

August 13, 2016



*La Belle Michelle:
Carter in the clutch!*

(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Kirby Lee)



≡ In This Issue ≡

Lane One: Watching TV, in mid-race?..... 3

What is The Sports Examiner?..... 3

Rio 2016: Team scoring: U.S. explodes on Day 7..... 4

Capsule previews and reviews by sport:

- Archery..... 6
- Athletics..... 6
- Canoeing..... 8
- Cycling..... 8
- Diving..... 10
- Equestrian..... 10
- Fencing..... 11
- Gymnastics..... 12
- Judo..... 12
- Rowing..... 13
- Rugby Sevens..... 15
- Shooting..... 16
- Swimming..... 17
- Table Tennis..... 20
- Tennis..... 20
- Weightlifting..... 21

Final Bell: Tracking U.S. Trials vs. Games performances..... 22

Archives

If you're looking for previous issues, you can find them [here](#). All editions are in PDF format of 1-5 MB each and may be viewed or downloaded directly to your device.

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On the Cover

Michelle Carter exults after winning the Olympic gold medal on her final throw, setting a new American Record of 20.63 m (67-8 1/4) and defeating defending Olympic champion Valerie Adams of New Zealand. (Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Kirby Lee)



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August 13, 2016

Lane One: Watching TV, in mid-race?

When I began announcing track & field meets way back in the 1980s, I was constantly admonished by coaches not to say if someone was coming up on a leader during a race. It was considered an aid to the leader, learning that another runner was coming up close, without having to turn around and see him or her.

No need to worry about that today. Runners can see it for themselves on the stadium video boards!

Take the first round of the men's 400 meters on Friday evening, at a modestly-attended Olympic Stadium in Rio. The 2008 Olympic champion, LaShawn Merritt of the U.S., had drawn lane eight, all the way on the outside of the track, typically a bad lane because you can't see anyone inside of you. You're running all alone.

No problem for Merritt. He stormed out and established a lead and once he came into the home straightaway, he was able to check his competition simply by looking ahead to the video board! He won his heat easily in 45.28 and advanced to Saturday's semifinals.

Isn't this an artificial aid to the runner? The impact is even greater in distance races, especially in stadiums that have scoreboards on both sides. Now, without having to look back, athletes can check on the status of the pack by simply looking at the video boards. No more surprises from someone you didn't see ... or hear about from the public address announcer.

So when you're watching the track & field component of the Rio Games, watch for the eyes of runners catching a glimpse of the screen as they zip down the home straightaway to

check where they are. Chances are good you'll catch a few checking out the competition, especially on the slow-motion replays, where every movement is visible.

And every athlete will be scoreboard watching after they finish to see their times. Some will wish they hadn't looked; technology cuts both ways sometimes, you know.

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 13, 2016

Rio 2016: U.S. explodes on Day 7

With three gold medals in swimming and a shocking victory by Michelle Carter in the women's shot put, the U.S. team had the biggest scoring day of any team in the Games so far with 112.3 points. The previous high had been 78 by the U.S. on Day 6.

The U.S. extended its overall lead after seven days, with 512.8 points in all, ahead of China (409.5). The Americans had been consistent, scoring 62-66-70.5-69-55-78 across the six days of finals competitions, then ripping off a 112.3 points yesterday. Great Britain is now third (284).

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 7, with 118 of 306 events scored, the leaders:

1.	512.8	USA	15.	86	Brazil	34.	Slovakia	
2.	409.5	China	16.	80	Spain	34.	Mexico	
3.	284	Great Britain	17.	69.5	Kazakhstan	31.	32	Slovenia
4.	246	Japan	18.	63.8	South Africa	32.	31	Romania
5.	242	Australia	19.	52.5	Ukraine		31	Czech Rep.
6.	232	Russia	20.	49.5	Sweden	34.	28.5	Belgium
7.	208.5	France	21.	47	DPR Korea	35.	27	Georgia
8.	204	Italy	22.	46	Colombia	36.	25	Indonesia
9.	191.5	Germany	23.	44	Poland		25	Greece
10.	124	Canada	24.	43	Demark	38.	24	Croatia
11.	123.5	Korea	25.	40	Switzerland	39.	22	Vietnam
12.	102.3	Hungary		40	Thailand	40.	21	Azerbaijan
13.	95.5	Netherlands	27.	35	Belarus			
14.	89	New Zealand	28.	34	Chinese Taipei			

Day 7-only scoring leaders:

1.	112.3	USA	12.	26.8	South Africa	23.	12	Ukraine
2.	81.5	China	13.	26.3	Hungary	24.	11.5	Cuba
3.	63	Great Britain	14.	26	New Zealand	25.	11	Ireland
4.	61	France	15.	23.5	Korea	26.	10	Iran
5.	47	Germany	16.	23	Belarus		10	DPR Korea
6.	44.5	Italy	17.	17	Denmark		10	Singapore
7.	41	Australia		17	Ethiopia	29.	6	Norway
8.	35	Russia		17	Kenya	30.	5.5	Israel
9.	33	Canada	20.	16.5	Brazil		5.5	Turkey
10.	31	Netherlands		16.5	Japan	32.	5	Colombia
11.	28.5	Spain	22.	15	Romania		5	Kazakhstan

	5	Poland		2	Egypt	46.	1	Greece
35.	4	Sweden		2	Georgia		1	Iceland
36.	3.5	Uzbekistan		2	Switzerland		1	Lithuania
37.	3	Zimbabwe		2	Trinidad		1	Qatar
38.	2.5	Austria	44.	1.5	Kyrgyzstan		1	Thailand
39.	2	Chile		1.5	Tunisia			

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 50 National Olympic Committees – the most in a single day so far – scored on Day 7. We’ll update the scores daily for the leading countries, and have a full tally at the end of the Games.



Maya DiRado of the U.S. is amazed, but Katinka Hosszu (HUN) is nonplussed by the results of the women’s 200 m backstroke, won by DiRadio. (USA TODAY Sports: Robert Hanashiro)

Rio 2016: Capsule Previews of August 13 Finals

Olympic finals tracker:

Days completed: 7 of 16 / Events completed: 118 / Events Remaining: 188

Today: 21 finals in nine 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 12	M Individual	Ku (KOR)	Valladont (FRA)	Ellison (USA)
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. And they won both individual events, sweeping the gold medals.

• **Athletics: Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 12	M 20 km Walk	Wang (CHN)	Cai (CHN)	Bird-Smith (NZL)
Aug 12	W 10,000 m	Ayana (ETH)	Cheruiyot (KEN)	Dibaba (ETH)
Aug 12	W Shot Put	Carter (USA)	Adams (NZL)	Marton (HUN)

What a way to start: a world record in the first event on the track for Ethiopia's Almaz Anaya with an astonishing 29:17.45! Then American Michelle Carter upsets defending Olympic champ Valerie Adams in the shot put. And it's only the first day!

• **Athletics/ Men's 10,000 m**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Mo Farah (GBR)	Galen Rupp (USA)	Tariku Bekele (ETH)
WCh '13 Moscow	Mo Farah (GBR)	Ibrahim Jeilan (ETH)	Paul Tanui (KEN)
WCh '15 Beijing	Mo Farah (GBR)	Geoff. Kamworor (KEN)	Paul Tanui (KEN)

People have been trying to figure out to beat Britain's **Mo Farah** since 2012 and it hasn't worked. Watch three Ethiopians – **Yigrem Delelash**, **Tamirat Tola** and **Abadi Embaye** – and three Kenyans – **Geoffrey Kamworor**, **Bedan Karoki** and **Paul Tanui** – try another way. One thing's for sure: if Farah is close on the final lap, he will outkick everyone to the finish.

• **Athletics/Men's Long Jump**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Greg Rutherford (GBR)	Mitchell Watt (AUS)	Will Claye (USA)
WCh '13 Moscow	Alek. Menkov (RUS)	Ignisious Gaisah (NED)	Luis Rivera (MEX)
WCh '15 Beijing	Greg Rutherford (GBR)	Fabrice Lapierre (AUS)	Jianan Wang (CHN)

Rutherford just keeps winning and LaPierre has been consistent, making them the favorites. Look for Americans **Jeff Henderson** and youngster **Jarrion Lawson** to make some noise. Lawson, so impressive in winning the 100 m, 200 m and long jump at the NCAA meet – only done before by Jesse Owens – has the speed and technique to win, but will he be up to the moment?

• **Athletics/Men's Discus**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Robert Harting (GER)	Ehsan Haddadi (IRI)	Gerd Kanter (EST)
WCh '13 Moscow	Robert Harting (GER)	Piotr Malachowski (POL)	Gerd Kanter (EST)
WCh '15 Beijing	Piotr Malachowski (POL)	Philip Milanov (BEL)	Robert Urbanek (POL)

Harting is back from knee surgery, in good condition and eager to defend his 2012 title. Malachowski took over in his absence last year and the two will battle for the 74th time in the disc. Milanov came on well last year and should battle Harting's younger brother Christoph for bronze.

• **Athletics/Women's 100 m**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	S. Fraser-Pryce (JAM)	Carmelita Jeter (USA)	V. Campbell-Brown (JAM)
WCh '13	Moscow	S. Fraser-Pryce (JAM)	Murielle Ahoure (CIV)	Carmelita Jeter (USA)
WCh '15	Beijing	S. Fraser-Pryce (JAM)	Dafne Schippers (NED)	Tori Bowie (USA)

Elaine Thompson of Jamaica won the national trials in a world-leading 10.70, so she is the logical favorite, but **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce** could make history by becoming the first women to win three straight Olympic 100 m titles. She looked better in the heats than at any time this year. All three Americans have medal potential, but **English Gardner**, **Tori Bowie** and **Tianna Bartoletta** have to run in the final like they ran at the U.S. Trials. Wild card: **Dafne Schippers** of the Netherlands, a better 200 m runner, but dangerous.

• ***Athletics/Women's Heptathlon***

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Jessica Ennis (GBR)	Lili Schwarzkopf (GER)	Tatyana Chernova (RUS)
WCh '13	Moscow	H. Melnychenko (UKR)	B. Thiesen-Eaton (CAN)	Dafne Schippers (NED)
WCh '15	Beijing	J. Ennis-Hill (GBR)	B. Thiesen-Eaton (CAN)	Laura Ikauniecia-Admidina (LAT)

After the first day, Ennis-Hill sits on top with 4.057 points and looked in control throughout the day. **Nafissatou Thiam** of Belgium had a huge shot performance that propelled her into second (3,985) and potentially into medal contention. A very close field, including **Aleka Jones** of Barbados and **Katerina Johnson-Thompson** (GBR) are trying to position themselves for a shot at a medal.

• ***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)

The Slalom races have been completed, with 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

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 12	M Team Pursuit	Australia	Germany	Denmark
Aug 12	W Team Sprint	China	Russia	Germany
Aug 6	M Road Race	Van Avernaet (BEL)	Fuglsang (DEN)	Majka (POL)
Aug 10	M Time Trial	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/Women’s Team Pursuit**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG ‘12	London	Great Britain	United States	Canada
WCh ‘13	Minsk	Great Britain	Australia	Canada
WCh ‘14	Cali	Great Britain	Canada	Australia
WCh ‘15	St. Quentin	Australia	Great Britain	Canada
WCh ‘16	London	United States	Canada	Great Britain

The 4,000 m team pursuit seemed to be the private property of the British, until Australia upset the formchart in 2015 and then the U.S. quartet of **Sarah Hammer, Kelly Catlin, Chloe Dygert and Jennifer Valente** smoked Canada by 2.723 seconds (4:14.806) to win the 2016 Worlds final in London.

The same American team is entered in Rio, while the Canadians have **Allison Beveridge, Jasmin Glaesser, Laura Brown** (for Kirsti Lay at the ‘16 Worlds) and **Georgia Simmerling**. Great Britain has been riding with a team anchored by **Laura Trott** and **Joanna Roswell-Shand**, switching other riders in and out. **Elinor Barker** and Ciara Horne rode in London ‘16 and Barker will ride in Rio, but **Katie Archibald** will replace Horne. The Rio foursome won the world titles for Britain in 2013 and 2014.

• **Cycling/Women’s Keirin**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Vict. Pendleton (GBR)	Shuang Guo (CHN)	Wai Sze Lee (HKG)
WCh '13	Minsk	Becky James (GBR)	Jinjie Gong (CHN)	Lisandra Guerra (CUB)
WCh '14	Cali	Kristina Vogel (GER)	Anna Meares (AUS)	Becky James (GBR)
WCh '15	St. Quentin	Anna Meares (AUS)	S. Braspennincx (NED)	Lisandra Guerra (CUB)
WCh '16	London	Kristina Vogel (GER)	Anna Meares (AUS)	Becky James (GBR)

The Keirin is an eight-lap race where the riders are paced (at increasing speed) by a lead moped-type cycle until 2 1/2 laps to go, at which point the 6-8 racers in the field sprint for the finish. Introduced to the Olympic program for women in 2012, Victoria Pendleton of Great Britain was the winner.

For 2016, six of the nine Olympic or World Champs medalists of the past four years are back. **Anna Meares** of Australia was just dominant last year, but fell 0.078 short of **Kristina Vogel** of Germany earlier this year. Meares and Vogel have been the most consistent Keirin sprinter at the World Champs level, but **Becky James** of Great Britain and **Lisandra Guerra** of Cuba have been close.

Watch for how the riders position themselves for the point where the lead moped leaves the track. Past medalists also in the field include **Jinjie Gong** of China and **Wai Sze Lee**, who won bronze in London in 2012.

• **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 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**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 12	Dressage Team	Germany	Great Britain	United States
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 12	M Foil Team	Russia	France	United States
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/Women’s Team Sabre**

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

Take your pick from five countries that have medaled over the past three years. In the individual Sabre competition:

- Russia: 1-2-7
- France 4-5-14
- Ukraine: 3-15-26
- Italy: 8-21-22
- United States: 9-12-24

Make Russia the favorite, but they will not find easy sailing beyond the opening match with Mexico; the U.S. is their likely semifinal opponent. Ukraine will likely be the opponent for the taut France-Italy match in the quarterfinals.

• **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)
Aug 12	W Trampoline	MacLennon (CAN)	Page (GBR)	Li (CHN)

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/Men**

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12 London	Dong Dong (CHN)	Dmitry Ushakov (RUS)	Chunlong Lu (CHN)
WCh '13 Sofia	Dong Dong (CHN)	Xiao Tu (CHN)	Sergei Azarian (RUS)
WCh '14 Daytona Beach	Xiao Tu (CHN)	Dong Dong (CHN)	Uladzislau Hancharou (BLR)
WCh '15 Odense	Lei Gao (CHN)	Ulad. Hancharou (BLR)	Andrey Yudin (RUS)

Nearly all of the medalists from the Olympic and World Championships over the past quadrennial are entered in Rio: **Dong Dong** and **Lei Gao** of China, **Uladzislau Hancharou** from Belarus, and **Andrey Yudin** and **Sergei Azarian** of Russia. Dong fell to fourth at last year's World Championships; at 27, he is looking to – if you will pardon the expression – bounce back in Rio.

• **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 11	M 100 kg	Krpalek (CZE)	Gasimov (AZE)	Maret (FRA) Haga (JPN)
Aug 12	M +100 kg	Riner (FRA)	Harasawa (JPN)	Silva (BRA) Sasson (ISR)
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)
Aug 12	W +78 kg	Andeol (FRA)	Ortiz (CUB)	Yamabe (JPN) Yu (CHN)

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! And almost as loud for Rafael Silva, who scored bronze in the Men's +100 kg division. Ten different countries won gold medals.

• **Rowing/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 11	M Double Sculls	Croatia	Lithuania	Norway
Aug 11	M Quad Sculls	Germany	Australia	Estonia
Aug 11	M Pair	New Zealand	South Africa	Italy

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 12	Men's Four	Great Britain	Australia	Italy
Aug 11	W Double Sculls	Poland	Great Britain	Lithuania
Aug 11	W Quad Sculls	Germany	Netherlands	Poland
Aug 12	W Pair	Great Britain	New Zealand	Denmark
Aug 12	M Lightweight Dbl Sculls	France	Ireland	Norway
Aug 11	M Lightweight Four	Switzerland	Denmark	France
Aug 12	W Lightweight Dbl Sculls	Netherlands	Canada	China

After losing a day of finals to the weather, 15 countries won medals on a busy first day of rowing finals. After two days, 10 events and eight countries with gold medals; only the British and Germans have two.

• **Rowing/Men's Single Sculls**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Mahe Drysdale (NZL)	Ondrej Synek (CZE)	Alan Campbell (GBR)
WCh '13	Chungju	Ondrej Synek (CZE)	Angel Fournier (CUB)	Marcel Hacker (GER)
WCh '14	Bosbaan	Ondrej Synek (CZE)	Mahe Drysdale (NZL)	Angel Fournier (CUB)
WCh '15	Aiguebelette	Ondrej Synek (CZE)	Mahe Drysdale (NZL)	Mindaugas Griskonis (LTU)

Here is a heavyweight fight to the finish: defending Olympic champ **Mahe Drysdale** of New Zealand, who has World Championships titles in 2005-06-07-09-11 vs. **Ondrej Synek** of the Czech Republic, Olympic silver medalist in 2008-12, with world titles in 2010-13-14-15. In the last two Worlds, the difference between the two at the finish has been 0.73 and 0.34. They will be next to each other in the final in lanes 3-4.

Two-time World Champs medalist **Angel Fournier** of Cuba also made the final, but was only third in his semi, behind **Damir Martin** of Croatia. **Stanislau Shcharbachenia** of Belarus was second in the other semi, won by Drysdale.

• **Rowing/Men's Eight**

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

Great Britain (5:34.23) and Germany (5:38.22) won the heats, with the U.S. (5:51.13) winning the repechage to get into the final, ahead of Netherlands (5:52.95), New Zealand (5:56.94) and Poland (5:59.22).

This suggests a four-way fight for medals, although New Zealand was fourth at the Worlds last year and the U.S. was relegated to the B final. Not this time.

• **Rowing/Women's Single Sculls**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Mirka Knapkova (CZE)	Fie Udby Erichsen(DEN)	Kim Crow (AUS)
WCh '13 Chungju	Kim Crow (AUS)	Emma Twigg (NZL)	Mirka Knapkova (CZE)
WCh '14 Bosbaan	Emma Twigg (NZL)	Kim Crow (AUS)	Jingli Duan (CHN)
WCh '15 Aiguebelette	Kim Crow (AUS)	Mirka Knapkova (CZE)	Jingli Duan (CHN)

Kim Crow (now Kim Brennan), Emma Twigg and Mirka Knapkova have treated this event as if it's their private property. But things are changing.

Knapkova didn't make the A final in Rio, and the fastest time in the semis was from **Jingli Duan** of China. Still, Crow Brennan edged Twigg by 0.34 in the first semi and Duan was only 0.59 ahead of American **Genevra Stone**. This has the makings of a surprise finish and some new medalists in this event to start the quadrennial.

• **Rowing/Women's Eight**

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

The American streak of two straight Olympic titles and 10 straight Olympic or World titles that began in 2006 shows no signs of ending. The U.S. won its heat in 6:06.34, more than eight seconds faster than second-place Netherlands and more than three seconds better than Great Britain, winner of heat two. A U.S. loss would be a stunning upset. Canada won the repechage to state a case for the bronze.

• **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 12	M 50 m Rifle/Prone	Junghaenel (GER)	Kim (KOR)	Grigoryan (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 12	W Skeet	Bacosi (ITA)	Cainero (ITA)	Rhode (USA)
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. Kim Rhode of the United States won an amazing sixth medal in shooting in her sixth Olympic Games.

• **Shooting/Men's 25 m Rapid-Fire Pistol**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Leuris Pupo (CUB)	Vijay Kumar (IND)	Feng Ding (CHN)
WCh '14	Granada	Jin Hong Kim (KOR)	Oliver Geis (GER)	Yuehong Li (CHN)

The 2014 World Champs medal winners are all back, but the top shooters in the current ISSF rankings are taking up the leading positions after the first half of the qualification rounds. World no. 2 **Christian Reisz** of Germany is leading (296 points out of 300), with third-ranked **Jean Quiquampoix** of France standing second (293) and surprising (20th-ranked) **Pavlo Kotostylov** of

Ukraine third (also 293).

All shooters will compete in another 30-shot qualification round today, with the top six overall moving on to the finals, where an additional 20 shots will be taken to determine the medal winners.

Defending Olympic champ **Leuris Pupo** currently stands eighth (290), Germany's 2014 World Champ **Oliver Geis** is sixth (291) and **Yuehong Li** from China is seventh (also 290).

• **Shooting/Men's Skeet**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Vincent Hancock (USA)	Anders Golding (DEN)	Nasser Al-Ayyiya (QAT)
WCh '14	Granada	Alex. Zemlin (RUS)	Anthony Terras (FRA)	Azmy Mehelba (EGY)
WCh '15	Lonato	Vincent Hancock (USA)	Anthony Terras (FRA)	Gabriele Rossetti (ITA)

After the first three (of five) preliminary rounds, it's world no. 5-ranked **Marcus Svensson** of Sweden who has a perfect score of 75. Right behind him at 74 is the 53-year-old, three-times World Champion from Kuwait, **Abdullah Alrashidi**, competing as an Independent Olympic Athlete (IOA).

World no. 3 **Azmy Mehelba** of Egypt has also shot 74/75 in the first three rounds, as has **Mikola Milchev** (UKR) and **Stefan Nilsson** (SWE). That doesn't leave much room for recent medal-winners like **Anthony Terras** of France (8th, 72) or two-time defending champion **Vincent Hancock** of the U.S., currently 12 at 71. But there are still two more series of 25 shots to go before the top six move on to the finals.

• **Swimming/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 12	M 50 m Freestyle	Ervin (USA)	Manaudou (FRA)	Adrian (USA)
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)
Aug 12	M 100 m Butterfly	Schooling (SIN)	Cseh (HUN)-la Clos (RSA)-Phelps (USA)	

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 12	W 800 m Freestyle	Ledecky (USA)	Carlin (GBR)	Kapas (HUN)
Aug 8	W 100 m Backstroke	Hosszu (HUN)	Baker (USA)	Masse (CAN)-Fu (CHN)
Aug 12	W 200 m Backstroke	DiRado (USA)	Hosszu (HUN)	Caldwell (CAN)
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 six 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)*
- *Women's 800 m Freestyle:* *Katie Ledecky (USA)*

Almost lost in the shuffle: now 27 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 1500 m Freestyle**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Yang Sun (CHN)	Ryan Cochrane (CAN)	Oussama Mellouli (TUN)
WCh '13	Barcelona	Yang Sun (CHN)	Ryan Cochrane (CAN)	Gregorio Paltrinieri (ITA)
WCh '15	Kazan	Gregorio Paltrinieri (ITA)	Connor Jaeger (USA)	Ryan Cochrane (CAN)

Gregorio Paltrinieri of Italy entered the event as the reigning World Champion and he put down the best time in the heats, followed closely by **Connor Jaeger** of the U.S., in a season's best. American **Jordan Willimovskiy** won the other heat with a season's best, ahead of Australia's **Mack Horton**, Italy's **Gabrielle Detti** and France's **Damien Joly** in a blanket finish. Should be the same blanket finish for the medals behind Paltrinieri. Season's bests for the finalists:

14:34.04	Gregorio Paltrinieri (ITA)	14:48.23	Jordan Willimovsky (USA)
14:39.54	Mack Horton (AUS)	14:48.90	Damien Joly (FRA)
14:45.74	Connor Jaeger (USA)	14:53.44	Ryan Cochrane (CAN)
14:46.48	Gabriele Detti (ITA)	14:53.77	Henrik Christiansen (DEN)

• **Swimming/Men's 4x100 m Medley Relay**

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

The United States has won this race every time it has competed in the Olympic Games. That's 13 out of 14 Games and eight in a row ... remember the Americans skipped Moscow in 1980 and Australia won that one. China, Japan and Australia look like the best options for the other medals.

• **Swimming/Women's 50 m Freestyle**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	R. Kromowidjojo (NED)	A. Gerasimenya (BLR)	Marleen Veldhuis (NED)
WCh '13	Barcelona	R. Kromowidjojo (NED)	Cate Campnell (AUS)	Francesca Halsall (GBR)
WCh '15	Kazan	Bronte Campbell (AUS)	R. Kromowidjojo (NED)	Sarah Sjostrom (SWE)

Defending champ **Ranomi Kromowidjojo** of the Netherlands is here, but was only the third-fastest qualifier. Denmark's **Pernille Blume** led all qualifiers at 24.28, but six swimmers this year (including Blume) have swum faster. Is this the race for redemption for Australia's star Campbell sisters? **Cate Campbell** is the world leader at 23.84 with **Bronte** third at 24.24. Wild card: Britain's

Fran Halsall, second to Kromowidjojo at the 2016 Europeans this year. Season's bests for the finalists:

23.84	Cate Campbell (AUS)	24.24	Bronte Campbell (AUS)
24.07	Ranomi Kromowidjojo (NED)	24.33	Simone Manuel (USA)
24.21	Fran Halsall (GBR)	24.42	Aliaksandra Herasimenia (BLR)
24.23	Pernille Blume (DEN)	24.45	Etiene Medeiros (BRA)

• **Swimming/Women's 4x100 m Medley Relay**

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

Not quite as dominant as the men, the American women have won this race nine of the 14 times it has been held, with three losses to the state-operated doping laboratory known as the German Democratic Republic, in 1976 and 1988 (and the 1980 Games in which the U.S. boycotted). More recently, the U.S. won in 2012 and will be favored again since Katinka Hosszu of Hungary won't be allowed to swim every leg!

Australia looks to be in the running for silver, along with European champ Great Britain.

Season's bests for the finalists:

• **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/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 12	Men's Doubles	Spain	Romania	United States

Congratulations to the Spanish duo of Rafael Nadal and Marc Lopez for the opening gold medal in the tennis competition.

- **Tennis/Women's Singles**

No formchart for tennis, since the sport doesn't have a per se World Championship, but is built around its four major championships.

The women's medal matches feature Puerto Rico's **Monica Puig** vs. **Angelique Kerber** of Germany, while the bronze match pits **Madison Keys** of the U.S. against **Petra Kvitova** of the Czech Republic.

Kerber, ranked second in the world, has a 2-0 record vs. Puig; their last match was in 2015 at the Canadian Masters, a 6-2, 6-3 win for Kerber.

Keys and Kvitova have a 2-2 lifetime record. Their only 2016 meeting was on clay at Rome, with Keys won, 6-3, 6-4.

- **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 12	M 85 kg	Rostami (IRI)	Tian (CHN)	Sincraian (ROU)
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)
Aug 12	W 75 kg	Rim (PRK)	Naumava (BLR)	Valentin (ESP)

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. Not to be outdone, Kianoush Rostami of Iran set a new world mark in the 85 kg division at 396 kg (873 lbs.). Wow!

- **Weightlifting: Men's 94 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Ilya Ilyin (KAZ)	Alek. Ivanov (RUS)	Anatolii Ciricu (MLD)
WCh '13	Wroclaw	Alek. Ivanov (RUS)	Almas Uteshov (KAZ)	Vladimir Setov (KAZ)
WCh '14	Almaty	Zh. Kydyrbayev (KAZ)	Vladimir Sedov (KAZ)	Aurimas Didzbalis (LTU)
WCh '15	Houston	Vadzim Straltsou (BLR)	Adrian Zielinski (POL)	Dmytro Chumak (UKR)

Group A in this Middle-Heavyweight division features 10 lifters, including reigning World Champion **Vadzim Straltsou** of Belarus, silver medalist **Adrian Zielinski** in Poland and Ukraine's bronze medalist, **Dmytro Chumak**. But they are hardly shoo-ins for medals in Rio; check the top combo lifts of 2015 from the leading entries:

- Vadzim Straltsou BLR 2015 best: 405 kg 893 pounds
- Aurimas Didzbalis LTU 403 kg 888
- Adrian Zielinski POL 391 kg 862
- Dmytro Chumak UKR 386 kg 851
- Ali Hashemi IRI 380 kg 838
- Tomasz Zielinski POL 375 kg 827

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 (once swimming is done), 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 12</i>				
<i>Event</i>	<i>Men's Performance</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Women's Performance</i>	<i>%</i>
50 m Freestyle	2/2 better at Games	100.0		
100 m Freestyle	1/2	50.0	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
1500/800 m Free			1/2	50.0
100 m Backstroke	1/2	50.0	2/2	100.0
200 m Backstroke	1/2	50.0	1/2	50.0



August 13, 2016

<i>Event</i>	<i>Men's Performance</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Women's Performance</i>	<i>%</i>
100 m Breaststroke	1/2	50.0	2/2	100.0
200 m Breaststroke	0/2	0	0/2	0
100 m Butterfly	0/2	0	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	100.0
400 m Ind. Medley	1/2	50.0	2/2	100.0
<i>Totals:</i>	12/24	50.0	15/24	62.5

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