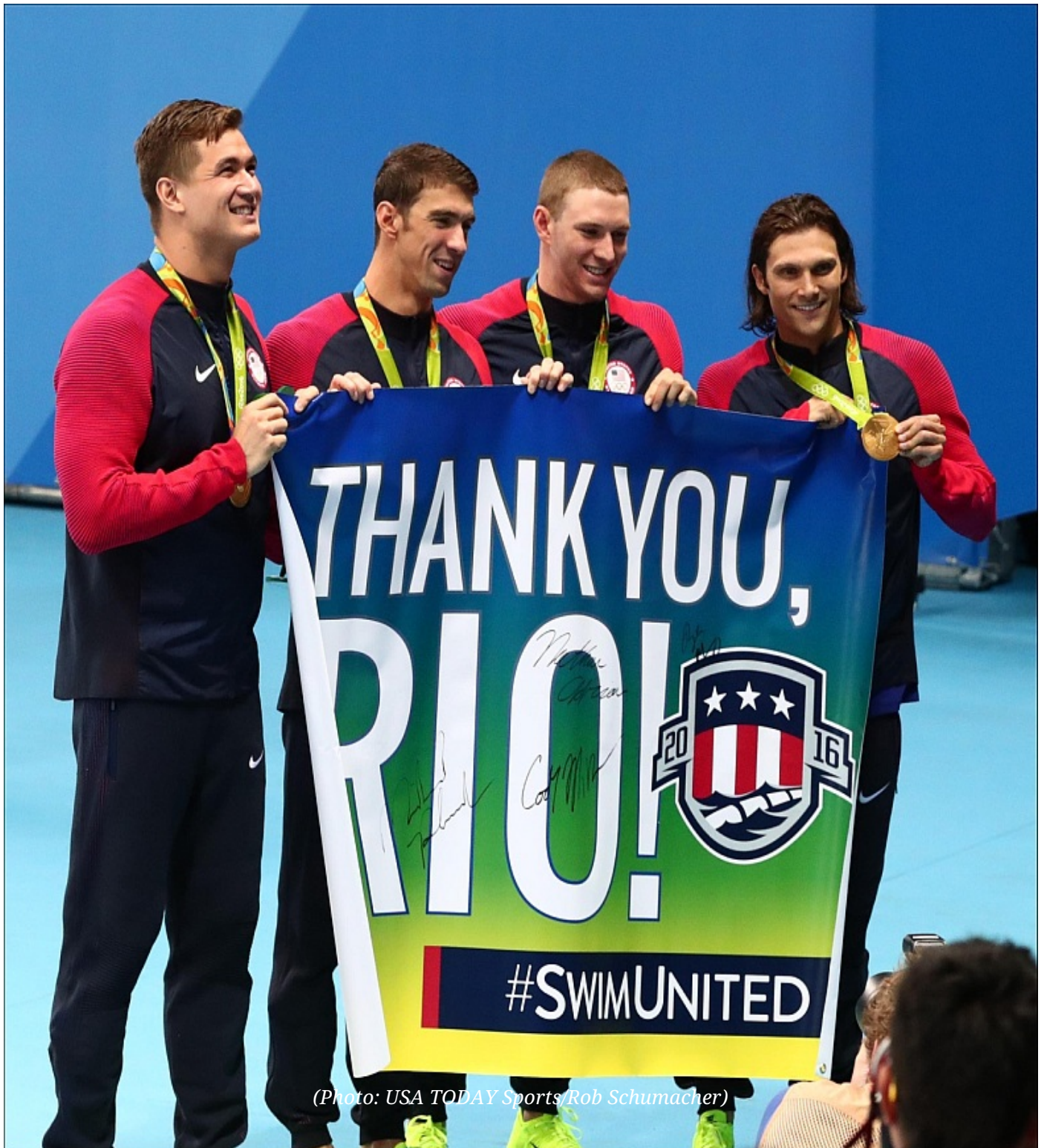


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(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Rob Schumacher)



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You can also sign up to receive *The Sports Examiner* by e-mail (for free) on the home page of the Perelman, Pioneer & Co. [Web site](#). Look for the subscription sign-up box on the right side of the home page.

On the Cover

The greatest Olympic swim team in history? The 2016 U.S. team has to be considered, including the gold medal-winning men's medley relay team of (l-r) Nathan Adrian, Michael Phelps, Ryan Murphy and Cody Miller. (Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Rob Schumacher)



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August 14, 2016

Lane One: The IOC started it all

It's fashionable to bash the International Olympic Committee these days.

HBO's Real Sports devoted an entire show in July to ripping the IOC for all manner of ills, notably for its work with the Chinese and Russian governments in advance of the 2008 Olympic and 2014 Olympic Winter Games, and the long and winding road to get to Rio in 2016.

There's no doubt that the IOC has a lot of challenges on its plate, now with continuing investigations into doping scandals, cover-ups and a blowback from the costs that host cities and countries have poured into recent Games.

It is, frankly, a victim of its own success.

But the vast reach of international sport on every continent is in many ways due to the creation of the IOC by Frenchman Baron Pierre de Coubertin back in the 1890s.

Before de Coubertin was able to organize the IOC in 1894, sport as we know it was in its infancy. By the time of the re-birth of the Olympic Games in Athens in 1896, there were international governing bodies for a grand total of two sports: gymnastics (since 1881) and rowing (1892)

No FIFA for soccer; it was founded in 1904. No IAAF for track and field; it was organized in 1913. The UCI – cycling – started in 1900, the same year that the second Games was held.

Giving all due respect to gymnastics and rowing, the IOC helped create today's international sports landscape. And for decades, the Olympic Games were the only world championship event for many sports.

World Championships for swimming only started in 1978. Track & field didn't hold its first Worlds until 1983.

Moreover, the revolution in sports marketing brought on by the success of the 1984 Olympic Games eventually made possible the distribution of millions to both the sports federations and National Olympic Committees.

It's fine to criticize, but give the IOC its due. It has earned its role as a catalyst for change, and its not done yet.

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 14, 2016

Rio 2016: **U.S. on track (land and water) on Day 8**

A strong showing on the track and especially in the pool, the U.S. scored more than 100 points for the second straight day and is enjoying an outstanding Olympic Games in Rio.

The U.S. extended its overall lead after eight days, with 624.8 points in all, ahead of China (452.5). 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 and 100 points on the last two days. Great Britain continues in third, at 364.5 points, ahead of Australia at 290.

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 8, with 139 of 306 events scored, the leaders:

1.	624.8	USA	17.	75	Ukraine	33.	34	Slovakia
2.	452.5	China	18.	71.8	South Africa		34	Chinese Taipei
3.	364.5	Great Britain	19.	69.5	Kazakhstan	35.	32	Croatia
4.	290	Australia	20.	65	Belarus		32	Slovenia
5.	262.5	Russia	21.	63	Denmark	37.	28.5	Cuba
6.	258	Japan	22.	61	Poland	38.	28	Ethiopia
7.	246	Germany	23.	60.5	Sweden	39.	27	Georgia
8.	244	Italy	24.	47	DPR Korea		27	Kenya
9.	220.5	France	25.	46	Colombia	41.	26	Iran
10.	147	Canada	26.	45	Czech Rep.	42.	25	Greece
11.	128.5	Korea		45	Thailand		25	Indonesia
12.	121.5	Netherlands	28.	44	Switzerland	44.	23	Lithuania
13.	119	New Zealand	29.	43.5	Belgium	45.	22	Vietnam
14.	105.3	Hungary	30.	37	Mexico	46.	21.5	Austria
15.	90	Brazil		37	Romania	47.	21	Azerbaijan
16.	80	Spain	32.	34.5	Egypt		21	Estonia

Day 8-only scoring leaders:

1.	112	USA		30	New Zealand	19.	12	France
2.	80.5	Great Britain	11.	26	Netherlands	20.	12	Iran
3.	54.5	Germany	12.	23	Canada		12	Japan
4.	48	Australia	13.	22.5	Ukraine	22.	11	Ethiopia
5.	43	China	14.	20	Denmark		11	Sweden
6.	40	Italy	15.	17	Jamaica	24.	10	Kenya
7.	30.5	Russia		17	Poland		10	Puerto Rico
8.	30	Belarus	17.	15	Belgium	26.	9	Cuba
	30	Norway	18.	14	Czechoslovakia		9	Estonia

Rio 2016: **Capsule Previews of August 14 Finals**

Olympic finals tracker:

Days completed: 8 of 16 / Events completed: 139 / Events Remaining: 167

Today: 22 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**

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 13	M 10,000 m	Farah (GBR)	Tanui (KEN)	Tola (ETH)
Aug 12	M 20 km Walk	Wang (CHN)	Cai (CHN)	Bird-Smith (NZL)
Aug 13	M Long Jump	Henderson (USA)	Manyonga (RSA)	Rutherford (GBR)
Aug 13	M Discus	R. Harting (GER)	Malachowski (POL)	Jasinski (GER)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 13	W 100 m	Thompson (JAM)	Bowie (USA)	Fraser-Pryce (JAM)
Aug 12	W 10,000 m	Ayana (ETH)	Cheruiyot (KEN)	Dibaba (ETH)
Aug 12	W Shot Put	Carter (USA)	Adams (NZL)	Marton (HUN)
Aug 13	W Heptathlon	Thiam (BEL)	Ennis-Hill (GBR)	Thiesen-Eaton (CAN)

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! Germany's Robert Harting and Britain's Mo Farah defended their Olympic titles on Saturday in the discus and 10,000 m, respectively. Sunday: Bolt vs. Gatlin!

• Athletics/ Men's 100 m

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12 London	Usain Bolt (JAM)	Yohan Blake (JAM)	Justin Gatlin (USA)
WCh '13 Moscow	Usain Bolt (JAM)	Justin Gatlin (USA)	Nesta Carter (JAM)
WCh '15 Beijing	Usain Bolt (JAM)	Justin Gatlin (USA)	Tray. Bromell(USA)-And. DeGrasse (CAN)

Will he or won't he? Jamaica's **Usain Bolt** has been the star of the sprints since exploding on the scene at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, winning all of the major titles except for the 2011 Worlds (disqualified for a false start). **Justin Gatlin** of the U.S., the 2004 Olympic gold medalist, has been hunting him year after year, but without success so far. If Bolt wins, he will be the first to take three Olympic 100s in a row. If Gatlin wins, he'll set a record for the longest period between gold medals in this event.

In the meantime, there are *other* competitors. American **Trayvon Bromell** is coming on strongly and is the future of U.S. sprinting. Is **Yohan Blake** of Jamaica finally recovered from injuries that have plagued him for almost two years? **Jimmy Vicaut** of France? And what of new face **Akani Simbine** of South Africa, who zipped 9.89 earlier this year? For right now, it's all about Bolt.

• Athletics/Men's 400 m

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12 London	Kirani James (GRN)	Leguelin Santos (DOM)	Lalonde Gordon (TRI)
WCh '13 Moscow	LaShawn Merritt (USA)	Tony McQuay (USA)	Leguelin Santos (DOM)
WCh '15 Beijing	W. van Niekerk (RSA)	LaShawn Merritt (USA)	Kirani James (GRN)

It just seems clear that the three medalists will be 2008 gold winner **LaShawn Merritt** (USA) or 2012 gold-medalist **Kirani James** (GRN) or last year's World Champion, **Wayde van Niekerk** of South Africa.

But there are other possibilities for the medal stand: African champ **Baboloki Thebe** of Botswana,

who has run 44.22 this season; **Machel Cedenio** of Trinidad & Tobago, the 2014 World Junior champ (44.34 this year), **Bralon Taplin** of Grenada (44.38 this season) or **Steven Gardiner** of the Bahamas (44.46).

• *Athletics/Women's Marathon*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Tiki Gelana (ETH)	Priscah Jeptoo (KEN)	Tatyana Arkhipova (RUS)
WCh '13 Moscow	Edna Kiplagat (KEN)	Valeria Straneo (ITA)	Kayoko Fukushi (JPN)
WCh '15 Beijing	Mare Dibaba (ETH)	Helah Kiprop (KEN)	Eunice Kirwa (BHR)

Mare Dibaba of Ethiopia is the favorite and her teammates **Tigist Tufa** (sixth in the World Champs last year) and **Tirfe Tsegaye** (eighth) cannot be overlooked, either. They will face a very capable Kenyan trio: **Helah Kiprop** (Worlds silver last year), **Jemima Sumgong** (Worlds fourth in 2015) and **Visiline Jepkesho** (20th).

Who else: **Kayoko Fukushi**, bronze winner at the 2013 Worlds, is back, along with Bahrain's **Eunice Jepkirui** (Eunice Kirwa last year: 2015 Worlds bronze) and perhaps American **Shalane Flanagan**. She wilted in the heat of the U.S. Trials, but when right can run with the best, including an Olympic 10,000 m bronze in 2008.

• *Athletics/Women's Triple Jump*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Olga Rypakova (KAZ)	Cat. Ibarguen (COL)	Olha Saladuha (UKR)
WCh '13 Moscow	Caterine Ibarguen (COL)	Ekat. Koneva (RUS)	Olha Saladuha (UKR)
WCh '15 Beijing	Caterine Ibarguen (COL)	H. Minenko (ISR)	Olga Rypakova (KAZ)

Colombia's **Caterine Ibarguen** has been the dominant TJer in the world for more than three years, rolling up a 33-meet win streak before losing to **Olga Rypakova** earlier this year. Ibarguen is the favorite, but will be chased by Venezuela's **Yulimar Rojas** (World Indoor champ), European champion **Patricia Mamona** of Portugal and Rypakova.

• *Boxing/Men's Light Flyweight (46-49 kg)*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Shiming Zou (CHN)	K. Pongprayoon (THA)	Paddy Barnes (IRL)-David Ayratyan (RUS)
WCh '13 Almaty	Birzan Zhakypov (KAZ)	Mohamed Flissi (ALG)	David Jimenez (CRC)-Yosvany Veitia (CUB)
WCh '15 Doha	Joahnys Argilagos (CUB)	Vasili Egorov (RUS)	Rogen Ladon (PHI)-D. Zamotayev (UKR)

Yurberjen Martinez (COL) vs. **Hasanboy Dusmatov** (UZB)

Both fighters had to get through recent World Championships medalists to get to the final. Martinez

won two of three rounds from reigning World Champion Argilagos of Cuba in the semifinals, while Dusmatov won all three rounds from 2013 World Champ Birzan Zhakypov in the quarterfinals and then blanked American Nico Hernandez in the semis. That makes Dusmatov the favorite here, but Martinez has shown he has just enough to win each time.

• **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)
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. Sprint races started on August 14, with the first final on the 15th.

• **Cycling/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 11	M Team Sprint	Great Britain	New Zealand	France
Aug 12	M Team Pursuit	Australia	Germany	Denmark
Aug 13	W Keirin	Ligtle (NED)	James (GBR)	Meares (AUS)
Aug 12	W Team Sprint	China	Russia	Germany
Aug 13	W Team Pursuit	Great Britain	United States	Canada
Aug 6	M Road Race	Van Averaet (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/Men's Sprint*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Jason Kenny (GBR)	Gregory Bauge (FRA)	Shane Perkins (AUS)
WCh '13 Minsk	Stefan Botticher (GER)	Denis Dmitriev (RUS)	Francois Pervis (FRA)
WCh '14 Cali	Francois Pervis (FRA)	Stefan Botticher (GER)	Denis Dmitriev (RUS)
WCh '15 St. Quentin	Gregory Bauge (FRA)	Denis Dmitriev (RUS)	Quentin Lafargue (FRA)
WCh '16 London	Jason Kenny (GBR)	Matthew Glaetzer (AUS)	Denis Dmitriev (RUS)

A new face crashed the Sprint party in Rio, but wearing a familiar jersey: **Callum Skinner** of Great Britain. The 23-year-old from Scotland was part of the winning British Team Sprint effort in Rio and worked his way from one side of the bracket while teammate **Jason Kenny** did from the other side.

In the semis, Skinner defeated Australia **Matthew Glaetzer** (2-0) while Kenny took on Russia's perennial medal winner, **Denis Dmitriev**, and went down one race before coming back to win two straight and advance. The two Brits will meet in the final, the second time in the past three Games that this has happened; Chris Hoy defeated Kenny in Beijing in 2008. Now it may be Kenny's turn.

• *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.

• *Diving/Women's 3 m Springboard*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Minxia Wu (CHN)	Zi He (CHN)	Laura Sanchez (MEX)
WCh '13 Barcelona	Zi He (CHN)	Han Wang (CHN)	Pamela Ware (CAN)
WCh '15 Kazan	Tingmao Shi (CHN)	Zi He (CHN)	Tania Cagnotto (ITA)

China's **Tingmao Shi** and **Zi He** went 1-2 in the 2016 Diving World Cup held in Rio earlier this year, with Canada's **Jennifer Abel** third. That's the way it's playing in the Rio Games.

Abel led after the preliminaries, but Shi and He (385.00 and 364.05) were clear of Abel (343.45), **Maddison Keeney** of Australia(326.35) and **Abby Johnson** of the U.S. (324.75) after the semifinals. The 12 finalists will compete over five more dives before hearing the Chinese anthem once again.

• ***Equestrian/Summary***

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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)
Aug 13	W Sabre Team	Russia	Ukraine	United States

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

• ***Fencing/Men's Team Epee***

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12 London	France	Poland	Italy
WCh '13 Budapest	Hungary	Ukraine	France

WCh '14	Kazan	France	Korea	Switzerland
WCh '15	Moscow	Ukraine	Korea	Switzerland

France has won this event in the last two Olympic Games and three of the last six. Top-ranked, they have a bye in the first round (quarterfinals). In the individual Epee competition:

- France: 3-5-17
- Korea: 1-19-31
- Hungary: 2-13-28
- Switzerland: 4-7-12
- Ukraine: 10-24-36

Switzerland looks to move up after bronzes at the last two World Championships and will meet Italy in the bottom half of the bracket, while the French will have to deal with the winner of Brazil and Venezuela before a semifinal with Hungary or Korea.

• **Golf/Men**

No formchart for golf, now back in the Games for the first time in 112 years, and without a yearly world championship in favor of its traditional major events. Despite all of the concerns over who didn't come to Rio, Britain's **Justin Rose** – the 2013 U.S. Open champion – leads a tight field on the par 71 course at -12 after three rounds of 67-69-65.

Swede **Henrik Stenson**, who came to Rio right after winning the 2016 British Open, sits at -11 after 66-68-68 rounds, two shots ahead of Australia's **Marcus Fraser**, a six-time winner of non-PGA events (63-69-72).

Three are tied at -6: **Bubba Watson** of the U.S., Sweden's **David Lingmerth** and Argentine **Emilio Grillo**.

• **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 13	M Trampoline	Hancharou (BLR)	Dong (CHN)	Gao (CHN)
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~Artistic/Men's Floor Exercise*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Kai Zou (CHN)	Kohei Uchimura (JPN)	Denis Ablyazin (RUS)
WCh '13 Antwerp	Kenzo Shirai (JPN)	Jacob Dalton (USA)	Kohei Uchimura (JPN)
WCh '14 Nanning	Denis Ablyazin (RUS)	Kenzo Shirai (JPN)	Diego Hypolito (BRA)
WCh '15 Glasgow	Kenzo Shirai (JPN)	Max Whitlock (GBR)	Rayderly Zapata (ESP)

Kenzo Shirai of Japan has the pedigree in this event, but was only the sixth qualifier out of the team competition. Qualifying scores:

15.800	Sam Mikulak (USA)	15.500	Max Whitlock (GBR)
15.600	Jacob Dalton (USA)	15.333	Kenzo Shirai (JPN)
15.533	Kohei Uchimura (JPN)	15.233	Kristian Thomas (GBR)
15.500	Diego Hypolito (BRA)	15.200	Arthur Mariano (BRA)

The venue will be especially loud for the two Brazilian entries, especially for 2014 Worlds medalist **Diego Hypolito**.

• *Gymnastics~Artistic/Men's Pommel Horse*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Krisztian Berki (HUN)	Louis Smith (GBR)	Max Whitlock (GBR)
WCh '13 Antwerp	Kohei Kamayama (JPN)	Max Whitlock (GBR) & Daniel Corral (MEX)	
WCh '14 Nanning	Krisztian Berki (HUN)	Filip Ude (CRO)	Cyril Tommasone (FRA)
WCh '15 Glasgow	Max Whitlock (GBR)	Louis Smith (GBR)	Kazuma Kaya (JPN) & H. Merdinyan (ARM)

The reigning gold and silver medalists in last year's World Champs are back in Rio, with **Max Whitlock** looking to add to his Olympic bronze from 2012. Qualifying scores:

15.800	Max Whitlock (GBR)	15.566	Oleg Verniaiev (UKR)
15.700	Louis Smith (GBR)	15.383	Nikolai Kuksenkov (RUS)
15.650	Cyril Tommasone (FRA)	15.366	Alexander Naddour (USA)
15.583	Harutyun Merdinyan (ARM)	15.300	David Belyavskiy (RUS)

• *Gymnastics~Artistic/Women's Uneven Bars*

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Aliya Mustafina (RUS)	Kexin He (CHN)	Beth Tweddle (GBR)

WCh '13	Antwerp	Huidan Huang (CHN)	Kyla Ross (USA)	Aliya Mustafina (RUS)
WCh '14	Nanning	Jinnan Yao (CHN)	Huidan Huang (CHN)	Daria Spiridonova (RUS)
WCh '15	Glasgow	Yilin Fan (CHN)-Viktoria Komova (RUS)-Daria Spiridonova (RUS)-Madison Kocian (USA)		

Rio organizers hope that there won't be a repeat of the four-way tie for first place as happened at the World Championships last year. Two of those golden girls are back: **Madison Kocian** of the U.S., the leader in qualifying, and Russia's **Daria Spiridonova**. Qualifying scores:

15.866	Madison Kocian (USA)	15.466	Elisabeth Seitz (GER)
15.833	Aliya Mustafina (RUS)	15.433	Sophie Scheder (GER)
15.766	Gabby Douglas (USA)	15.333	Jessica Lopez Arocha (VEN)
15.683	Daria Spiridonova (RUS)	15.300	Chunsong Shang (CHN)

• *Gymnastics~Artistic/Women's Vault*

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Sandra Izbasa (ROU)	McKa. Maroney (USA)	Mariya Paseka (RUS)
WCh '13	Antwerp	McKayla Maroney (USA)	Simone Biles (USA)	Un-jong Hong (PRK)
WCh '14	Nanning	Un-jong Hong (PRK)	Simone Biles (USA)	Mikki Skinner (USA)
WCh '15	Glasgow	Maria Paseka (RUS)	Un-jong Hong (PRK)	Simone Biles (USA)

Simone Biles was sensational in the team qualifying, scoring 16.050 and leading the field by 0.52 points. Less noticed was **Un-jong Hong's** placement, which if confirmed in the finals, will give her a medal in each of the last four world or Olympic championship vaults. Note that she has finished ahead of Biles in this event in both 2014 and 2015. Reigning World Champion **Maria Paseka** of Russia is here and was fourth in the qualifying, but more than a full point behind Biles.

16.050	Simone Biles (USA)	14.999	Oksana Chusovitina (UZB)
15.683	Un-jong Hong (PRK)	14.950	Shallon Olsen (CAN)
15.266	Giulia Steingruber (SUI)	14.949	Yan Wang (CHN)
15.049	Maria Paseka (RUS)	14.850	Dipa Karmakar (IND)

• *Judo/Summary*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
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 13	M Single Sculls	Drysdale (NZL)	Martin (CRO)	Synek (CZE)
Aug 11	M Double Sculls	Croatia	Lithuania	Norway
Aug 11	M Quad Sculls	Germany	Australia	Estonia



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Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 11	M Pair	New Zealand	South Africa	Italy
Aug 12	M Four	Great Britain	Australia	Italy
Aug 13	M Eight	Great Britain	Germany	Netherlands
Aug 13	W Single Sculls	Brennan (AUS)	Stone (USA)	Duan (CHN)
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 13	W Eight	United States	Great Britain	Romania
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. The win by the U.S. women in the eights ran their streak of Olympic or World Championships victories to an amazing 11 in a row.

• **Rugby Sevens/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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!

• **Sailing/Men's RS:X**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	D.v Rijsselberge (NED)	Nick Dempsey (GBR)	Przemyslaw Miarczyński (POL)
WCh '13	Buzios	Nick Dempsey (GBR)	D.v Rijsselberge (NED)	Byron Kokkalanis (GRE)
WCh '14	Santander	Julien Bontemps (FRA)	Prz. Miarczyński (POL)	Thomas Goyard (FRA)
WCh '15	Al-Mussanah	Pierre Le Coq (FRA)	Aichen Wang (CHN)	D.v Rijsselberge (NED)

WCh '16 Eilat Piotr Myszk (POL) D.v Rijsselberge (NED) Kiran Badloe (NED)

The Windsurfer class was introduced in 1984 and has become one of the popular sights in every Olympic Games. The RS:X class has been the boat used beginning in 2008.

Going into the final race (where points are doubled), the issue has essentially been decided – barring an astonishing turn of events – in favor of the dominant RS:X performer of the quadrennial: defending champion **Dorian van Rijsselberge** of the Netherlands. After the 12-race preliminary rounds, his combined placings (first = one point and so on) total just 23, 21 points ahead of the silver medalist-to-be, **Nick Dempsey** of Great Britain.

The battle for bronze, however, is quite close between 2016 World Champion Piotr Myszk of Poland (70 points), Pierre Le Coq of France (72) and **Byron Kokkalanis** of Greece (78).

• **Sailing: Women's RS:X**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Marina Alabau (ESP)	Tuuli Petaja (FIN)	Zofia Klepacka (POL)
WCh '13	Buzios	Lee Korzits (ISR)	Bryony Shaw (GBR)	Maayan Davidovich (ISR)
WCh '14	Santander	Charline Picon (FRA)	Marina Alabau (ESP)	Maayan Davidovich (ISR)
WCh '15	Al-Mussanah	Peina Chen (CHN)	Bryony Shaw (GBR)	Lilian de Geus (NED)
WCh '16	Eilat	Malgor. Bialecka (POL)	Bryony Shaw (GBR)	Lilian de Geus (NED)

Although not a World Championships medalist in this quadrennial, Italy's **Flavia Tartaglini** spent most of 2014 as the world's top-ranked female RS:X sailor. With the medal race (double points) to go, she leads a tight field in the RS:X standing.

Tartaglini has won four of her twelve races in Rio, but has been as low as 12th. Her 55 points are tied with **Stefaniya Elfutina** of Russia (no wins, two seconds) and just ahead of a logjam at 60 points: **Peina Chen** of China, **Charlie Picon** of France and **Maayan Davidovich** of Israel. Defending Olympic gold medalist **Marina Alabau** is in striking distance, at 61 points., with 2015-16 Worlds medalists **Lilian de Geus** (NED) and **Bryony Shaw** (GBR) at 68 and 71 points, respectively. It will come down to the final race!

• **Shooting/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 6	M 10 m Air Pistol	Hoang (VIE)	Wu (BRA)	Pang (CHN)
Aug 13	M 25 m Rapid Pistol	Reitz (GER)	Quiquampoix (FRA)	Li (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)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 12	M 50 m Rifle/Prone	Junghaenel (GER)	Kim (KOR)	Grigoryan (RUS)
Aug 13	M Skeet	Rossetti (ITA)	Svensson (SWE)	Alrashidi (IOA/KUW)
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 50 m Rifle-3 Positions**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Niccolo Campriani (ITA)	Jong-hyun Kim (KOR)	Matthew Emmons (USA)
WCh '14	Granada	Qinan Zhu (CHN)	Serg. Kamenskiy (RUS)	Vitali Bubnovich (BLR)

A large field of 44 shooters will begin the qualification process in the morning for this event, using the kneeling, prone and standing positions and firing 40 shots in each position. The field will be cut to eight for the finals, where 45 shots will be fired: 15 in each position. However, after the 10th shot of the final stage (standing), the lowest-ranked shooter will be eliminated after each shot until only the gold and silver medalist remain.

Matthew Emmons of the United States is top-ranked in the world this year and won a bronze in London in 2012 in this event. On the World Cup circuit, he has been brilliant, winning in Bangkok and Munich and finishing second in Rio. He also earned an Olympic gold medal in Athens in 2004 for the Free Rifle/3 Positions event (and silver in Beijing).

China's entries of **Qinan Zhu** (2014 World Champion) and **Zicheng Hui** is especially impressive. Hui defeated Emmons at Rio in the pre-Olympic World Cup event last April. Zhu was third at Rio.

Defending champion **Niccolo Campriani** of Italy is back, as is silver medalist **Jong-hyun Kim** of Korea. How about a wild card: Ukraine's **Serhiy Kulish**, just 23, but fourth at April's Rio World Cup.

• **Swimming/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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 13	M 1500 m Freestyle	Paltrinieri (ITA)	Jaeger (USA)	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)	
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 13	M 4x100 m Medley Rly	United States	Great Britain	Australia
Aug 13	W 50 m Freestyle	Blume (DEN)	Manuel (USA)	Herasimenia (BLR)
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)



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Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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
Aug 13	W 4x100 m Medley Rly	United States	Australia	Denmark

It's the Olympics, right? A great meet with multiple world records, in seven events, including the final event of the meet, as Ryan Murphy (USA) set the mark in the lead-off 100 m Backstroke. 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)
- *Men's 100 m Backstroke:* Ryan Murphy (USA) in the 4x100 m Medley Relay

Almost lost in the shuffle: now 28 Olympic medals (and 23 gold) for Michael Phelps on the U.S.'s winning all three relays, the 200 m Butterfly and 200 m Individual Medley.

• **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
Aug 13	Women's Singles	Puig (PUR)	Kerber (GER)	Kvitova (CZE)

Joy for Puerto Rico, an independent National Olympic Committee, with the women's singles gold medal in Monica Puig.

- **Tennis/Men's Singles**

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

The singles final of **Juan Martin del Potro** (ARG) vs. **Andy Murray** (GBR) features two players who don't see each other much. Murray has a 5-2 edge in meetings between the two, but the last meeting was in 2013 at Indian Wells, with del Porto winning, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-1. Their prior six meetings were all in 2008-09.

Del Porto overcame Rafael Nadal (ESP) in his semifinal, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (5), the last set lasting 85 minutes! Murray defeated Kei Nishikori of Japan, 6-1, 6-4, to cruise into the final and try to defend his 2012 Olympic victory. No one in Olympic tennis history (1896-1924 and then from 1988 on) has won back-to-back Olympic golds in men's singles.

- **Tennis/Women's Doubles**

Familiar foes will be on the court when **Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina** (RUS) meet Switzerland's **Timea Bacsinsky and Martina Hingis**.

Makarova and Vesnina were fifth in the 2012 Olympic doubles tournament and have opposed Hingis and a variety of doubles partners (other than Bacsinsky) in multiple tournament finals. In the past three years, Hingis and Sabine Lisicki won the 2014 Sony Open over Makarova and Vesnina, but lost (with Flavia Pennetta) in the finals of the U.S. Open. A year later, with India's Sania Mirza, Hingis won the Wimbledon women's double title over Makarova and Vesnina. Hingis and Mirza also won the Italian Open in 2016 over Makarova and Vesnina, but lose to the Russians in the Qatar Total Open.

For Hingis, her return to the Olympic Games after a 20-year absence has been quite a success to far. She competed at age 15 in Atlanta in 1996, but lost in the second round. Here, she'll get a medal to remember a much more competitive experience.

- **Tennis/Mixed Doubles**

American tennis fortunes ran low in the 2016 Rio tennis program until the mixed doubles, which will yield two medals. **Bethanie Mattek-Sands & Jack Sock** (USA) will play **Venus Williams-Rajeev Ram** (USA) for the gold medal.

Williams, who owns four Olympic gold medals from the 2000 Games singles and 2000-08-12 doubles with sister Serena, only jumped into the mixed doubles event after losing in both the singles and doubles competitions earlier in the Games. Rajeev Ram, world-ranked no. 102 in singles, was a men's doubles semifinalist at Wimbledon this year. Mattek and Sock had to get past Brazil's Teliana Pereira and Marcelo Melo in the quarterfinals and Lucie Hradecka and Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic in the semis.

• **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 13	M 94 kg	Moradi (IRI)	Straltsou (BLR)	Didzbalis (LTU)
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: Women's +75 kg**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London			
WCh '13	Wroclaw	Tat. Kashirina (RUS)	Lulu Zhou (CHN)	Chitchanok Pulsabsakul (THA)
WCh '14	Almaty	Tat. Kashirina (RUS)	Suping Meng (CHN)	Chitchanok Pulsabsakul (THA)
WCh '15	Houston	Tat. Kashirina (RUS)	Suping Meng (CHN)	Kuk-hyang Kim (PRK)

China's **Suping Meng**, winning of the World Championships silver medal in 2014 and 2015, is the

favorite, having lifted a combined 325 kg (717 lbs.) last year, by far the most in this field.

World bronze medalist **Kuk-hyang Kim** (PRK) is also back, with a 2015 best of 298 kg (657 lbs.), third-best in the world last year. Behind her are **Sarah Robles** of the United States (279 kg/615 lbs.) in 2015), **Shaimaa Haridy** of Egypt (278 kg/613 lbs.) and **Young-hee Song** of Korea (273 kg/602 lbs.), all looking for a potential bronze medal. Robles was sixth, Son seventh and Haridy 10th at the Worlds in 2015. If Robles wins a medal, it will be the first for the U.S. since 2000.

• **Wrestling: Men's Greco-Roman 59 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Hamid Soryan (IRI)	Rov. Bayramov (AZE)	Peter Modos (HUN)-Mingiyan Semenov(RUS)
WCh '13 Budapest	Ivo Angelov (BUL)	Ivan Kuylakov (RUS)	Seung-jae Woo (KOR)-E. Tasmuradov (UZB)
WCh '14 Tashkent	Hamid Soryan (IRI)	Ming. Semenov (RUS)	Stig Andre Berge (NOR)-E. Tasmuradov(UZB)
WCh '15 Las Vegas	Ismail Borrero (CUB)	Rov. Bayramov (AZE)	Won-chol Yun (PRK)-Almat Kebispayev(KAZ)

New weight classes were adopted in 2014 for wrestling, with the former 60 kg class shifted down to 59 kg. No matter for **Hamid Soryan** (now 30) of Iran, the 2012 Olympic champion in this class, who won World Championships in 2005-06-07-09-10-14. He returns after winning a last-chance qualification tournament to get into the Games; he was beaten by 2013 World Champion **Ivo Angelov** (BUL) in the continental qualification tourney.

In addition, the other major medalists from the past quadrennial are in attendance: 2015 World Champion **Ismail Borrero** of Cuba, **Rovshan Bayramov** of Azerbaijan, **Stig-Andre Berge** of Norway, **Won-Chol Yun** (PRK), **Almat Kebispayev** (KAZ) and Uzbekistan's two-time Worlds bronze medalist **Elmurat Tasmuradov**.

• **Wrestling: Men's Greco-Roman 75 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Roman Vlasov (RUS)	Arsen Julfalakyan(ARM)	Alek. Kazakevic (LTU)-Emin Ahmadov (AZE)
WCh '13 Budapest	Hyeon-woo Kim (KOR)	Roman Vlasov (RUS)	Arsen Julfalakyan (ARM)-Emrah Kus (TUR)
WCh '14 Tashkent	Arsen Julfalakyan(ARM)	Neven Zugaj (CRO)	Andy Bisek (USA)-Elvin Mursaliyev (AZE)
WCh '15 Las Vegas	Roman Vlasov (RUS)	Mark Madsen (DEN)	Andy Bisek (USA)-Doszhan Kartikov (KAZ)

This class was at 74 kg, but has now been revised to 75 kg since the beginning of 2014. **Roman Vlasov** of Russia is the defending gold medalist and won the 2015 World Championship in this class. He will be challenged in his first match (round of 16) by **Hyeon-woo Kim** of Korea, who defeated him for the 2013 world title, 2-1.

Worlds medal winners **Elvin Mursaliyev** (AZE), **Mark Madsen** (DEN), **Doszhan Kartikov** (KAZ) and two-time bronze medalist **Andy Bisek** (USA). Worth watching out for: 80 kg World Champion from 201, **Selcuk Cebi** of Turkey, moving down in weight to compete in this division.



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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 (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</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	1/2 better at Games	50.0
100 m Freestyle	1/2	50.0	1/2	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	2/2	100.0	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
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>	14/26	53.8	16/26	61.5

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