

August 12, 2016



# *Back-to-Back, Solid Gold*

*(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/JKyle Terada)*



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### On the Cover

American Kayla Harrison repeats as Olympic gold medalist in the women's 78 kg weight class in Judo, shown after defeating Anamari Velensek (Slovenia) in her semifinal. *(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Kyle Terada)*



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## Lane One: It's a Track meet

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The Games of the XXXI Olympiad has been dramatic and exciting. But now the most classic element of the Olympic program gets going: track & field.

Known as “athletics” internationally (and categorized that way in *The Sports Examiner*), the central place of track & field in today's Games is because of its central focus in the ancient Olympic Games in Greece.

The original Olympic event was a simple *stade*, a race of about 200 meters from one end of the arena at Olympia to the other. It's the word from which “stadium” was derived in English.

The Greeks added other running events, first a “diaulos” – two *stades* – and then distance races of multiple *stades* – “dolichos” – from seven to 24 (about 4,800 m).

The [ancient Games added other events](#) we see in track & field today, such as the multi-event pentathlon – forerunner of the decathlon – which included the long jump, discus and javelin throw, along with wrestling.

As the core of the ancient Games was track & field, so it is today. Where stars like Katinka Hosszu, Simone Biles, Kohei Uchimura, Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky have dominated the first week, all eyes will turn to the track and the showdown between Jamaica's Usain Bolt and every other sprinter on the planet.

And later to Ashton Eaton in the decathlon, Allyson Felix in the 400 meters, Mo Farah in the 5,000 and 10,000 m and so on. The sport, set in a historic stadium seating nearly 47,000 spectators, is the centerpiece of the Games.

Which is why many in the track & field community will tell you, “The Olympic Games is a Track meet.” With no disrespect to the other 27 sports on the program, they're right.

Rich Perelman  
Editor

*P.S.:* And as is the case today, Olympic victors [received no direct prize money from the Games](#), but were rewarded by their home city-state (now, National Olympic Committee). The more things change, the more they stay the same.

## What is The Sports Examiner?

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

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





August 12, 2016

## Rio 2016: Germany scores big on Day 6

Thanks to a big day in archery, rowing and shooting, Germany scored 67.5 points on Thursday to be third on the day behind the U.S. (78) and China (76).

The U.S. maintains its overall lead after six days, with 400.5 points in all, ahead of China (328). The Americans have been consistent, scoring 62-66-70.5-69-55-78 across the six days of finals competitions thus far. Japan is having an outstanding Games thus far, standing third at 229.5.

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 6, with 94 of 306 events scored, the leaders:

1.	400.5	USA	17.	51.5	Spain	33.	26	Denmark
2.	328	China	18.	45.5	Sweden	34.	25	Georgia
3.	229.5	Japan	19.	41	Colombia		25	Indonesia
4.	221	Great Britain	20.	40.5	Ukraine	36.	24	Croatia
5.	201	Australia	21.	39	Poland		24	Greece
6.	197	Russia		39	Thailand	38.	22	Vietnam
7.	159.5	Italy	23.	38	Switzerland	39.	21	Azerbaijan
8.	147.5	France	24.	37	DPR Korea	40.	17.5	Mongolia
9.	144.5	Germany		37	South Africa	41.	16	Lithuania
10.	100	Korea	26.	34	Mexico		16	Romania
11.	91	Canada		34	Slovakia	43.	13	Argentina
12.	76	Hungary		34	Chinese Taipei		13	Austria
13.	69.5	Brazil	29.	32	Slovenia		13	Tunisia
14.	64.5	Kazakhstan	30.	31	Czech Rep.	46.	12	Belarus
	64.5	Netherlands	31.	28.5	Belgium		12	Estonia
16.	63	New Zealand		28.5	Egypt		12	Malaysia

Day 6-only scoring leaders:

1.	78	USA	11.	22	Italy	21.	11	Estonia
2.	76	China	12.	20	Korea	22.	10	Croatia
3.	67.5	Germany	13.	16	Canada		10	Denmark
4.	62.5	Great Britain		16	Netherlands		10	Spain
5.	47	Australia	15.	15	Czech Rep.		10	Fiji
6.	46.5	France		15	Switzerland		10	Romania
7.	44	Japan		15	Slovakia	27.	8	Austria
8.	34	New Zealand	18.	14	Lithuania		8	Azerbaijan
9.	29	Russia		14	South Africa		8	Greece
10.	27	Poland	20.	12.5	Ukraine	30.	7.5	Brazil

32.	7.5	Slovenia	36.	4	Chinese Taipei	42.	2.5	Portugal
	6	Belarus	37.	3.5	Cuba		1.5	Egypt
	6	Norway	38.	3	Argentina		1.5	Georgia
	6	Sweden		3	Venezuela		1.5	Hungary
35.	5	Mexico	40.	2.5	Nigeria	45.	1	Iran

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 Day 6. We’ll update the scores daily for the leading countries, and have a full tally at the end of the Games.



*Simone Biles and Aly Raisman of the U.S., gold and silver medalists in the Gymnastics Women’s All-Around (Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Robert Hanashiro)*

## Rio 2016: Capsule Previews of August 12 Finals

*Olympic finals tracker:*

Days completed: 6 of 16 / Events completed: 94 / Events Remaining: 212

Today: 24 finals in 12 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***

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Event</i></b>	<b><i>Gold</i></b>	<b><i>Silver</i></b>	<b><i>Bronze(s)</i></b>
Aug 6	M Team	Korea	USA	Australia
Aug 11	W Individual	Chang (KOR)	Unruh (GER)	Ki (KOR)
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. With the women's crown, they're 3-for-3.*

- ***Archery/Men's Individual***

<b><i>The formchart:</i></b>	<b><i>Gold</i></b>	<b><i>Silver</i></b>	<b><i>Bronze</i></b>
OG '12 London	Jin-Hyek Oh (KOR)	Taka. Furukawa (JPN)	Xiaoxiang Dai (CHN)
WCh '13 Belek	Seung-Yun Lee (KOR)	Jin-Hyek Oh (KOR)	Crispin Duenas (CAN)
WCh '15 Copenhagen	Woo-jin Kim (KOR)	Rick van der Ven (NED)	Takaharu Furukawa (JPN)

There are no guarantees in Archery thanks to the merciless head-to-head format of the elimination rounds. World Champion Woo-jin Kim? Eliminated in the second round. World bronze medalist Crispin Duenas of Canada? Same.

Entering the round of 16, the top-ranked archer left on the field is American **Brady Ellison**, who was second in the Ranking Round behind Kim. In a stretch of bad luck, Ellison was matched against fellow Americans Jake Kaminski in the round of 32 and now **Zach Garrett** in the round of 16. If Ellison gets by Garrett, he'll take on Japan's **Takaharu Furukawa**, the London silver medalist and 2015 Worlds bronze medalist.

On the top side of the bracket, Koreans **Bon-chan Ku** and **Seung-yun Lee** are still alive, with Lee the 2013 World Champion. Ku made it to the round of 16 at last year's World Championships. So did Australia's **Taylor Worth**, Spain's **Antonio Fernandez** and **Sjef van den Berg** of the Netherlands, also potential medalists. Italy's **Marco Nespoli** and Ellison both made it to last year's quarterfinals before bowing out.

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. And, oh yes, please check the wind at the Sambodromo!

• **Athletics/ Men's 20 km Walk**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Ding Chen (CHN)	Erick Barrondo (GUA)	Zhen Wang (CHN)
WCh '13	Moscow	Aleksandr Ivanov (RUS)	Ding Chen (CHN)	Miguel Angel Lopez (ESP)
WCh '15	Beijing	Miguel A. Lopez (ESP)	Zhen Wang (CHN)	Benjamin Thorn (CAN)

China's **Zhen Wang** has been hot on the roads this year and has wins over 2015 Worlds champ **Miguel Angel Lopez** of Spain. London gold medalist **Ding Chen** is expected back as is Canada's **Ben Thorn**, the 2015 bronze-medal winner. Wild card: China's **Zelin Cai**, who was fourth in London '12, but second in the 2016 Walks World Cup at this distance. **Alvaro Martin** of Spain was third at this year's World Cup and could be working with Lopez during the race. Leading marks from expected entries:

1:18.26	Eiki Takahashi (JPN)	1:19:11	Perseus Karlstrom (SWE)
1:18.45	Isamu Fujisawa (JPN)	1:19.:12	Zhen Wang (CHN)
1:18.53	Daisuke Matsunaga (JPN)	1:19.19	Christopher Link (GER)

• **Athletics/Women's 10,000 m**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH)	Sally Kipyego (KEN)	Vivan Cheruiyot (KEN)
WCh '13	Moscow	Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH)	Gladys Cherono (KEN)	Belaynesh Oljira (ETH)
WCh '15	Beijing	Vivian Cheruiyot (KEN)	Gelete Burka (ETH)	Emily Infeld (USA)

Total confusion, as Ethiopia's **Almaz Ayana** leads the world with her 30:07.00 this year and looks like she has more in the tank. Teammates **Gelete Burka** will contend and all-time great **Tirunesh**



**Dibaba** (now 31) hasn't done much the last two years, so who knows what kind of shape she's in? Americans **Molly Huddle** and **Emily Infeld** went 4-3 in the World Champs 10,000 last year and could contend for a medal. Leading marks from expected entries:

30:07.00 Almaz Ayana (ETH)	30:28.53 Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH)
30:26.94 Alice Aprot Nawowuma (KEN)	31:10.25 Alia Mohamed Saeed (UAE)
30:28.47 Gelete Burka (ETH)	31:12.86 Yasemin Can (TUR)

• **Athletics/Women's Shot Put**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Valerie Adams (NZL)	Yev. Kolodko (RUS)	Lijiao Gong (CHN)
WCh '13 Moscow	Valerie Adams (NZL)	Chris. Schwanitz (GER)	Lijiao Gong (CHN)
WCh '15 Beijing	Chris. Schwanitz (GER)	Lijiao Gong (CHN)	Michelle Carter (USA)

Look at the year list below and you'll see four women competing for three medals. When the going gets tough, **Valerie Adams** (NZL) gets going; she missed the 2015 Worlds due to knee surgery. She's the favorite, but **Gong, Schwanitz** and **Carter** took the Worlds medals last year and Gong always seems to be on the podium. Leading marks from expected entries:

20.53 67-0 1/2 Lijuan Gong (CHN)	20.17 66-2 1/4 Christina Schwanitz (GER)
20.21i 66-3 3/4 Michelle Carter (USA)	19.49 63-11 1/2 Anita Marton (HUN)
20.19 66-3 Valerie Adams (NZL)	19.33 63-5 Raven Saunders (USA)

• **Canoeing/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 9	Slalom/M Single	Gargaud Chanut (FRA)	Benus (SVK)	Haneda (JPN)
Aug 10	Slalom/M Kayak	Clarke (GBR)	Kauzer (SLO)	Prskavec (CZE)
Aug 11	Slalom/M Doubles	Slovakia	Great Britain	France
Aug 11	Slalom/W Kayak	Chourraut (ESP)	Jones (NZL)	Fox (AUS)

*Four races and winners from four countries, and all from Europe.*

• **Cycling/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 11	M Team Sprint	Great Britain	New Zealand	France
Aug 6	M Road Race	Van Avernaet (BEL)	Fuglsang (DEN)	Majka (POL)



Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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 Pursuit**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Great Britain	Australia	New Zealand
WCh '13	Minsk	Australia	Great Britain	Denmark
WCh '14	Cali	Australia	Denmark	New Zealand
WCh '15	St. Quentin	New Zealand	Great Britain	Australia

The 4,000 m Team Pursuit has belonged to four countries over the past four years: Australia, Denmark, Great Britain and New Zealand. The British quartet of **Clancy Edward, Steven Burke, Owain Doull and Bradley Wiggins** (replacing Andrew Tennant from the 2015 Worlds team) raced to the fastest qualifying time, 3:51.943 on Thursday.

No one else was close, with Denmark next at 3:55.396 – 2 1/2 seconds back – then Australia at 3:55.606 and New Zealand at 3:55.977. Then came a wide spread back to Italy (3:59.708), the only other entry under 4:00. The addition of Wiggins makes the Brits look like a shoo-in ... but they still have to hold the race.

• **Cycling/Women’s Team Sprint**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Germany	China	Australia
WCh '13	Minsk	Germany	China	Great Britain
WCh '14	Cali	Germany	China	Great Britain
WCh '15	St. Quentin	China	Russia	Australia

This is the second Olympic Games for this event, with Germany returning to defend its 2012 title. **Miriam Welte and Kristina Vogel** have been the German team to beat throughout the quadrennial and want to return to the podium after finishing fourth in the World Champs last year.

China rose to the top last year with **Jinjie Gong and Tianshi Zhong** and this pair is back in Rio for 2016. Gong won medals with the 2012 and 2013 teams, and Zhong was on the silver medalists from 2014.

Australia won a bronze medal at London '12 and in the 2015 Worlds with **Anna Meares** and Kaarle McCulloch, but Meares is teaming with **Stephanie Morton** in Rio.

The Russians have their 2015 silver medal team of **Daria Shmeleva and Anastasia Voinova** returning in Rio; they actually led the qualifying rounds in the 2015 Worlds before losing to a Chinese world record of 32.034 in the final.

• **Diving/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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 slowed 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**

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!*

• **Equestrian: Dressage Team Grand Prix Special**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Great Britain	Germany	Netherlands
WEqG '14	Normandy	Germany	Great Britain	Netherlands

The Germans are a dynasty in this event, having won it 10 times in the 15 Games in which it has been held, including seven in a row before Britain's moment in the sun in 2012. But the Germans restored order in the 2014 World Equestrian Games; **Isabell Werth** and **Kristina Sprehe** are back from that team, join in Rio by **Sonke Rothenberger** and **Dorothee Schneider**.

Germany led the qualifying round, in which six of the 11 entrants moved on to the Grand Prix Special competition. The first-place mark was 81.295 points was challenged only by Great Britain (79.252) with another gap back to the United States (76.971) and the Netherlands (76.043). Those would appear to be the teams in the fight for medals, with Sweden (75.319) and Denmark (74.276) also qualified.

• **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 10	M Sabre	Szilagyi (HUN)	Homer (USA)	Kim (KOR)
Aug 6	W Epee	Szasz (HUN)	Fiamingo (ITA)	Sun (CHN)
Aug 11	W Epee Team	Romania	China	Russia
Aug 10	W Foil	Deriglazova (RUS)	Di Francisca (ITA)	Boubakri (TUN)
Aug 8	W Sabre	Egorian (RUS)	Velikaya (RUS)	Kharlan (UKR)

Countries from four continents – including Africa – have won fencing medals in Rio.

• **Fencing/Men's Team Foil**

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12 London	Italy	Japan	Germany
WCh '13 Budapest	Italy	United States	France
WCh '14 Kazan	France	China	Italy
WCh '15 Moscow	Italy	Russia	China

Italy has won this event in 2008 and 2012 and looks ready to repeat. In the individual Foil competition:

- Italy: 1-Garrozzo 6-Avola 16-Cassara
- USA: 2-Massialis 5-Meinhardt 19-Chamley-Watson
- Russia: 3-Safin 15-Akhmatkhuzin 23-Cheremisinov
- Great Britain: 4-Kruse 10-Davis 22-Halsted

- China:                   7-Chen                   9-Ma                   21-Lei
- France:                13-Le Pechoux   18-Cadot           24-Lefort

Italy has the edge, but the U.S. and Chinese must be rated highly for possible medals, with Russia and the British the next-best possibilities.

• **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)
Aug 9	Artistic/W Team	United States	Russia	China
Aug 11	Artistic/W All-Around	Biles (USA)	Raisman (USA)	Mustafina (RUS)

*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, and Simone Biles got hers. Now to the apparatus finals!*

• **Gymnastics~Trampoline/Women**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	R. MacLennan (CAN)	Shanshan Huang (CHN)	Wenna He (CHN)
WCh '13 Sofia	R. MacLennan (CAN)	Xingping Zhong (CHN)	Dan Li (CHN)
WCh '14 Daytona Beach	Lingling Liu (CHN)	R. MacLennan (CAN)	Hanna Harchonak (BLR)
WCh '15 Odense	Dan Li (CHN)	Lingling Liu (CHN)	Tatsiana Piatrenia (BLR)

The 2012 Olympic champion, **Rosie MacLennan** of Canada returns to defend her title and win back a place on the podium in a world-title meet. She had medaled in London and the 2013 and 2014 Worlds, but slipped to fourth last year, missing a bronze medal by 0.16.

China has World Champion **Dan Li** in the field, along with **Wenna He**, the London bronze medalist, while Belarus is sending both of the World Championships bronze medalists from the last two years, **Hanna Harchonak** and **Tatsiana Piatrenia**. Wild card: Britain's **Bryony Page**, fifth at the Worlds last year and just 0.37 from a medal.

• **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)
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 11	M 100 kg	Krpalek (CZE)	Gasimov (AZE)	Maret (FRA) Haga (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)
Aug 10	W 70 kg	Tachimoto (JPN)	Alvear (COL)	Conway (GBR) Vargas Koch (GER)
Aug 11	W 78 kg	Harrison (USA)	Tcheumeo (FRA)	Aguiar (BRA) Velensek (SLO)

*The loudest cheers of the tournament so far were for Brazil's Rafaela Silva – the 2013 World Champion – winning in front of her home fans! But now another Brazilian Silva has his chance in the Men's +100s!*

• **Judo/Men's +100 kg**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Teddy Riner (FRA)	Alek. Mikhaylin (RUS)	Rafael Silva (BRA)-Andreas Tolzer (JPN)
WCh '13	Rio de Janeiro	Teddy Riner (FRA)	Rafael Silva (BRA)	Faichel Jaballah (TUN)-Andreas Tolzer (GER)

WCh '14	Chelyabinsk	Teddy Riner (FRA)	Ryu Shichinohe (JPN)	Renat Saidov (RUS)-Rafael Silva (BRA)
WCh '15	Astana	Teddy Riner (FRA)	Ryu Shichinohe (JPN)	Adam Okruashvili (GEO)-I. Khammo (UKR)

**Teddy Riner.** Now let's move on to talk about challengers to the unquestioned no. 1 in the biggest men's division. Oh yes, Riner already won the European Championships earlier this year, so he's ready.

Most of the World Championships medalists of recent years – Okruashvili, Khammo, Saidov, Jaballah and Tolzer – are in the field, but most have been quiet this year. The loudest cheers will be for Brazil's **Rafael Silva**, the bronze medalist in London '12 and silver medalist in the 2013 World Champs. He won the 2016 Pan American title already this year.

Wild cards: Romania's **Daniel Natea**, who won the World Masters tournament this year. Israel's **Or Sasson** (second) and **Roy Mayer** for the Netherlands and **Hisayoshi Harasawa** of Japan, bronze medalists at the Masters. Sasson was second to Riner at the Europeans with Natea third.

• **Judo/Women's +78 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Idalys Ortiz (CUB)	Mika Sugimoto (JPN)	Karina Bryant (GBR)-Wen Tong (CHN)
WCh '13	Rio de Janeiro	Idalys Ortiz (CUB)	Maria Altheman (BRA)	Megumi Tachimoto (JPN)-Jung-e Lee (KOR)
WCh '14	Chelyabinsk	Idalys Ortiz (CUB)	Maria Altheman (BRA)	Megumi Tachimoto (JPN)-Em. Andeol (FRA)
WCh '15	Astana	Song Yu (CHN)	Meg. Tachimoto (JPN)	Idalys Ortiz (CUB)-Kanae Yamabe (JPN)

Cuba's **Idalys Ortiz** has been dominant, losing to **Megumi Tachimoto** of Japan in the Pool C final of last year's World Championships to end her string of three years as World or Olympic champion.

But she has been back on the mat with a vengeance in 2016, winning the Pan Americans and the World Masters to rank no. 1 in the world heading to Rio. She will be challenged, once again, by Brazil's **Maria Suelen Altheman**, second in the Pan Ams in 2016, and Japan's **Kanae Yamabe**, third at the Masters.

China's **Song Yu**, the 2015 World Champion, has been quiet in 2016, but did win the Azerbaijan (Baku) Grand Slam in the spring. Worth watching: continental champs from earlier this year, including **Nihel Cheikh Rouhou** of Tunisia (Africa) and **Svitlana Iaromka** (Ukraine).

• **Rowing/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 11	M Double Sculls	Croatia	Lithuania	Norway
Aug 11	M Quad Sculls	Germany	Australia	Estonia

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 11	M Pair	New Zealand	South Africa	Italy
Aug 11	W Double Sculls	Poland	Great Britain	Lithuania
Aug 11	W Quad Sculls	Germany	Netherlands	Poland
Aug 11	M Lightweight Four	Switzerland	Denmark	France

After losing a day of finals to the weather, 15 countries won medals on a busy first day of rowing finals.

• **Rowing/Men's Four (M4-)**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Great Britain	Australia	United States
WCh '13	Chungju	Netherlands	Australia	United States
WCh '14	Bosbaan	Great Britain	United States	Australia
WCh '15	Aiguebelette	Italy	Australia	Great Britain

Australia has been the leader in each of the rounds, posting a 5:54.84 mark in the heats and then 6:11.82 in the semifinals in rougher conditions. The Brits zipped to a 5:55.59 heats win, then won the second semifinal in 6:17.13. Defending World Champs Italy looked good in the heats in 5:56.01, but just squeezed into the final in third in semi one in 6:16.54 behind South Africa (6:15.22).

Can anyone beat the Australians? The first two rounds say: no.

• **Rowing/Men's Lightweight Double Sculls (LM2x)**

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

The heat winners were all in the 6:23-6:24 range in good conditions, but the semis were slower. Still, **Pierre Houin and Jeremie Azou** of France are the team to beat in the final. They will be chased by **John Smith and James Thompson** of South Africa, winners of the second heat and the U.S. duo of **Andrew Campbell Jr. and Josh Koniecznyk**, who was just 0.76 behind the French in semi one.

Don't count out Norway – second in semi two at 6:38.35 – with their ultra-experienced duo of **Kristoffer Brun and Arne Strandli**. They were 2013 World Champions and bronze medalists the last two years: they know how to get on the podium.

• **Rowing/Women's Pair (W2-)**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Great Britain	Australia	New Zealand
WCh '13 Chungju	Great Britain	Romania	New Zealand
WCh '14 Bosbaan	Great Britain	United States	New Zealand
WCh '15 Aiguebelette	Great Britain	New Zealand	United States

Anyone to beat the British pair of **Helen Glover and Heather Stanning**? Not likely: they posted the fastest time in the heats (7:05.05) and semis (7:18.69). They will get an argument, however, from the U.S. pair of **Felice Mueller and Grace Luczak**, also a heat winner and a couple of seconds behind the Brits in the same semi.

Denmark's **Hedvig Rasmussen and Anne Anderson** won semi two and were close to Glover and Stanning in their heat, and should vie with New Zealand (**Genevieve Behrent and Rebacca Scown**) for bronze.

• **Rowing/Women's Lightweight Double Sculls (LW2x)**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Great Britain	China	Greece
WCh '13 Chungju	Italy	United States	Germany
WCh '14 Bosbaan	New Zealand	Canada	China
WCh '15 Aiguebelette	New Zealand	Great Britain	South Africa

**Ilse Paulis and Maaike Head** of the Netherlands have been the class of the heats and semis, zipping past New Zealand to win their heat and then producing a 7:13.93 mark that was the best by 2 1/2 seconds in their semi. In fact, all three marks in semi two were faster than semi one by a ways, with Canada and Ireland behind the Dutch.

South Africa's **Kirsten McCann and Ursula Grobler** won semi two in 7:19.09, just ahead of **Sophie Mackenzie and Julia Edward**, the two-time defending World Champions. Are the Kiwis holding their cards for the final?

• **Rugby Sevens/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 11	Men	Fiji	Great Britain	South Africa
Aug 8	Women	Australia	New Zealand	Canada

Australia's women 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. On the men's side, Fiji walloped Great Britain, 43-7, in the final: impressive!

• **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)	Kulich (UKR)	Maslennikov (RUS)
Aug 8	M Trap	Glasnovic (CRO)	Pelliello (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 11	W 50 m Rifle/3 Pos.	Engleder (GER)	Zhang (CHN)	Du (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. So far: 10 events and 10 gold medals awarded to 10 different countries on four continents!

• **Shooting/Men's 50 m Rifle-Prone Position**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Sergey Martynov (BLR)	Lionel Cox (BEL)	Rajmond Debevec (SLO)
WCh '14	Granada	Warren Potent (AUS)	Daniel Brodmeier (GER)	Yury Shcherbatsevich (BLR)

The hottest shooter in this event is world no. 1-ranked **Torben Grimmel** of Denmark, who won the silver medal in this event way back in Sydney in 2000. He's won three of four World Cups this year and is appearing in his fifth Olympic Games, dating back to 1996.

World Champion **Warren Potent** and runner-up **Daniel Brodmeier** of Germany are both entered; Potent (now 54 years old!) was the runner-up in the Rio World Cup earlier this year and ranks no. 3 in the world. He won the bronze medal in this event in 2008 at Beijing.

Germany's **Henri Junghaenel** also bears watching: he was the 2013 ISSF World Shooter of the Year and has been hot in 2016, winning the Rio World Cup tournament and placing second at Munich. Serbia's **Stevan Pletikosic** won a bronze on this event way back in Barcelona in 1992, but also was third in the Rio World Cup matches this year at age 44!

• **Shooting/Women's Skeet**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Kim Rhode (USA)	Ning Wei (CHN)	Danka Batekova (SVK)
WCh '14	Granada	Brandy Drozd (USA)	Elena Allen (GBR)	Danka Bartekova (SVK)
WCh '15	Lonato	Morgan Craft (USA)	Caitlin Connor (USA)	Ning Wei (CHN)

The immortal **Kim Rhode** of the U.S. is back to defend her London title in her sixth Olympic Games. She's won five Olympic medals in all, and was silver in Skeet in Beijing in 2008 before her London triumph.

She is not, however, ranked no. 1 in the world, but fifth. At the top is Thailand's **Sutiya Jiewchaloemmit**, in her third Olympic Games. She's won two World Cups in 2016, including the important pre-Olympic competition in Rio, beating Rhode in a shoot-off to win.

Rhode may not even be the best on her team. **Morgan Craft** won the ISSF World Shotgun Championships Skeet competition last year and won the World Cup tourney at Nicosia, Cyprus earlier in 2016. She's ranked no. 2 in the world.

Olympic medalists from London **Ning Wei** of China and **Danka Batekova** from Slovakia are in the field, as are World Champs silver medalist Elena Allen of Britain. Italy's Beijing '08 Olympic champ **Chiara Cainero** was fifth in London, stopped competing due to a maternity leave and has now returned, including a runner-up World Cup result in Baku earlier this year.

• **Swimming/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
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 11	M 200 m Backstroke	Murphy (USA)	Larkin (AUS)	Rylov (RUS)
Aug 7	M 100 m Breaststroke	Peaty (GBR)	van der Burgh (RSA)	Miller (USA)
Aug 10	M 200 m Breaststroke	Balandin (KAZ)	Prenot (USA)	Chupkov (RUS)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 9	M 200 m Butterfly	Phelps (USA)	Sakai (JPN)	Kenderesi (HUN)
Aug 11	M 200 m Ind. Medley	Phelps (USA)	Hagino (JPN)	Wang (CHN)
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 11	W 100 m Freestyle	Manuel (USA) and Oleksiak (CAN)		Sjostrom (SWE)
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 11	W 200 m Breaststroke	Kaneto (JPN)	Efimova (RUS)	Shi (CHN)
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 26 Olympic medals (and 22 gold) for Michael Phelps on the U.S.'s winning 4x100 m and 4x200 m Freestyle Relays, the 200 m Butterfly and 200 m Individual Medley..*

- **Swimming/Men's 50 m Freestyle**



August 12, 2016

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<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Flo. Manoudou (FRA)	Cullen Jones (USA)	Cesar Cielo (BRA)
WCh '13 Barcelona	Cesar Cielo (BRA)	Vlad. Morozov (RUS)	George Bovell (TRI)
WCh '15 Kazan	Flo. Manoudou (FRA)	Nathan Adrian (USA)	Bruno Fratus (BRA)

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**Florent Manoudou** has the hopes of France upon him to win the “Splash and Dash” event of the Games. The defending champion showed he is ready by leading the semifinals with a world-leading time of 21.32, a comfortable 0.14 ahead of all others.

The chase pack includes **Andii Govorov** of Ukraine, who also swam a seasonal best in the semis of 21.46 and the American duo of **Anthony Ervin** (2000 gold medalist, now 35!) and **Nathan Adrian**, doubling back from his bronze-medal performance in the 100 m Free. Britain’s **Ben Proud** was next best at 21.54.

In fact, all eight swimmers who made it to the finals of this event had season bests in the semis:

21.32 Florent Manoudou (FRA)	21.54 Ben Proud (GBR)
21.46 Andii Govorov (UKR)	21.71 Bruno Fratus (BRA)
21.46 Anthony Ervin (USA)	21.71 Simonas Bilis (LTU)
21.47 Nathan Adrian (USA)	21.80 Bradley Tandy (RSA)

• **Swimming/Men's 100 m Butterfly**

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<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Michael Phelps (USA)	Chad le Clos (RSA) and Yevgeny Korotyshkin (RUS)	
WCh '13 Barcelona	Chad le Clos (RSA)	Laszlo Cseh (HUN)	Konrad Czerniak (POL)
WCh '15 Kazan	Laszlo Cseh (HUN)	Chad la Clos (RSA)	Jan Switkowski (POL)

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How do you call this one? Singapore’s **Joseph Schooling** lowered his season’s best from 51.41 to 50.83 to lead all qualifiers in the semis. One-hit wonder? And what happened to **Michael Phelps**?

The gold-medal performance in the 200 m Medley is what happened to Phelps, who completed that race at 11:01 p.m. at night and then got back in the pool for the 100 Fly semi 38 minutes later. Even for Phelps, that’s a load and he was still second in his semi and fifth overall. He’ll be faster today.

Prior Olympic and World Champs medalists **Laszlo Cseh** (CZE) and **Chad le Clos** (RSA) are in the fight for medals, along with **Tom Shields** of the U.S. Who knows? They might win! Season’s bests for the finalists:

50.83 Joseph Schooling (SIN)	51.24 Zhuhao Li (CHN)
50.86 Laszlo Cseh (CZE)	51.43 Chad le Clos (RSA)
51.00 Michael Phelps (USA)	51.70 Mehdy Metella (FRA)
51.20 Tom Shields (USA)	51.71 Aleksandr Sadovnikov (RUS)



• **Swimming/Women's 800 m Freestyle**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Katie Ledecky (USA)	Mireia Belmonte (ESP)	Rebecca Adlington (GBR)
WCh '13	Barcelona	Katie Ledecky (USA)	Lotte Friis (DEN)	Lauren Boyle (AUS)
WCh '15	Kazan	Katie Ledecky (USA)	Lauren Boyle (AUS)	Jazz Carlin (GBR)

The **Katie Ledecky** Show is on again, friends. The American star is an overwhelming favorite to win her fourth gold medal of the Games and fifth overall. The only real question is whether she will break her own world record of 8:06.68 (set in January) ... and by how much? Her 8:12.86 swim in the heats set an Olympic Record.

There are other medals and both **Boglarka Kapas** of Hungary and 2015 Worlds bronze medalist **Jazz Carlin** (GBR) had season's bests in the semis. **Leah Smith** of the U.S. isn't far behind and should contend for the podium. Season's bests for the finalists:

8:06.68	Katie Ledecky (USA)	8:20.18	Leah Smith (USA)-
8:18.14	Jessica Ashwood (AUS)-	8:22.54	Lotte Friis (DEN) sb
8:19.43	Boglarka Kapas (HUN) sb	8:22.80	Sarah Kohler (GER)-
8:19.67	Jazz Carlin (GBR) sb	8:24.77	Mireia Belmonte (ESP)-

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

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Missy Franklin (USA)	Anas. Zuyeva (RUS)	Elizabeth Beisel (USA)
WCh '13	Barcelona	Missy Franklin (USA)	Belinda Hocking (AUS)	Hilary Caldwell (CAN)
WCh '15	Kazan	Emily Seebohm (AUS)	Missy Franklin (USA)	Katinka Hosszu (HUN)

**Katinka Hosszu** has been an unstoppable force in Rio, winning the Individual Medleys and the 100 m Backstroke, so why not the 200 m Back? She led all of the semifinalists by a wide margin, winning semi two by a second-and-a-half over **Maya DiRado** of the U.S.

Her closest challenger on the clock in the semis was 2015 Worlds bronze medalist **Hilary Caldwell** of Canada, who won semi one in 2:07.17, but still more than a second behind. She, along with **Yaxin Lu** of China, will contend for medals. And let's note **Kirsty Coventry** of Zimbabwe in the final as the sixth qualifier. At age 32, the 2004 and 2008 gold-medal winner in this event will try for one more trip to the podium. Season's bests for the finalists:

2:06.03	Katina Hosszu (HUN)	2:07.17	Hilary Caldwell (CAN)
2:06.49	Belinda Hocking (AUS)	2:07.56	Yaxin Liu (CHN)
2:06.90	Maya DiRado (USA)	2:08.83	Kirsty Coventry (ZIM)
2:06.92	Daria Ustinova (RUS)	2:08.84	Eyglo Gustafsdottir (ISL)

• **Table Tennis/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 11	Men's Singles	Ma (CHN)	Zhang (CHN)	Mizutani (JPN)
Aug 10	Women's Singles	Ding (CHN)	Li (CHN)	Kim (PRK)

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

• **Tennis/Men's Doubles**

No formchart for tennis, since the sport doesn't have a per se World Championship, but rather its for majors. Bob and Mike Bryan have dominated this event, winning in 2012, but declined to go to Rio.

Instead, American replacements **Steve Johnson and Jack Sock** reached the semifinals, only to lose in straight sets, 6-3, 7-5, to Romania's **Florin Mergea and Horia Tecau**. The Americans will play for the bronze medal.

The more intensely-watched match was Spain's **Rafa Nadal and Marc Lopez** against **Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil** of Canada, with the Spaniards winning two tight sets, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (4).

Nadal and Lopez will be favored in their match against Mergea and Tecau, but Nadal – the defending Olympic gold medalist in singles – also has a quarterfinal match against Brazil's Thomaz Bellucci earlier in the day. A lot of tennis for one day for such high stakes.

• **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 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.

• **Weightlifting: Men's 85 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Adrian Zielinski (POL)	Apti Aukhadov (RUS)	Kianoush Rostami (IRI)
WCh '13	Wroclaw	Apti Aukhadov (RUS)	Ivan Markov (BUL)	Artem Okulov (RUS)
WCh '14	Almaty	Kianoush Rostami (IRI)	Ivan Markov (BUL)	Artem Okulov (RUS)
WCh '15	Houston	Artem Okulov (RUS)	Kianoush Rostami (IRI)	Apti Aukhadov (RUS)

Eleven lifters will compete in Group A in this category, led by the Iranian strongman **Kianoush Rostami**. Already an Olympic medalist from London in 2012, he won this class outright in 2014 and then finished second to Artem Okulov in Houston in 2015. He's easily the favorite, with a combined lift of 387 kg last year (853 lbs.).

China's **Tao Tian** reached 381 kg (838 lbs.) on his best day in 2014, the no. 4 mark in the world, but did not score as well in 2015.

**Yoelmis Hernandez** of Cuba had the no. 4 lift total of 2015, hoisting a combined 370 kg (816 lbs.) at the Pan American Championships in Toronto, second-best in this field, and just two kilos ahead of **Oleksandr Pielieshenko** of Ukraine (368 kg/811 lbs.).

Other medal contenders include Romania's **Gabriel Sincraian** and France's **Benjamin Hennequin** were also in the top ten on the 2015 year list, both having lifted a combined 367 kg (809 lbs.) during the season.

• **Weightlifting: Women's 75 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	S. Podovedova (KAZ)	N. Zabolotnaya (RUS)	Iryna Kulesha (BLR)
WCh '13	Wroclaw	N. Evstyukhina (RUS)	Yue Kang (CHN)	Lidia Valentin (ESP)
WCh '14	Almaty	N. Evstyukhina (RUS)	Yue Kang (CHN)	Jong-sim Rim (PRK)
WCh '15	Houston	Yue Kang (CHN)	Jong-sim Rim (PRK)	Svetlana Podovedova (KAZ)

**Lidia Valentin** of Spain is in an odd situation as she gets ready to contest the 75 kg division. She finished fourth in London in this division, but all three women ahead of her have been tagged for doping and could have their medals stripped by the International Olympic Committee. So, she might be the defending champion in this event ... but we won't know for a while.

She will be in contention for gold this time vs. DPR Korea's star **Jong-sim Rim**, who got up to 280

kg (617 lbs.) in 2014 and won the World Championships silver medal. Valentin, no. four on the 2015 World List at 263 kg (580 lbs.), lifted 265 kg (584 lbs.) in London in 2012.

The fight for medals will also feature three women on the 75 kg world top-ten list for 2015, including **Darya Naumova** (BLR) at 257 kg (567 lbs.), **Gaelle Nayo Ketchanke** (FRA), 248 kg (547 lbs.) and Colombia's **Ubalina Valoyes Cuesta**, 247 kg (545 lbs).

## ***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 11</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		1/2 better at Games	50.0
200 m Freestyle	2/2	100.0	1/2	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	1/2	50.0		
100 m Breaststroke	1/2	50.0	2/2	100.0
200 m Breaststroke	0/2	0	0/2	0
100 m Butterfly			1/2	50.0
200 m Butterfly	1/2	50.0	1/2	50.0
200 m Ind. Medley	1/2	50.0	2/2	
400 m Ind. Medley	1/2	50.0	2/2	100.0
<i>Totals:</i>	10/20	50.0	13/20	65.0





*A disbelieving Simone Manuel of the U.S. hugs co-gold medalist Penny Oleksiak of Canada after the women's 100 m Freestyle (Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Erich Schlegal)*

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