

August 15, 2016



Wayde van Wonderful

(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Kirby Lee)



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On the Cover

South Africa's Wayde van Niekerk after his sensational world-record performance in winning the men's 400 m dash in Rio. He ran 43.03 to defeat the last two Olympic gold medalists in the event: Kirani James (GRN) and LaShawn Merritt (USA) (Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Kirby Lee).



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Lane One: Fine Whine, Olympic-style

If you follow the Olympic Movement in detail, one of the recurring themes – almost to the exclusion of all others – is how devoted everyone is to “the athletes.”

“The athletes” need the best possible competition venues, technology, housing, food, transport, uniforms and so on. Nothing is as important as “the athletes” and you hear very little about anyone else in the organizing period prior to most Games.

Maybe a few mentions here and there about officials or media or the needs of the International Olympic Committee members or staff. And certainly nothing about spectators.

So why should anyone be upset when spectators don’t show – as they have not at multiple sites in Rio – for the competitions?

The whining from Olympic executives, and especially those from the international sports federations, has reached a fever pitch in Rio as wide swaths of empty seats have been seen on television worldwide. An “inconvenient truth” perhaps?

It’s especially hard to take when many of those same sports have plenty of empty seats in their own world championships in the years between the Games. Why should it be different now?

There are major differences between the Rio Games and the sold-out Games in London in 2012, as much as Britain and Brazil are on different sides of the world.

No doubt that the deep recession in Brazil has impacted this; a long-time friend who lives in Sao Paulo noted that prior to the Games, most

Brazilians thought the effort was a waste of precious resources that could go elsewhere. But as the Games began, interest picked up.

And for gymnastics, swimming and athletics, the crowds were/are good and rising. Maybe with more attention to the interests of spectators – do we really need beach volleyball past midnight? – that can continue and expand.

The athletes are important. But you may be sure that spectators are very much now on the minds of the Tokyo 2020 organizers.

Rich Perelman
Editor

What is The Sports Examiner?

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

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

After the Games are completed, we’ll begin the continuous coverage of international sport because even though the program in Rio will be completed, sport does not stop. Tell your friends to join us for free by entering their e-mail address in the subscription form at www.Perelman-Pioneer.com!

Rio 2016: U.S. firing on all cylinders

There is something to being in (or near) your own time zone. The United States team, in a Western Hemisphere Games for the first time in 20 years, continues to put on a spectacular performance across nearly every sport in which it is participating.

The U.S. extended its overall lead after nine days, with 718.1 points in all, ahead of China (503.5). The Americans started out well, scoring 62-66-70.5-69-55-78 across the first six days of finals competitions, then exploded to 112.3-100-93.3 points the last three days. Great Britain continues in third, at 445 points, ahead of Russia at 335.

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 9, with 161 of 306 events scored, the leaders:

1.	718.1	USA	18.	81	Ukraine	35.	37	Mexico
2.	503.5	China	19.	80	Kazakhstan	36.	36.5	Chinese Taipei
3.	445	Great Britain	20.	71	Denmark	37.	35.5	Croatia
4.	335	Russia	21.	69	Belarus	38.	35	Jamaica
5.	306	Australia	22.	68.5	Sweden	39.	34	Slovakia
6.	281	Japan	23.	66	Poland	40.	32	Slovenia
7.	276	Italy	24.	64	Colombia		32	Uzbekistan
8.	273	Germany	25.	62	Czech Rep.	42.	31.5	Iran
9.	264	France	26.	61	Switzerland	43.	30	Greece
10.	161	Canada	27.	58	DPR Korea	44.	27	Georgia
11.	145	Korea	28.	48.5	Belgium	45.	26.5	Azerbaijan
12.	136.5	Netherlands	29.	48	Thailand	46.	25	Indonesia
13.	119	New Zealand	30.	44	Cuba	47.	23	Lithuania
14.	114.8	Hungary	31.	40.5	Romania	48.	22	Israel
15.	112	Brazil	32.	39.5	Egypt		22	Vietnam
16.	99.8	Spain		39.5	Kenya	50.	21.5	Austria
17.	85.8	South Africa	34.	39	Ethiopia	51.	21	Estonia

Day 9-only scoring leaders:

1.	93.3	USA	8.	23	Japan	17	Switzerland	
2.	80.5	Great Britain	9.	22	Brazil	16.	16.5	Korea
3.	72.5	Russia	10.	19.8	Spain	17.	16	Australia
4.	51	China	11.	18	Colombia	18.	15.5	Cuba
5.	43.5	France	12.	17.5	Uzbekistan	19.	15	Netherlands
6.	32	Italy	13.	17	Czech Rep.	20.	14	Canada
7.	27	Germany		17	Jamaica		14	South Africa

	14	Venezuela	34.	6.5	Norway	46.	3.5	Croatia
23.	12.5	Kenya	35.	6	Israel		3.5	Kyrgyzstan
24.	12	Bahrain		6	Ukraine		3.5	Romania
25.	11	Ethiopia	37.	5.5	Azerbaijan	49.	3	Cote d'Ivoire
	11	DPR Korea		5.5	Iran		3	Portugal
27.	10.5	Kazakhstan	39.	5	Belgium		3	Thailand
28.	10	Grenada		5	Egypt	52.	2.5	Ecuador
	10	India		5	Greece		2.5	Chinese Taipei
30.	9.5	Hungary		5	Poland	54.	1	Hong Kong
31.	8.3	Argentina		5	Trinidad		1	Serbia
32.	8	Denmark	44.	4	Belarus			
	8	Sweden		4	Botswana			

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 55 National Olympic Committees – the most yet – scored on Day 9. We’ll update the scores daily for the leading countries, and have a full tally at the end of the Games.



You Don’t Step on Superman’s Cape:

Jamaica’s Usain Bolt after Sunday night’s 100 m victory in Rio.

Bolt ran 9.81 to finish ahead of Justin Gatlin (USA) and Andre DeGrasse (CAN) to become the first man to win three consecutive Olympic 100 m golds.

(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/James Lang)

Rio 2016: Capsule Previews of August 15 Finals

Olympic finals tracker:

Days completed: 9 of 16 / Events completed: 161 / Events Remaining: 145

Today: 17 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 14	M 100 m	Bolt (JAM)	Gatlin (USA)	DeGrasse (CAN)
Aug 14	M 400 m	van Niekerk (RSA)	James (GRN)	Merritt (USA)
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)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 13	M Long Jump	Henderson (USA)	Manyonga (RSA)	Rutherford (GBR)
Aug 13	M Discus	R. Harting (GER)	Malachowski (POL)	Jasinki (GER)
Aug 13	W 100 m	Thompson (JAM)	Bowie (USA)	Fraser-Pryce (JAM)
Aug 12	W 10,000 m	Ayana (ETH)	Cheruiyot (KEN)	G. Dibaba (ETH)
Aug 14	W Marathon	Sumgong (KEN)	Kirwa (BRN)	M. Dibaba (ETH)
Aug 14	W Triple Jump	Ibarguen (COL)	Rojas (VEN)	Rypakova (KAZ)
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! Two days later, South Africa's Wayde van Niekerk – running out of lane 8! – shattered Michael Johnson's 1999 world record in the 400 m (43.18) with an almost-beyond-comprehension time of 43.03. And Johnson, commentating for the BBC, was there to call it.

Did we forget to mention Usain Bolt's history-making third 100 m title in a row? Oh well, no world record there ...

• **Athletics/ Men's 800 m**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	David Rudisha (KEN)	Nijel Amos (BOT)	Timothy Kitum (KEN)
WCh '13 Moscow	Mohamed Aman (ETH)	Nick Symmonds (USA)	Ayanleh Souleman (DJI)
WCh '15 Beijing	David Rudisha (KEN)	Adam Kszczot (POL)	Amel Tuka (BIH)

When Kenya's **David Rudisha** is in the race, fans remember his world-record run to the gold medal in London in 2012. He's looked sharp in the heats and is the world leader at 1:43.35. He's the favorite.

Behind him is a stampede of quality runners untested at this level: **Alfred Kipketer** of Kenya (1:43.73 this year), **Pierre-Ambrose Bosse** (FRA, 1:43.85 this year), Algeria's **Taoufik Makhloufi** (1:43.85 this year) and the two Americans, **Boris Berian** (1:44.20) and **Clayton Murphy** (1:44.30 in the semis). Someone will get the other two medals, who knows who it will be; the key will be to read what Rudisha wants to do with the race and react from there.

• **Athletics/Men's Pole Vault**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Renaud Lavillenie (FRA)	Bjorn Otto (GER)	Raphael Holzdeppe (GER)

WCh '13	Moscow	R. Holzdeppe (GER)	Renaud Lavillenie (FRA)	Bjorn Otto (GER)
WCh '15	Beijing	Shawn Barber (CAN)	R. Holzdeppe (GER)	R. Lavillenie (FRA)-P. Lisek (POL)-P. Wojciechowski (POL)

France's **Renaud Lavillenie** has been the standard-bearer for this event since 2012 and holds the world record at 20-2 1/2 indoors, set in 2014. But he doesn't always win. So that leaves the door open for others, potentially U.S.-trained **Shawn Barber** of Canada (19-4 3/4 outdoors this year) and American **Sam Kendricks** (19-5 outdoors in '16).

Brazilians will be screaming for **Thiago Braz da Silva**, who has cleared 19-4 1/4 this year and is in the medals mix. So is Greece's **Konstadinos Filippidis**, who has only cleared 18-8 1/4 outdoors this year, but 19-2 indoors. With this event – especially if it's windy – you never know.

• **Athletics/Women's 400 m**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	S. Richards-Ross (GBR)	C. Ohuruogu (GBR)	DeeDee Trotter (USA)
WCh '13 Moscow	C. Ohuruogu (GBR)	Amantle Montsho (BOT)	Antonina Krivoschapka (RUS)
WCh '15 Beijing	Allyson Felix (USA)	Shaunae Miller (BAH)	Shericka Jackson (JAM)

If **Allyson Felix** is healthy, she will win. Her semifinal win in a seasonal best of 49.67, 0.24 ahead of closest rival **Shaunae Miller** of the Bahamas, the world leader at 49.55, was impressive.

The fight for bronze is a dual meet between the U.S. (**Phyllis Francis** and **Natasha Hastings**) and Jamaica (**Stephenie McPherson** and **Shericka Jackson**). Jackson had a lifetime best of 49.83 to win semi two ~ does she have more in the tank?

• **Athletics/Women's 3000 m Steeplechase**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Yuliya Zaripova (RUS)	Habiba Chribi (TUN)	Sofia Assefa (ETH)
WCh '13 Moscow	Milcah Chemos (KEN)	Lydia Chepkurui (KEN)	Sofia Assefa (ETH)
WCh '15 Beijing	Hyvin Jepkemoi (KEN)	Habiba Ghribi (TUN)	Gesa Felicitas Krause (GER)

This race was already run once this year, at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene in June. **Ruth Jibet** of Bahrain ran hard from the start and forged a big lead, only to almost lose it at the end to Kenya's **Hyvin Jepkemoi**, 8:59.97 to 9:00.01. **Emma Coburn** of the U.S. was third with an American Record of 9:10.76.

Could be a re-run, although Jibet's pacing will undoubtedly be smarter this time. Although Ethiopia's **Sofia Assefa** was fifth in the Eugene race, she knows how to get on the podium. Same for **Habiba Chribi** of Tunisia, the 2012 and 2015 silver medalist.

• **Athletics/Women's Hammer**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Taty. Lysenko (RUS)	Anita Wlodarczyk (POL)	Betty Heidler (GER)
WCh '13	Moscow	Taty. Lysenko (RUS)	Anita Wlodarczyk (POL)	Wenxiu Zhang (CHN)
WCh '15	Beijing	Anita Wlodarczyk (POL)	Wenxiu Zhang (CHN)	Alexandra Tavernier (FRA)

Poland's **Anita Wlodarczyk** is the world leader, world record holder (266-0 in 2015) and is an enormous favorite, especially since she is no stranger to world-class competitions.

The fight for the other medals should be between two Chinese – **Wenxiu Zhang** (247-11 this year) and **Zheng Wang** (244-4 in '16) – and Germany's former world-record holder **Betty Heidler**. Wild cards? **Zalina Marghieva** of Moldova (243-5 this year) and **Amber Campbell** of the U.S. (242-10 in 2016).

• **Boxing/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 14	Men's 49 kg	Dusmatov (UZB)	Martinez (COL)	Hernandez (USA) Argilagos (CUB)

The first boxing title goes to 23-year-old Hasanboy Dusmatov of Uzbekistan, who decisioned Yurberjen Martinez of Colombia, 3-0, in the final.

• **Boxing/Men's Heavyweight (91 kg)**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Oleksandr Usyk (UKR)	Clemente Russo (ITA)	Tervel Pulev (BUL)-Tey. Mammadov (AZE)
WCh '13	Almaty	Clemente Russo (ITA)	Evg. Tishchenko (RUS)	Yamil Peralta (Arg)-Tey. Mammadov (AZE)
WCh '15	Doha	Evg. Tishchenko (RUS)	Erislandy Savon (CUB)	Abdul. Abdullayev (AZE)-G. Manukian (UKR)

Evgeny Tishchenko (RUS) vs. Vassiliy Levit (KAZ)

No surprise to see the 25-year-old Tishchenko here: he has dominated this division in the last three years, winning the 2015 World Championship after a silver in 2013. But he figures to have his hands full with Levit (28), considered fast for a heavyweight.

Neither has lost a round in Rio in the three fights needed to get to the final. Tishchenko has posted 3-0 wins against all three, while Levit registered a technical knock-out in the first round and then whitewashed 2012 Olympic silver winner Clemente Russo of Italy and Uzbek Rustam Tulaganov in the semis. Levit impressively shut out Cuba's Erislandy Savon in the semis, so let's make him the favorite to take over this division.

• **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 15, with the first final on the 16th.

• **Cycling/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 14	M Sprint	Kenny (GBR)	Skinner (GBR)	Dmitriev (RUS)
Aug 11	M Team Sprint	Great Britain	New Zealand	France
Aug 12	M Team Pursuit	Australia	Germany	Denmark
Aug 13	W Keirin	Ligtlee (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 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)

Great Britain has owned the velodrome so far, with five medals in six total events contested thus far, including three wins and a world record in the women's Team Pursuit. Wow!

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 Omnium-Points Race**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Lasse N. Hansen (DEN)	Bryan Coquard (FRA)	Ed Clancy (GBR)
WCh '13 Minsk	Aaron Gate (NZL)	Lasse N. Hansen (DEN)	Glenn O'Shea (AUS)
WCh '14 Cali	Thomas Boudat (FRA)	Tim Veldt (NED)	Viktor Manakov (RUS)
WCh '15 St. Quentin	Fernando Gaviria (COL)	Glenn O'Shea (AUS)	Elia Vivani (ITA)
WCh '16 London	Fernando Gaviria (COL)	Roger Kluge (GER)	Glenn O'Shea (AUS)

Cycling's version of the decathlon is the Omnium, a six-race package that tests riders over two days with a Scratch Race, Individual Pursuit and Elimination Race on day one and a Time Trial, Flying Lap and Points Race on day two. It was introduced to the Olympic program in 2012.

The 2016 World Champs in this event, held in February, was unbelievably close, with the top three placers – **Fernando Gaviria**, **Roger Kluge** and **Glenn O'Shea** – all with 191 points, with **Elia Vivani** at 189 and **Lasse Norman Hansen** at 181. It figures to be just as close in Rio.

• **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 14	W 3 m Springboard	Shi (CHN)	He (CHN)	Cagnotto (ITA)
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.

• ***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!

• ***Equestrian/Dressage Individual Grand Prix Freestyle***

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Char. Dujardin (GBR)	Adeline Cornelisson (NED)	Laura Bechtolsheimer (GBR)
WEqG '14 Normandy	Char. Dujardin (GBR)	H.Langehanenberg (GER)	Adeline Cornelisson (NED)

Of the 60 riders who started the Grand Prix, the final 18 qualified out of the Grand Prix Special round to compete in the Grand Prix Freestyle round. Not surprisingly, Germany – which won the Dressage Team competition – has dominated the competition so far.

The 1996 Olympic champion, **Isabell Werth** of Germany (in her fifth Olympics), led all qualifiers, at 83.711%. She was trailed closely by 2012 Olympic gold medalist **Charlotte Dujardin** (GBR, 82.983%), **Dorothee Schneider** (GER, 82.619%) and **Kristina Broring-Sprehe** (GER, 81.401%). **Laura Graves** of the U.S. (80.644%) was the only other competitor over the 80% mark.

One disappointment was that 2012 Olympic silver winner Adeline Cornelisson of the Netherlands had to retire from the competition in the Grand Prix phase due to sickness of her horse, Parzival.

• ***Fencing/Summary***

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 9	M Epee	Park (KOR)	Imre (HUN)	Grumier (FRA)
Aug 14	M Epee Team	France	Italy	Hungary
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)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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 – won fencing medals in Rio, but the Russians showed strongest, with two individual wins on the women’s side and two team golds, and three additional medals. Hungary and the United States both won four medals.

• **Golf/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 14	Men	Rose (GBR)	Stenson (SWE)	Kuchar (USA)

Britain’s Justin Rose was steady throughout the rounds with scores of 67-69-65-67 on the par-71 course to win at 268, just two strokes ahead of Sweden’s Henrik Stenson, who shot a final-round 68. Bronze medalist Matt Kuchar (USA) ran off a brilliant 63 on the last day to claim the bronze medal.

• **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 14	Artistic/M Floor Exercise	Whitlock (GBR)	Hypolito (BRA)	Mariano (BRA)
Aug 14	Artistic/M Pommel Horse	Whitlock (GBR)	Smith (GBR)	Naddour (USA)
Aug 9	Artistic/W Team	United States	Russia	China
Aug 11	Artistic/W All-Around	Biles (USA)	Raisman (USA)	Mustafina (RUS)
Aug 14	Artistic/W Uneven Bars	Mustafina (RUS)	Kocian (USA)	Scheder (GER)
Aug 14	Artistic/W Vault	Biles (USA)	Paseka (RUS)	Steingruber (SUI)
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. Our correspondent Jan Fambro notes that by winning the vault, Biles became the first American female gymnast to win three golds in a single Games. She will also need a bigger trophy case: she now has more Olympic/World Champs medals than any female gymnast in U.S. history, with 17.

• **Gymnastics~Artistic/Men's Rings**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Arthur Zanetti (BRA)	Yibing Chen (CHN)	Matteo Morandi (ITA)
WCh '13	Antwerp	Arthur Zanetti (BRA)	Alek. Balandin (RUS)	Brandon Wynn (USA)
WCh '14	Nanning	Yang Liu (CHN)	Arthur Zanetti (BRA)	Hao You (CHN)-Denis Ablyazin (RUS)
WCh '15	Glasgow	Elef. Petrounias (GRE)	Hao You (CHN)	Yang Liu (CHN)

Lots of cheers coming from the home crowd for Brazil's **Arthur Zanetti**, the London gold medalist and 2013 World Champion on Rings. But all of the medal winners from the past two World Championships are back, with **Yang Liu** and **Hao You** of China figuring on battling Greece's **Eleftherios Petrounias** for gold. Qualifying scores:

15.900	Yang Liu (CHN)	15.533	Arthur Zanetti (BRA)
15.833	Eleftherios Petrounias (GRE)	15.533	Samir Abt Said (FRA)
15.800	Hao You (CHN)	15.366	Dennis Goossens (BEL)
15.633	Denis Ablyazin (RUS)	15.333	Yuri van Gelder (NED)

• **Gymnastics~Artistic/Men's Vault**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Hank-seon Yang (KOR)	Denis Ablyazin (RUS)	Ihor Radivilov (UKR)
WCh '13	Antwerp	Yang Hak-Seon (KOR)	Steve Legendre (USA)	Kristian Thomas (GBR)
WCh '14	Nanning	Se-gwang Ri (PRK)	Ihor Radivilov (UKR)	Jacob Dalton (USA)
WCh '15	Glasgow	Se-gwang Ri (PRK)	Mar. Dragulescu (ROU)	Donnell Whittenberg (USA)

North Korea's **Se-gwang Ri** isn't going to give up his status as reigning World Champion without a fight. He led the qualifying, but only by a small margin over **Denis Ablyazin** of Russia, the 2012 silver medalist. Qualifying scores:

15.433	Se-gwang Ri (PRK)	15.283	Marian Dragulescu (ROU)
15.416	Denis Ablyazin (RUS)	15.283	Nikita Nagornyy (RUS)
15.283	Kenzo Shirai (JPN)	15.183	Oleg Verniaev (UKR)
15.283	Igor Radivilov (UKR)	15.149	Tomas Gonzalez (CHI)

• **Gymnastics~Artistic/Women's Balance Beam**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Linlin Deng (CHN)	Lu Sui (CHN)	Aly Raisman (USA)
WCh '13	Antwerp	Aliya Mustafina (RUS)	Kyla Ross (USA)	Simone Biles (USA)
WCh '14	Nanning	Simone Biles (USA)	Yawen Bai (CHN)	Aliya Mustafina (RUS)
WCh '15	Glasgow	Simone Biles (USA)	Sanne Wevers (NED)	Pauline Schafer (GER)

Simone Biles of the U.S. is going to have to get an extra seat on her flight back home just hold all the hardware she is collecting in Rio. She's the favorite here, having led the qualifying and thanks to her status as two-time World Champion. But the ebullient **Laurie Hernandez** will give her a challenge and the home fans will be screaming for success for Brazil's **Flavia Saraiva**. Qualifying scores:

15.633	Simone Biles (USA)	14.900	Catalina Ponor (ROU)
15.366	Laurie Hernandez (USA)	14.866	Yilin Fan (CHN)
15.133	Flavia Saraiva (BRA)	14.600	Marine Boyer (FRA)
15.066	Sanne Wevers (NED)	14.533	Isabela Onyshko (JPN)

• **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)
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)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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
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

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 14	M RS:X	van Rijsselberghe (NED)	Dempsey (GBR)	La Coq (FRA)
Aug 14	W RS:X	Picon (FRA)	Chen (CHN)	Elfutina (RUS)

Dorian van Rijsselberghe of the Netherlands had no trouble winning the men's RS:X division, scoring just 25 points over 12 races, against 52 for silver medalist Nick Dempsey of Great Britain. The women's RS:X division came down to the medal race, with France's Charline Picon of France finishing fourth to move up from a tie for third to the top spot.

• **Sailing/Men's Laser**

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze	
OG '12	London	Tom Slingsby (AUS)	Pavlos Kontides (CYP)	Rasmus Myrgren (SWE)
WCh '13	Al-Mussanah	Robert Scheidt (BRA)	Pavlos Kontides (CYP)	Philipp Buhl (GER)
WCh '14	Santander	Nicholas Heiner (NED)	Tom Burton (AUS)	Nick Thompson (GBR)
WCh '15	Kingston	Nick Thompson (GBR)	Philipp Buhl (GER)	Tom Burton (AUS)

WCh '16 Nuevo Vallarta Nick Thompson (GBR) Jean-B Bernaz (FRA) Rutiger van Schaardenburg (NED)

Going into the final race (where points are doubled), the 46 sailors in the Laser class are still led by the winner of the first race, unheralded **Tonci Stipovanic** of Croatia. His 57 points are ten ahead of Australia's **Tom Burton** and 20 in front of New Zealand's **Sam Meech**.

The familiar names to sailing fans – **Jean Baptiste Bernaz** (FRA, 86), **Robert** Scheidt of Brail (87) and **Nick Thompson** of Great Britain (87) – are next in places 4-6 and could make a charge to the medals with some help from the leaders. But Stipovanic has held the lead by sailing eight of his nine races that counted (one of the 10 prelim race results gets thrown out) in the top ten, keeping him at the top of the chart. If he can do that one more time, his chances of a medal are excellent, and maybe a gold.

• **Sailing: Women's Laser Radial**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Lijia Xu (CHN)	M. Bouwmeester (NED)	Evi van Acker (BEL)
WCh '13 Rizhao	Tina Mihelic (CRO)	Tuula Tenkanen (FIN)	Paige Railey (USA)
WCh '14 Santander	M. Bouwmeester (NED)	Josefin Olsen (SWE)	Evi van Acker (BEL)
WCh '15 Al-Mussanah	Anne-M. Rindom (DEN)	M. Bouwmeester (NED)	Evi van Acker (BEL)

A crowded field of 37 sailors has made it through the ten preliminary races and ready for the medal race today. The leader, as usual, is **Marit Bouwmeester** of the Netherlands, leading with 47 points, a scant eight ahead of long-time rival **Anne-Marie Rindom** of Denmark (55) and Ireland's **Annalise Murphy** (57). All three have won once during the first 10 races.

With such a large field, nothing can be taken for granted, as medal-race points (athlete's placement in this race) are doubled. So, Belgium's **Evi van Acker** and Finland's **Tuula Tenkanen** are absolutely in contention, sitting in fourth and fifth at 66.0 and 68.6 points, respectively. With no one having won more than one race, a wild finish could throw the final standings into confusion. Good thing the arithmetic is handled by computers now!

• **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)	Kulich (UKR)	Maslennikov (RUS)
Aug 12	M 50 m Rifle/Prone	Junghaenel (GER)	Kim (KOR)	Grigoryan (RUS)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 14	M 50 m Rifle/3 Pos.	Campriani (ITA)	Kamenskiy (RUS)	Raynaud (FRA)
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.

• **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)	



August 15, 2016

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 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)
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 the 4x100 m Medley Relay. 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 Sjöström (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.

• **Swimming/Women's 10 km Open Water**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Eva Risztov (HUN)	Haley Anderson (USA)	Martina Grimaldi (ITA)
WCh '13	Barcelona	Poliana Okimoto (BRA)	Ana Mar. Cunha (BRA)	Angela Maurer (GER)
WCh '15	Kazan	Aurelie Muller (FRA)	S v.Rouwendaal (NED)	Ana Marcela Cunha (BRA)

A total of 26 swimmers are expected at Fort Copacabana about 5 a.m. to head into the water for the 10 km open-water event that will last more than two hours.

The medal winners from the quadrennial's major events will be present in force. Defending Olympic gold medalist **Eva Risztov** of Hungary, World Champions **Poliana Okimoto** of Brazil and **Aurelie Muller** of France; silver medalists **Haley Anderson** of the U.S., **Ana Marcela Cunha** of Brazil, **Sharon van Rouwendaal** of the Netherlands and bronze winner **Angela Maurer** of Germany.

Worth watching: Italy's **Rachele Bruni** won the last major World Cup race – beating most of the favorites – at Balatonfüred, Hungary in mid-June, over Anderson and **Isabelle Harle** of Germany. Moreover, Bruni and Maurer dead-heated for the gold medal in the European Open Water Champs 10 km in June in Hoorn, the Netherlands. She might be the hottest swimmer in the field.

• **Table Tennis/Summary**

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 14	Men's Singles	Murray Del Potro		Nishikori (JPN)

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)
Aug 14	Women's Doubles	Russia	Switzerland	Czech Rep.
Aug 14	Mixed Doubles	United States	United States	Czech Rep.

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

- 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)
Aug 14	W +75 kg	Meng (CHN)	Kim (KOR)	Robles (USA)

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 105 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Oleksiy Torokhtiy (UKR)	Navab Nassirshalal (IRI)	Bartłomiej Bonk (POL)
WCh '13 Wrocław	Rus. Nurudinov (UZB)	D. Bedzhanyan (RUS)	Bartłomiej Bonk (POL)
WCh '14 Almaty	Ilya Ilyin (KAZ)	Rus. Nurudinov (UZB)	David Bedzhanyan (RUS)
WCh '15 Houston	Alek. Zaichikov (KAZ)	D. Bedzhanyan (RUS)	Arturs Plesnieks (LAT)

Four former World Championships medalists will be vying for three places on the podium in this class: **Alekandr Zaichikov** (KAZ), the reigning World Champion; **Ruslan Nurudinov** (UZB), the 2013 World Champion, Latvia's **Artur Plesnieks**, the 2015 bronze medalist and Poland's **Bartłomiej Bonk**, the Olympic bronze medalist in 2012.

It's a close race, as shown by the leading marks of the top contenders from last year:

- Alekandr Zaichikov (KAZ) 421 kg (928 lbs.)
- Bartłomiej Bonk (POL) 408 kg (899 lbs.)
- Arturs Plesnieks (LAT) 405 kg (893 lbs.)
- Simon Martirosyan (ARM) 402 kg (886 lbs.)
- Zhe Yang (CHN) 402 kg (886 lbs.)
- Ivan Efrimov (UZB) 396 kg (873 lbs.)

In 2014, **Ruslan Nurudinov** (UZB) lifted a combined 411 kg (906 lbs.), but didn't make the world top 20 last year. Yang also lifted better in 2014 (411 kg/906 lbs.) than in 2015. Want a wild card? How about 19 year-old **Simon Martirosyan** of Armenia, who was third in this year's European Championships at 402 kg (886 lbs.)?

• **Wrestling/Summary**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 14	Greco-Roman/M 59 kg	Borrero (CUB)	Ota (JPN)	Tasmuradov (UZB) Berge (NOR)
Aug 14	Greco-Roman/M 75 kg	Vlasov (RUS)	Madsen (DEN)	Kim (KOR) Abdavi (IRI)

A copy of the 2015 World Championships on the first day of Greco-Roman wrestling as the reigning World Champions added Olympic gold medals to their trophy cases.

• **Wrestling: Men's Greco-Roman 85 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Alan Kjugayev (RUS)	Karam Gaber (EGY)	D. Gadzhiev (KAZ)-D. Janilkowski (POL)
WCh '13 Budapest	Taleb Nematpour (IRI)	Sam. Tahmasebi (AZE)	Javid Hamzatau (BLR)-Viktor Lorincz (HUN)
WCh '14 Tashkent	Melo. Noumonvi (FRA)	Sam. Tahmasebi (AZE)	Zhan Beleniuk (UKR)-Viktor Lorincz (HUN)
WCh '15 Las Vegas	Zhan Beleniuk (UKR)	Rus. Assakalov (UZB)	Habi. Akhlaghi (IRI)-Sam. Tahmasebi (AZE)

New weight classes were adopted in 2014 for wrestling, with the former 84 kg class shifted up to 85 kg. World Champion **Zhan Beleniuk** enters Rio as the favorite, having defeated most of the opponents he will see there. He got by **Saman Tahmasebi** in the semifinals last year, keeping the Azerbaijani from making his third straight World Championships final. Rio will be the third Olympics for Tahmasebi; he was 11th in this class in 2008 and 2012.

Two-time Worlds bronze medalist **Viktor Lorincz** (HUN), World silver winner **Rustam Assakalov** (UZB) and Russia's **Davit Chakvetadze** are all counted as challengers. Chakvetadze defeated Beleniuk for the 2015 European Games title in Baku, but was only 10th at the World Championships.

• **Wrestling: Men's Greco-Roman 130 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Mijain Lopez (CUB)	Heiki Nabi (EST)	Riza Kayaalp (TUR)-Johan Euren (SWE)
WCh '13 Budapest	Heiki Nabi (EST)	Riza Kayaalp (TUR)	Johan Euren (SWE)-Nurm. Tinaliyev (KAZ)
WCh '14 Tashkent	Mijain Lopez (CUB)	Riza Kayaalp (TUR)	Heiki Nabi (EST)-Bilyal Makhov (RUS)
WCh '15 Las Vegas	Riza Kayaalp (TUR)	Mijain Lopez (CUB)	Bilyal Makhov (RUS)-Olek. Chernetskyi(UKR)

This class was at 120 kg, but has now been revised to 130 kg since the beginning of 2014. It's been an amazingly stable division, with the same handful of wrestlers owning the medals for the past four years:

- **Mijain Lopez (CUB):** 2008 & 2012 Olympic gold medalist; 2014 World Champion
- **Riza Kayaalp (TUR):** 2015 World Champion, 2013-14 Worlds silver medalist
- **Heiki Nabi (EST):** 2013 World Champion, 2012 Olympic silver medalist
- **Johan Euren (SWE):** 2012 Olympic bronze and 2013 Worlds bronze
- **Oleksandr Chernetskyi (UKR):** 2015 Worlds bronze medalist

These five will battle again, possibly challenged by Russia's former World Junior Champion **Sergey Semenov**, taking over for 2014-15 bronze winner Bilyal Makhov, who is wrestling in the freestyle division in Rio.

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 (coming soon), comparing the Trials finals marks vs. the last round achieved in the Games. The swimmers were amazing (final totals):

Trials vs. Games – Swimming

<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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