	Maialen Chourraut (ES)
WCh '13	Prague	Emilie Fer (FRA)	Nouria Newman (FRA)	Jasmin Schornberg (GER)
WCh '14	Deep Creek Lake	Jessica Fox (AUS)	Fiona Pennie (GBR)	Melanie Pfeifer (GER)
WCh '15	London	Kat. Kudejova (CZE)	Ricarda Funk (GER)	Melanie Pfeifer (GER)

Italy's Stefanie Horn led the qualifying at 99.07 (1:39.07), ahead of many more celebrated names. Horn is originally from Germany, but married an Italian canoeist, Riccardo de Gennaro, and after missing the German team for London, changed her allegiance and races for Italy. She was eighth in the 2016 European Championships, but has no podium finishes in major international events.

The London 2012 silver medalist, **Jessica Fox**, 2014 Worlds silver medalist, **Fiona Pennie**, reigning World Champion **Katerina Kudejova** were all the top five in qualifying and within three seconds of Horn. Outsiders trying to crash the podium include New Zealand's **Luuka Jones** – the no. 4 qualifier – in her third Olympics and trying to make her first final, Slovakian **Jana Dukatova**, sixth in London '12 but the 2006 K1 World Champion and 2010 C1 Worlds winner, and Slovenia's **Ursa Kragelj**, eighth in the 2009 Worlds.

- **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 10	M Time Trials	Cancellara (SUI)	Dumoulin (NED)	Froome (GBR)
Aug 7	W Road Race	Van der Breggen (NED)	Johansson (SWE)	Longo Borghini (ITA)
Aug 10	M Time Trial	Armstrong (USA)	Zabelinskys (RUS)	van der Breggen (NED)

The road races produced four winners from four different countries. Two late crashes on the final descent decided both of the individual 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 Team Sprint**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Great Britain	France	Germany
WCh '13	Minsk	Germany	New Zealand	France
WCh '14	Cali	New Zealand	Germany	France
WCh '15	St. Quentin	France	New Zealand	Germany

Into the velodrome we go for track cycling, with three nations owning the medals for the last three World Championships: France, Germany and New Zealand.

For the French, it's been **Gregory Bauge**, **Michael D'Almeida** and Kevin Sireau (replaced in Rio by **Michael D'Almeida**) in the last two World Championships; **Rene Enders** for Germany for the past three Worlds, joined by Robert Forstemann for the last two (replaced by **Maximilian Levy** in Rio) and **Joachim Eilers** joining the team in 2015. New Zealand has stayed the same: **Eddie Dawkins**, **Ethan Mitchell** and **Sam Webster**.

Russia, Great Britain and Australia has been the most consistent challengers to the top three, but the Russians were excused from this event due to the doping scandal.

• *Diving/Summary*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 10	M 3 m Synchronized	Laugher-Mears (GBR)	Dorman-Hixon (USA)	Cao-Qin (CHN)
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)

After big wins on the platform and in the women's synchronized springboard, the Chinese express was slowly temporarily in the men's synchronized springboard, by the British and American duos. But China still has a perfect record of medaling in every event in Rio so far.

• *Equestrian/Summary*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
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 10	W Foil	Deriglazova (RUS)	Di Francisca (ITA)	Boubakri (TUN)
Aug 8	W Sabre	Egorian (RUS)	Velikaya (RUS)	Kharlan (UKR)

Strong showing for Russia, with two wins and four medals heading into the team events. Countries from four continents – including Africa – have now won fencing medals in Rio.

• *Fencing/Women's Team Epee*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	China	Korea	United States
WCh '13 Budapest	Russia	China	Romania
WCh '14 Kazan	Russia	Estonia	Italy
WCh '15 Moscow	China	Romania	Ukraine

Nine teams will compete in the Women's Team Epee event, with Ukraine and Brazil meeting to jump into the quarterfinal bracket against China. All the other medalists in the last quadrennial are here: Estonia, Korea, Russia, Romania and the U.S., plus France.

How close are these teams? Consider the final placements in the Women's Individual Epee, the primary contenders placed three athletes (the number for team competitions) in almost the same grouping:

Korea:	3 in the top 20	Russia:	3 in the top 26	Estonia:	3 in the top 29
China:	3 in 21	Ukraine:	3 in 27	Romania:	3 in 33
U.S.:	3 in 25				

Too close to call?

• *Gymnastics/Summary*

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 8	Artistic/M Team	Japan	Russia	China
Aug 10	Artistic/M All-Around	Uchimura (JPN)	Verniaiev (UKR)	Whitlock (GBR)

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. Kohei Uchimura got his gold in the Men's All-Around, so now it's Simone Biles's turn to shine.

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

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Gabby Douglas (USA)	Vikt. Komova (RUS)	Aliya Mustafina (RUS)
WCh '13	Antwerp	Simone Biles (USA)	Kyla Ross (USA)	Aliya Mustafina (RUS)
WCh '14	Nanning	Simone Biles (USA)	Larisa Iordache (ROU)	Kyla Ross (USA)
WCh '15	Glasgow	Simone Biles (USA)	Gabby Douglas (USA)	Larisa Iordache (ROU)

There aren't many who would pick against American superstar **Simone Biles** in this competition. The three-time defending World Champion, she won the All-Around titles by 0.884 points in 2013, 0.466 in 2014 and a stunning 1.083 in 2015. She led the qualifying at 62.366, a startling 1.759 better than teammate **Aly Raisman** (60.607). Defending Olympic champ Gabby Douglas also scored over 60, at 60.131 and had the third best score, but didn't advance to the All-Around final because of the limit of two per country.

Rebeca Andrade of Brazil rocked the house with her qualifying effort that totaled 58.732, making her the third-best qualifier who could advance to the final. **Seda Tutkhalian** and London bronze winner **Aliya Mustafina**, both of Russia, followed at 58.207 and 58.098, the only others to score 58-plus points.

Biles will compete, in order, on the vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise, with Raisman, Andrade, the two Russians and China's **Yan Wang** 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 10	M 90 kg	Baker (JPN)	Liparteliani (GEO)	Gwak (KOR) Cheng (CHN)
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)
Aug 10	W 70 kg	Tachimoto (JPN)	Alvear (COL)	Conway (GBR) Vargas Koch (GER)

Judo was introduced to the Olympic Games in 1964 in Tokyo and Japan has been the traditional power in this sport. That pedigree was on display on Wednesday, as both the women's 70 kg and men's 90 kg divisions went to Japanese judokas, giving the country three golds and five bronzes in 10 divisions contested this far. The loudest cheers, however, were for Brazil's Rafaela Silva – the 2013 World Champion – winning in front of her home fans!

• **Judo/Men's -100 kg**

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12 London	T. Khaybulayev (RUS)	N. Tuvshinbayar (KAZ)	Henk Grol (NED)-Dmitri Peters (GER)
WCh '13 Rio de Janeiro	Elk. Mammadov (AZE)	Henk Grol (NED)	Lukas Krpalek (CZE)-Dmitri Peters (GER)
WCh '14 Chelyabinsk	Lukas Krpalek (CZE)	Jose Armenteros (CUB)	Ivan Remarenco (UAE)-Karl-R. Frey (GER)
WCh '15 Astana	Ryonosuke Haga (JPN)	Karl-R. Frey (GER)	Toma Nikiforov (BEL)-Dmitri Peters (GER)

All of the medal winners from the last two World Championships are back to compete in Rio and none of them are ranked in the top three in the world! Instead, the top judokas in the half-heavyweight category are **Cyrille Maret** of France, **Elmar Gasimov** of Azerbaijan and **Martin Pacek** of Sweden.

Who are these guys? Gasimov won the important 2016 Masters tournament this year, with Maret second and Pacek third. And all three have strong showings in Grand Prix and Grand Slam (love that name) events over the past couple of years. So they're for real.

But the reigning and recent World medalists have been supreme in big events. In this year's European Championships, 2012 bronze medalist **Henk Grol** of the Netherlands won, Belgium's **Toma Nikiforov** second and 2014 World Champ **Lukas Krpalek** (CZE) earning bronze. The 2014 World silver medalist, **Jose Armenteros** of Cuba, won the Pan American title this year. Last year's World Champion, **Ryonosuke Haga** of Japan, has been quiet so far in 2016.

Wild cards? Try Egypt's **Ramadan Darwish**, the African champion of 2016 and Estonian **Grigori Miniskin**, also a bronze medal winner at the Europeans.

• **Judo/Women's -78 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Kayla Harrison (USA)	Gemma Gibbons (GBR)	Mayra Silva (BRA)-Aud. Tcheumeo (FRA)
WCh '13 Rio de Janeiro	Kyong Sol (PRK)	Marh. Verkerk (NED)	Mayra Aguiar (BRA)-Aud. Tcheumeo (FRA)
WCh '14 Chelyabinsk	Mayra Aguiar (BRA)	Aud. Tcheumeo (FRA)	Kayla Harrison (USA)-Ana. Velensek (SLO)
WCh '15 Astana	Mami Umeki (JPN)	Ana. Velensek (SLO)	Luise Malzahn (GER)-Mar. Verkerk (NED)

Kayla Harrison of the U.S. won the 2012 gold medal with a bad knee that required surgery and a year off from the sport. But now she's back at no. 1 in the World Rankings. She told [ABC News](#): "There is more pressure. I have a huge target on my back."

Despite the presence of multiple World Championships medal winners in the field, the most formidable challenge may come from the hometown favorite, **Mayra Aguiar** (Mayra Silva in the 2012 record books). She was 2014 World Champion and beat Harrison in the semi-finals. But Harrison took the World Masters and Pan American titles this year, defeating Aguiar both times.

Audrey Tcheumeo of France, silver winner in the 2014 Worlds, won the European title this year with **Louise Malzahn** of Germany winning bronze with unheralded **Natalie Powell** of Great Britain. Defending World Champion **Mami Umeki** of Japan has been quiet so far in 2016.

• **Rowing/Men's Quad Sculls (M4x) – rescheduled from August 10**

<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. 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 pushed the event forward one day and may play a significant factor again, with Australia, Poland, Germany and Estonia all close in for medals, just as in the 2015 World Champs.

• **Rowing/Women's Quad Sculls (W4x)** – rescheduled from August 10

<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.

• **Rowing/Men's Pair (M2-)**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	New Zealand	France	Great Britain
WCh '13	Chungju	New Zealand	France	Netherlands
WCh '14	Bosbaan	New Zealand	Great Britain	South Africa
WCh '15	Aiguebelette	New Zealand	Great Britain	Serbia

Eric Murray and **Hamish Bond** dominate this event, having won all five of the major titles available during the last five years, whether Olympics or World Championships. They had the fastest semifinal mark at 6:23.36, well better than Italy's **Giovanni Abagnale** and **Marco DiCostanzo** (6:24.96)

Australia's **Spencer Turrin** and **Alexander Lloyd** turned in the third-best semi time – 6:25.25 – and appear poised to battle Italy for silver. Britain, with **Alan Sinclair** and **Stewart Innes**, a new pair, are seeded fourth after the semis, at 6:26.37.

• **Rowing/Men's Double Sculls (M2x)**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	New Zealand	Italy	Slovenia
WCh '13	Chungju	Norway	Lithuania	Italy
WCh '14	Bosbaan	Croatia	Italy	Australia
WCh '15	Aiguebelette	Croatia	Lithuania	New Zealand

The semifinals were led by Croatia's **Martin and Valent Sinkovic**, the two-time defending World

Champions from 2014 and 2015. Their mark of 6:12.27 led Norway (6:13.50 by **Kjetil Borch and Olaf Tufte**) and Great Britain (6:13.83 by **John Collins and Jonathon Walton**) to the three fastest times of the day.

The 2015 World silver medalists from Lithuania led the second semi, with **Saulius Ritter** (on last year's team) and **Mindaugas Griskonis** (replacing Rolandas Mascinskas) at 6:14.61, with Italy (6:15.24) and France (6:16.15) trailing.

It's the brothers Sinkovic's gold to win for Croatia.

• **Rowing/Women's Double Sculls**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Great Britain	Australia	Poland
WCh '13 Chungju	Lithuania	New Zealand	Belarus
WCh '14 Bosbaan	New Zealand	Australia	Poland
WCh '15 Aiguebelette	New Zealand	Greece	Germany

The semifinals were crazy. World Champions New Zealand were bounced in the first heat, as **Aikaterini Nikolaidou and Sofia Asoumanaki** of Greece – Worlds silver medalists last year steamed home in 6:51.99 with Lithuania's 2013 World Champions – **Donata Vištartaite and Milda Valciukaite** – second in 6:52.46 and **Ellen Tomek and Meghan O'Leary** of the U.S. third in 6:52.92, 0.05 ahead of the defending world champs, Eve McFarlane and Zoe Stevenson.

The second semi was just as wild, with **Magdalena Fularczyk-Kozłowska and Natalia Madaj** of Poland (fourth at the 2015 Worlds) took the lead in mid-race and won in the fastest time of the day: 6:50.63. Britain 6:52.47) and France (6:54.34) follows, to eliminate traditional power Australia!

No doubt that Greece, Poland and Lithuania are world-class and the Greeks were only 0.42 behind New Zealand in the 2015 World Champs. So stamp them the favorite in a final where the wind could also play havoc with the race to the podium.

• **Rowing/Men's Lightweight Four (LM4-)**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	South Africa	Great Britain	Denmark
WCh '13 Chungju	Denmark	New Zealand	Great Britain
WCh '14 Bosbaan	Denmark	New Zealand	Great Britain
WCh '15 Aiguebelette	Switzerland	Denmark	France

The first semi had all the class in this field, as Italy (6:06.56), France (6:07.32) and New Zealand (6:08.96) were much swifter than the second race. World Champions Switzerland won comfortably in 6:17.85, with Denmark (6:19.62) and, remarkably, Greece (6:23.95) making the final. The Greeks were only called into the event when the Russians were excluded due to doping violations.



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In good conditions in the heats, Denmark was the fastest at 5:58.21 to win heat two, ahead of Britain (6:01.27) and Italy (6:03.26 in heat one). Translation: this race is wide open, with Italy, Switzerland and Denmark well positioned in the middle lanes.

• **Rugby Sevens/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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.

• **Rugby Sevens/Men**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	not held		
WCup '13	Moscow	New Zealand	England	Fiji

When the International Olympic Committee had the idea to add Rugby Sevens to the Games, it was the idea that some of the smaller nations might have a chance in this sport. And so it is that Fiji, which has never won an Olympic medal, is in the first semifinal against Japan.

- FIJ matches: Pool A: FIJ 40, BRA 12 FIJ 21, ARG 14 FIJ 24, USA 19
QF: FIJ 12, NZL 7
- JPN matches: Pool C: JPN 14, NZL 12 GBR 21, JPN 19 JPN 31, KEN 7
QF: JPN 12, FRA 7
- GBR matches: Pool C: GBR 31 KEN 7 GBR 21, JPN 19 GBR 21, NZL 19
QF: GBR 5, ARG 0
- RSA matches: Pool B: RSA 24, ESP 0 RSA 26, FRA 0 AUS 12, RSA 5
QF: RSA 22, AUS 5

The Fijians will be favored over Japan in the first semifinal, but the second should be close. South Africa proved its mettle by defeating Australia in the quarterfinal, after losing its previous game in pool play to the Aussies. Historians will note that Fiji defeated South Africa, 12-10, in the quarterfinals of the 2013 World Cup, on their way to the bronze medal.

• **Shooting/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	M 10 m Air Pistol	Hoang (VIE)	Wu (BRA)	Pang (CHN)
Aug 10	M 50 m Pistol	Jin (KOR)	Hoang (VIE)	Kim (PRK)
Aug 8	M 10 m Air Rifle	Capriani (ITA)	Kulish (UKR)	Maslennikov (RUS)
Aug 8	M Trap	Glasnovic (CRO)	Pelliolo (ITA)	Ling (GBR)
Aug 10	M Double Trap	Aldeehani (IOA/KUW)	Innocenti (ITA)	Scott (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)

A great moment for shooting as Fehaid Aldeehani of Kuwait, competing under the Olympic flag as his National Olympic Committee is suspended, won the Men's Double Trap event over favorite Marco Innocenti of Italy. That makes nine events and nine gold medals awarded to nine different countries on four continents!

• **Shooting/Women's 50 m Rifle - 3 Positions**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	J. Beyerle-Gray (USA)	I. Maksimovic (SRB)	Adela Sykorova (CZE)
WCh '14	Granada	Beate Gauss (GER)	Dongqi Chen (CHN)	Esmari van Reenan (RSA)

A total of 37 athletes will start the 50 m Rifle/3 Positions event, including the surprise 10 m Air Rifle champion, **Ginny Thrasher** of the United States. She's actually more highly ranked in this event (11th) than she was in the 10 m Rifle (23rd) ... prior to last Saturday!

Multiple past Olympic medal winners in this event will be on the shooting line at the start of qualifications, including 2008 winner **Li Du** and 2012 silver medalist **Dongqi Chen**, both of China., and 2008 bronze medalist **Eglys de la Cruz** from Cuba.

World no. 1-ranked **Petra Pejcic** of Croatia has won three of four World Cup entered this year, including the pre-Olympic tournament in Rio and ranks as the favorite. **Petra Zublasing** of Italy, ranked fourth worldwide, was fourth in Rio this year, but has a bronze from the important World Cup meeting in Munich. And **Barbara Engleder** of Germany, in her fourth Olympics, hopes to improve on her sixth-place finish in London and was runner-up in Rio earlier this year.

Shooters will take 20 shots from 50 m from the standing, kneeling and prone positions, with the top eight to qualify for the final. Once there, 20 shots will be taken from the standing position only to determine the medalists.



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• **Swimming/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 10	M 100 m Freestyle	Chalmers (AUS)	Timmers (BEL)	Adrian (USA)
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 10	M 200 m Breaststroke	Balandin (KAZ)	Prenot (USA)	Chupkov (RUS)
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 10	W 200 m Butterfly	Belmonte (ESP)	Groves (AUS)	Hoshi (JPN)
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
Aug 10	W 4x200 m Free Relay	United States	Australia	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 200 m Backstroke**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Tyler Clary (USA)	Ryosuke Irie (JPN)	Ryan Lochte (USA)
WCh '13	Barcelona	Ryan Lochte (USA)	Rad. Kaweck (POL)	Tyler Clary (USA)
WCh '15	Kazan	Mitch Larkin (AUS)	Rad. Kaweck (POL)	Evgeny Rylov (RUS)

Australia's **Mitch Larkin** wasn't happy missing a medal in the 100 m Back, so he has a chance for redemption, as well as the fastest time in the world coming into the final. But he was beaten by **Evgeny Rylov** of Russia in his semi, with **Jacob Pebley** of the USA within 0.19. **Ryan Murphy**, the gold winner in the 100 m Back, won his semi fairly easily, with 100 m Back silver medalist **Jaiyu Xu** 0.51 behind.

Make Larkin the favorite, but Murphy, Rylov, Pebley and Xu will all contend for hardware. Season's bests for the finalists:

1:53.90	Mitch Larkin (AUS)	1:54.79	Jaiyu Xu (CHN)
1:53.95	Ryan Murphy (USA)	1:55.89	Ryosuke Irie (JPN)
1:54.21	Evgeny Rylov (RUS)	1:55.92	Guangyuan Li (CHN)
1:54.77	Jacob Pebley (USA)	1:56.37	Christian Diener (GER)

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

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Michael Phelps (USA)	Ryan Lochte (USA)	Laszlo Cseh (CZE)
WCh '13	Barcelona	Ryan Lochte (USA)	Kosuke Hagino (JPN)	Thiago Pereira (BRA)
WCh '15	Kazan	Ryan Lochte (USA)	Thiago Pereira (BRA)	Wang Shun (CHN)

The **Michael Phelps** vs. **Ryan Lochte** show continued on Wednesday night, with the two old rivals posting the fastest times in the semis, and a season's best for Phelps. The Aquatics Stadium, already loud, will be ear-splitting with extra cheers for Brazil's **Thiago Pereira**, who had a seasonal best to be the no. 3 seed for the final, just ahead of list leader and semi one winner **Kosuke Hagino** of Japan. Season's bests for the finalists:

1:55.07	Kosuke Hagino (JPN)	1:57.57	Hiromasa Fujimori (JPN)
1:55.78	Michael Phelps (USA)	1:57.59	Philip Heintz (GER)
1:56.22	Ryan Lochte (USA)	1:57.97	Dan Wallace (GBR)
1:57.11	Thiago Pereira (BRA)	1:57.93	Shun Wang (CHN)

• *Swimming/Women's 100 m Freestyle*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	R. Kromowidjojo (NED)	A. Gerasimenya (BLR)	Tang Yi (CHN)
WCh '13 Barcelona	Cate Campbell (AUS)	Sarah Sjostrom (SWE)	Ranomi Kromowidjojo (NED)
WCh '15 Kazan	Bronte Campbell (AUS)	Sarah Sjostrom (SWE)	Cate Campbell (AUS)

Australia's sisters, **Cate** (24) and **Bronte Campbell** (22) own the last two world titles, and the older sister set an Olympic Record of 52.71 in the semifinals and has the fastest time in the world this year. But **Penny Oleksiak** of Denmark was only 0.01 behind with a season's best and **Simone Manuel** (20) set her season's best while winning semi one. With **Bronte Campbell** (second to Manuel in semi one) and **Sarah Sjostrom** of Sweden (third in semi two), this is an open race in the middle of the pool; the top six qualifiers spanned only 0.6 of a second. And we haven't mentioned the defending champ, **Ranomi Kromowidjojo** of the Netherlands, the no. 7 qualifier. Season bests for the finalists:

52.06	Cate Campbell (AUS)	53.11	Simone Manuel (USA)
52.58	Bronte Campbell (AUS)	53.14	Ranomi Kromowidjojo (NED)
52.72	Penny Oleksiak (DEN)	53.28	Abbey Weitzeil (USA)
52.78	Sarah Sjostrom (SWE)	53.35	Jeanette Ottesen (DEN)

• *Swimming/Women's 200 m Breaststroke*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Rebecca Soni (USA)	Satomi Suzuki (JPN)	Yuliya Efimova (RUS)
WCh '13 Barcelona	Yuliya Efimova (RUS)	R. M. Pedersen (DEN)	Micah Lawrence (USA)
WCh '15 Kazan	Kan. Watanabe (USA)	Micah Lawrence (USA)	Vall (ESP)-R.M. Pedersen (DEN)-Shi (CHN)

Australia's **Taylor McKeown** put down the fastest time in the semis at 2:21.69, almost half a second faster than the world leader, **Rie Kaneto** of Japan, winner of the other semi. Although only fifth fastest in the semis, Denmark's **Rikke Moller Pedersen** holds two World Championships medals and might be the best of the Europeans. Worth watching, however: Britain's **Molly Renshaw**, who had a season's best in the semis and should be in the mix for a medal. Season's bests for the finalists:

2:19.65	Rie Kaneto (JPN)	2:22.33	Molly Renshaw (GBR)
2:21.41	Yuliya Efimova (RUS)	2:22.34	Chloe Tutton (GBR)
2:21.45	Taylor McKeown (AUS)	2:22.37	Jinglin Shi (CHN)
2:21.69	Rikke Moller Pedersen (DEN)	2:22.87	Kierra Smith (CAN)

• *Table Tennis/Summary*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 10	Women's Singles	Ding (CHN)	Li (CHN)	Kim (PRK)

China continued its winning ways in women's singles with gold and silver; as expected.

• **Table Tennis/Men's Singles**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Jike Zhang (CHN)	Hao Wang (CHN)	Dmitrij Ovtcharov (GER)
WCh '13	Paris	Jike Zhang (CHN)	Hao Wang (CHN)	Xin Xu (CHN)-Long Ma (CHN)
WCh '15	Suzhou	Long Ma (CHN)	Bo Fang (CHN)	Zhendong Fan (CHN)-Jike Zhang (CHN)

The semifinals in Olympic table tennis differ from the ITTF World Championships notably by the limit on the number of players from one country. While Chinese players have swept the medals in the last two Worlds, only two players per country are allowed to play in Rio.

So, reigning World Champion **Long Ma** will face Japan's **Jun Mizutani** in the first semifinal, while defending Olympic champ **Jike Zhang** will test **Vladimir Samsonov** of Belarus in the second match. Neither of the Chinese have been perfect in Rio; although winning decisively in all three matches, Ma has lost two sets along the way and Zhang, one.

At the 2015 Worlds, Mizutani reached the quarterfinals (fifth overall) and Samsonov, the fourth round (ninth overall).

• **Weightlifting/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
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 10	M 77 kg	Rahimov (KAZ)	Lyu (CHN)	Mahmoud (EGY)
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)
Aug 10	W 69 kg	Xiang (CHN)	Zhapparkul (KAZ)	Ahmed (EGY)

The first weightlifting world record of the 2016 Games was delivered by Wei Deng of China, who lifted a combined 262 kg (578 lbs.) to add one kilogram to the prior standard. A total of 14 countries have now won medals in weightlifting, including the third medal ever in the Olympic history of Kyrgyzstan.



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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>
100 m Freestyle	1/2 better at Games			
200 m Freestyle	2/2	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
200 m Backstroke	0/2	0.0		
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	1/2	50.0
200 m Ind. Medley			2/2	
400 m Ind. Medley	1/2	50.0	2/2	100.0
<i>Totals:</i>	7/14	50.0	12/16	75.0

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