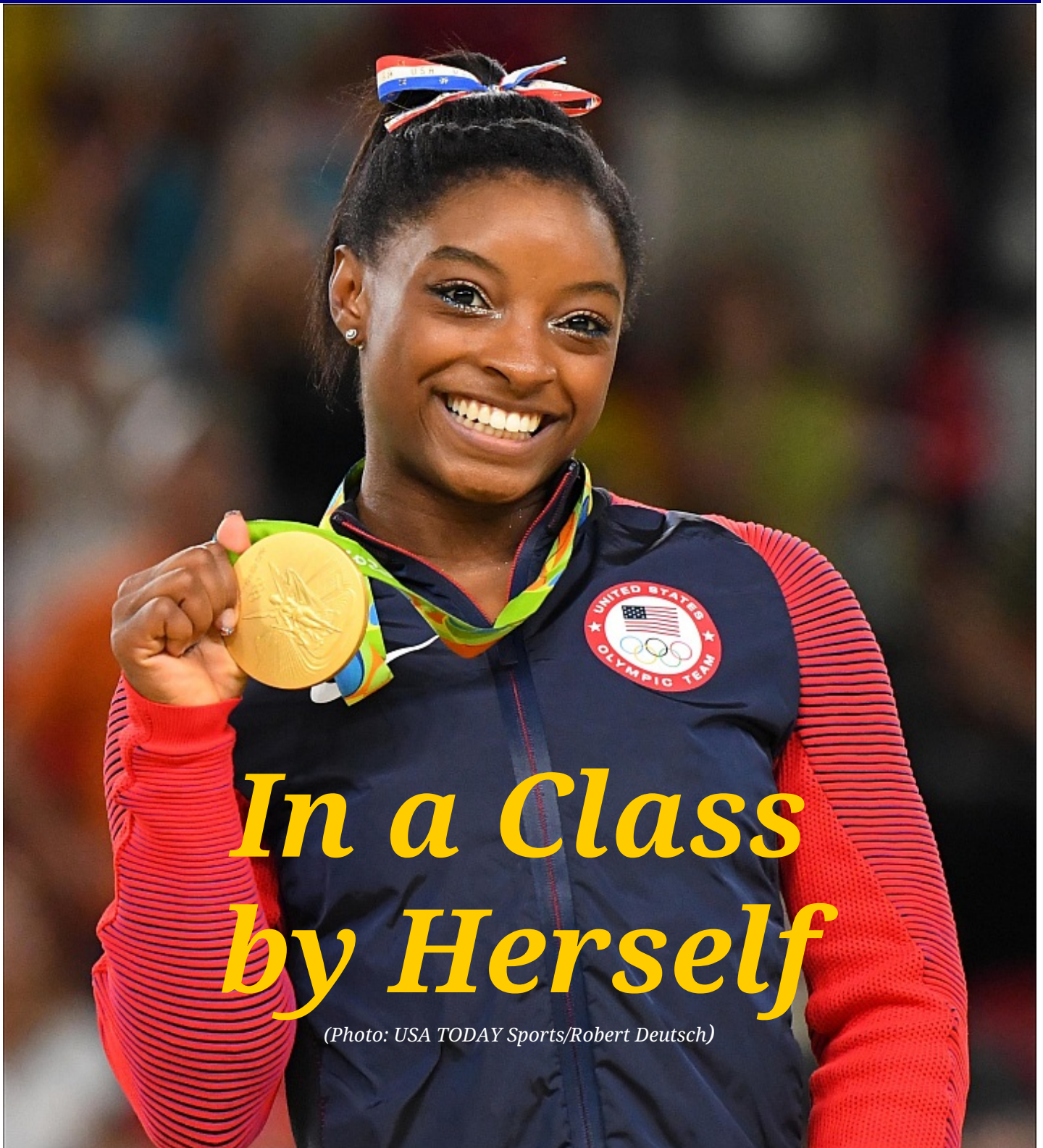


August 17, 2016



In a Class by Herself

(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Robert Deutsch)

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On the Cover

Simone Biles of the U.S. smiles after receiving her gold medal for the Floor Exercise. Biles led the U.S. to the team title, won the All-Around and picked up apparatus golds in the Floor and Vault ... and a bronze in the Balance Beam!
(Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Robert Deutsch)



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Rio 2016: Here Come the British!

With 27 events decided on Tuesday, there were lots of points to go around and a lot of countries made the most of it.

The United States again led the daily scoring at 101.5, but with Great Britain – having an excellent Games – at 75, followed by China at 65.

The U.S. extended its overall lead after 11 days, with 883.6 points in all, ahead of China (600.5). The Americans started out well, scoring 62-66-70.5-69-55-78 across the first six days of finals, then exploded to 112.3-100-93.3-64 points, and 101.5 yesterday.

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 11, with 203 of 306 events scored, the leaders:

1.	883.6	USA	13.	152	New Zealand	79.5	Czech Rep.	
2.	600.5	China	14.	151	Korea	26.	78.5	Kenya
3.	548	Great Britain	15.	137	Ukraine	27.	77	Colombia
4.	416.5	Russia	16.	128.8	Spain	28.	70.5	DPR Korea
5.	377	Germany	17.	128.3	Hungary	29.	64	Switzerland
6.	344.5	Australia	18.	102.5	Poland	30.	60.5	Belgium
7.	334	France	19.	97	Kazakhstan	31.	59.5	Uzbekistan
8.	318.5	Hungary	20.	90	Denmark	32.	57.5	Croatia
9.	308.5	Japan	21.	89.5	Cuba	33.	54	Jamaica
10.	198.5	Netherlands	22.	85.8	South Africa		54	Romania
11.	177	Canada	23.	85	Sweden	35.	52	Ethiopia
12.	176	Brazil	24.	79.5	Belarus	36.	50.5	Georgia

Day 11-only scoring leaders:

1.	101.5	USA	12.	31	Armenia	14	Denmark	
2.	75	Great Britain	13.	29.5	Cuba	24.	13	Slovenia
3.	65	China	14.	25	Spain	25.	12	Cuba
4.	64	Germany	15.	22	Croatia	26.	11	Belgium
5.	46	France	16.	21.5	Georgia	27.	10	Argentina
6.	42	Netherlands	17.	21	Italy		10	Hungary
7.	38	Ukraine	18.	20.5	Japan		10	Jamaica
8.	37	Russia	19.	17	Poland		10	Kenya
9.	36	Brazil	20.	15	Canada		10	Serbia
10.	34.5	Australia	21.	14.5	Sweden	32.	9	Ethiopia
11.	32	New Zealand	22.	14	Azerbaijan		9	Ireland

Rio 2016: Capsule Previews of August 17 Finals

Olympic finals tracker:

Days completed: 11 of 16 / Events completed: 203 / Events Remaining: 103

Today: 16 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***

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze(s)</i>
Aug 14	M 100 m	Bolt (JAM)	Gatlin (USA)	DeGrasse (CAN)
Aug 14	M 400 m	van Niekerk (RSA)	James (GRN)	Merritt (USA)
Aug 15	M 800 m	Rudisha (KEN)	Makhloufi (ALG)	Murphy (USA)
Aug 13	M 10,000 m	Farah (GBR)	Tanui (KEN)	Tola (ETH)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 16	M 110 m Hurdles	McLeod (JAM)	Ortega (ESP)	Bascou (FRA)
Aug 12	M 20 km Walk	Wang (CHN)	Cai (CHN)	Bird-Smith (NZL)
Aug 16	M High Jump	Drouin (CAN)	Barshim (QAT)	Bondarenko (UKR)
Aug 15	M Pole Vault	Da Silva (BRA)	Lavillenie (FRA)	Kendricks (USA)
Aug 13	M Long Jump	Henderson (USA)	Manyonga (RSA)	Rutherford (GBR)
Aug 16	M Triple Jump	Taylor (USA)	Claye (USA)	Dong (CHN)
Aug 13	M Discus	R. Harting (GER)	Malachowski (POL)	Jasinki (GER)
Aug 13	W 100 m	Thompson (JAM)	Bowie (USA)	Fraser-Pryce (JAM)
Aug 15	W 400 m	Miller (BAH)	Felix (USA)	Jackson (JAM)
Aug 16	W 1500 m	Kipyegon (KEN)	Dibaba (ETH)	Simpson (USA)
Aug 15	W 3000 m Steeplechase	Jebet (BRN)	Jepkemoi (KEN)	Coburn (USA)
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 16	W Discus	Perkovic (CRO)	Robert-Michon (FRA)	Caballero (CUB)
Aug 15	W Hammer	Wlodarczyk (POL)	Zhang (CHN)	Hitchon (GBR)
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.

Then, Poland's Anita Wlodarczyk extends her own women's hammer record to 82.29 m (269-11) in winning the Olympic title on Monday. What a meet!

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 3000 m Steeplechase**

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Ezekiel Kemboi (KEN)	Mah. Benabbad (FRA)	Abel Mutai (KEN)
WCh '13	Moscow	Ezekiel Kemboi (KEN)	Conses. Kipruto (KEN)	Mahiedine Benabbad (FRA)
WCh '15	Beijing	Ezekiel Kemboi (KEN)	Conses. Kipruto (KEN)	Brimin Kipruto (KEN)

Who can stop **Ezekiel Kemboi**? At age 34, he's the 2004 and 2012 Olympic gold medalist and a four-time World Champion. And as the Kenyans have dominated this race, his teammates are also medal winners: **Conseslus Kipruto** and **Brimin Kipruto** (the 2008 gold medalist!).

So a Kenyan sweep? It happened in 1992 and 2004, but **Mahiedine Mekhissi Benabbad** of France has won the last two silvers and is in the final as well. But the expectations are high for **Evan Jager** of the U.S., who has been right with the Kenyans on the Diamond League circuit and has been concentrating his training for this race. He has a unique opportunity.

• ***Athletics/Women's 200 m***

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Allyson Felix (USA)	S-A Fraser-Pryce (JAM)	Carmelita Jeter (USA)
WCh '13	Moscow	S-A Fraser-Pryce (JAM)	Murielle Ahoure (CIV)	Blessing Okagbare (NGR)
WCh '15	Beijing	Dafne Schippers (NED)	Elaine Thompson (JAM)	V. Campbell-Brown (JAM)

The race will be in the middle of the track, with World Champion **Dafne Schippers** of the Netherlands poised to add the Olympic title to her resume. But **Torie Bowie** of the U.S. – silver in the 100 m – has looked superb in the rounds and **Elaine Thompson** of Jamaica – the 100 m queen – cannot be counted out.

Spoiler? Perhaps **Marie-Josée Ta Lou** of the Cote d'Ivoire, who was also strong in the semifinals.

• ***Athletics/Women's 100 m Hurdles***

<i>The formchart:</i>		<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	Sally Pearson (AUS)	D. Harper-Nelson (USA)	Kellie Wells (USA)
WCh '13	Moscow	Brianna Rollins (USA)	Sally Pearson (AUS)	Tiffany Porter (GBR)
WCh '15	Beijing	Danielle Williams (JAM)	Cindy Roleder (GER)	Alina Taley (BLR)

The U.S. trio of **Brianna Rollins**, **Kristi Castlin** and **Nia Ali** could sweep this event, and all three looked great in the first round. The semis and finals will be run today.

Spoilers? Maybe **Tiffany Porter** of Great Britain, well familiar with the U.S. hurdlers from her days at Michigan, Puerto Rico's **Jasmine Camacho-Quinn**, or Germany's **Cindy Roleder**? They will have to be at their very best against a formidable American trio.

• ***Athletics/Women's Long Jump***

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Brittney Reese (USA)	Yelena Sokolova (RUS)	Janay DeLoach (USA)
WCh '13 Moscow	Brittney Reese (USA)	Bless. Okagbare (NGR)	Ivana Spanovic (SRB)
WCh '15 Beijing	Tianna Bartoletta (USA)	Shara Proctor (GBR)	Ivana Spanovic (SRB)

Let's face it, **Brittney Reese** looks funny when she jumps. No bicycle kick, no sweeping arms over the top. She just wins, and usually with tremendous distances. She is definitely the favorite to defend her title.

But she will get heat from teammate (and two-time World Champion) **Tianna Bartoletta** and Serbia's **Ivana Spanovic**. Wild card: the only Russian athlete in track & field is long jumper **Darya Klishina**, who trains in Florida and therefore is subject to drug testing by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency ... and therefore allowed to compete in Rio.

What a story a medal by Klishina would be!

• ***Badminton: Mixed Doubles***

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	China	China	Denmark
WCh '13 Guangzhou	Indonesia	China	China-Korea
WCh '14 Copenhagen	China	China	China-Denmark
WCh '15 Jakarta	China	China	China-Indonesia

China has won three of the five Olympic title in this division, but there will be a new champion in 2016. The shocks came in the semifinals when Indonesia's **Tontowi Ahmad and Lilyana Natsir** defeated reigning World Champions Nan Zhang and Yunlei Zhao, 2-0, and then Malaysia's **Peng Soon Chan and Liu Ying Goh** handled '15 World bronze medalists Chen Xu and Jim Ma, also 2-0.

Ahmad and Natsir were bronze winners as well in Jakarta, and the 2013 World Champions, so they were certainly world-class competitors to the Chinese. But Malaysia's win over China in the semis had no forewarning at all.

For the final, note that Ahmad and Natsir handled Chan and Goh comfortably, 21-15, 21-11 in Pool C play, the only blemish on the Malaysians record so far. Likely, they'll have one in the final and stand proudly on the podium to collect a silver medal.

• ***Beach Volleyball/Women***

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	United States	United States	Brazil
WCh '13 Stare Jablonki	China	Germany	Brazil
WCh '15 Netherlands	Brazil	Brazil	Brazil

The U.S. string of Olympic titles came to an end in the semis, as **Agatha Bednarczuk and Barbara Seixas de Freitas** of Brazil defeated Kerri Walsh Jennings and April Ross, 2-0.

They'll face the German duo of **Laura Ludwig and Kira Walkenhorst**, who blanked **Larissa Franca Maestrini and Talita Rocha** of Brazil, 2-0. The Brazilians will meet the U.S. for bronze.

Beach volleyball is huge in Brazil and the crowds will be out to cheer for their squads in both medal matches. With that kind of support, it will be hard to keep both off the podium.

• **Boxing/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 14	Men's 49 kg	Dusmatov (UZB)	Martinez (COL)	Hernandez (USA) Argilagos (CUB)
Aug 16	Men's 60 kg	Conceicao (BRA)	Oumiha (FRA)	Alvarez (CUB) Dorjnyambuu (MGL)
Aug 15	Men's 91 kg	Tishchenko (RUS)	Levit (KAZ)	Tulaganov (UZB) Savon (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 Welterweight (69 kg)**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Serik Sapiyev (KAZ)	Fred Evans (GBR)	An. Zamkovoy (RUS)-Tar. Shelestiuk (UKR)
WCh '13	Almaty	Dan. Yeleussinov (KAZ)	Aris. Despaigne (CUB)	Arajik Marutjan (GER)-Gab. Maestre (VEN)
WCh '15	Doha	Mohamed Rabii (MAR)	Dan. Yeleussinov (KAZ)	Wei Liu (CHN)-Parviz Baghirov (AZE)

Shakram Giyasov (UZB) vs. Daniyar Yeleussinov (KAZ)

No surprise to see Kazakhstan's **Daniyar Yeleussinov** here: he's been the most consistent fighter in the division over the past four years, winning the 2013 World title and runner-up last year.

But **Shakram Gyasov** has working on a clean sheet in Rio. He's won every judge's card – 3-0 – in each of his four fights so far. That includes a whitewash of reigning World Champion Mohamed Rabii of Morocco in the semifinals, winning all three rounds by 10-9 counts on all three cards.

The 25-year-old Yeleussinov has done the same in his three fights (he had a first-round bye). He had a close encounter in the quarterfinals with 2013 Worlds bronze medalist Gabriel Maestre of Venezuela, winning on all three cards by the same 29-28 score. It wasn't as close in the semis, as Yeleussinov won the first two rounds to clinch the fight against France's Souleymane Cissookho.

The favorite? Hard to bet against the perennial medalist Yeleussinov, but Giyasov (just 23!) was so impressive against Rabii that he has to be considered the favorite.

• **Canoeing/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 16	Sprint/M C-1 1000 m	Brendel (GER)	Queiroz d.Santos (BRA)	Tarnovschi (MDA)
Aug 16	Sprint/M K-1 1000 m	Dostal (CZE)	Anoshkin (RUS)	Stewart (AUS)
Aug 16	Sprint/W K-1 200 m	Carrington (NZL)	Walczykiewicz (POL)	Osipenko-Rodomska (AZE)
Aug 16	Sprint/W K-2 500 m	Hungary	Germany	Poland
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 have started the same: four in, four countries with golds.

• **Cycling/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 16	M Keirin	Kenny (GBR)	Buchli (NED)	Awang (MAS)
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 15	M Omnium	Viviani (ITA)	Cavendish (GBR)	Hansen (DEN)
Aug 13	W Keirin	Ligtee (NED)	James (GBR)	Meares (AUS)
Aug 16	W Sprint	Vogel (GER)	James (GBR)	Marchant (GBR)
Aug 12	W Team Sprint	China	Russia	Germany
Aug 13	W Team Pursuit	Great Britain	United States	Canada
Aug 16	W Omnium	Trott (GBR)	Hammer (USA)	D'Hoore (BEL)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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 won 10 medals over the 10 events in the velodrome, including five wins. Who do they think they are, the U.S. swim team?

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.

• **Diving/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 16	M 3 m Springboard	Cao (CHN)	Laugher (GBR)	Hausding (GER)
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.

• **Equestrian/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 15	Dressage Individual	Dujardin (GBR)	Werth (GER)	Broring-Sprehe (GER)
Aug 12	Dressage Team	Germany	Great Britain	United States

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 9	Eventing/Individual	Jung (GER)	Nicolas (FRA)	Dutton (USA)
Aug 9	Eventing/Team	France	Germany	Australia

Big days for Germany and France, and for the veteran Michael Jung and the youngster Astier Nicolas, who has a long and bright future ahead of him. Congratulations to the ageless Mark Todd of New Zealand, seventh at age 60!

• **Equestrian/Team Jumping**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	Great Britain	Netherlands	Saudi Arabia
WEqG '14	Normandy	Netherlands	France	United States

Brazil and Germany went through both the Qualifying Round and Round 1 of the finals without faults, and were joined by the U.S. and Netherlands with no faults in Round 1.

The U.S. won this event in 2004 and 2008, and is in the mix again, but with Brazil and Germany clean through two rounds, will someone make a mistake?

• **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)
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 16	Artistic/M Horizontal Bar	Hambuchen (GER)	Leyva (USA)	Wilson (GBR)
Aug 16	Artistic/M Parallel Bars	Vernaiev (UKR)	Leyva (USA)	Belyavskiy (RUS)
Aug 14	Artistic/M Pommel Horse	Whitlock (GBR)	Smith (GBR)	Naddour (USA)
Aug 15	Artistic/M Rings	Petrounias (GRE)	Zanetti (BRA)	Ablyazin (RUS)
Aug 15	Artistic/M Vault	Ri (PRK)	Ablyazin (RUS)	Shirai (JPN)
Aug 9	Artistic/W Team	United States	Russia	China
Aug 11	Artistic/W All-Around	Biles (USA)	Raisman (USA)	Mustafina (RUS)
Aug 15	Artistic/W Balance Beam	Wevers (NED)	Hernandez (USA)	Biles (USA)
Aug 16	Artistic/W Floor Exercise	Biles (USA)	Raisman (USA)	Tinkler (GBR)
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 added the Floor Exercise yesterday. 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 19.

• **Judo/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 6	M 60 kg	Mudranov (RUS)	Smetov (KAZ)	Takato (JPN) Urozboev (UZB)
Aug 7	M 66 kg	Basile (ITA)	An (KOR)	Sobirov (UZB) Ebinuma (JPN)
Aug 8	M 73 kg	Ono (JPN)	Orujov (AZE)	Shavdatuashvili (GEO) van Tichelt (BEL)
Aug 9	M 81 kg	Khalmurzaev (RUS)	Stevens (USA)	Toma (UAE) Nagase (JPN)
Aug 10	M 90 kg	Baker (JPN)	Liparteliani (GEO)	Gwak (KOR) Cheng (CHN)
Aug 11	M 100 kg	Krpalek (CZE)	Gasimov (AZE)	Maret (FRA) Haga (JPN)
Aug 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)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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
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 16	M Laser	Burton (AUS)	Bernaz (FRA)	Meech (NZL)
Aug 16	M Finn	Scott (GBR)	Zbogar (SLO)	Paine (USA)
Aug 14	W RS:X	Picon (FRA)	Chen (CHN)	Elfutina (RUS)
Aug 16	W Laser Radial	Bouwmeester (NED)	Murphy (IRL)	Rindom (DEN)
Aug 16	Mxd Nacra 17	Argentina	Australia	Austria

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 470**

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze	
OG '12	London	Australia	Great Britain	Argentina
WCh '13	La Rochelle	Australia	France	Greece
WCh '14	Santander	Australia	Croatia	Greece
WCh '15	Haifa	Australia	Croatia	Russia
WCh '16	San Isidro	Croatia	New Zealand	Australia-France

Croatia's **Sime Fantela and Igor Marenic** finally moved up from Worlds silver medalist to World Champion in 2016 and are now in position to be Olympic champions. After the 10-race program, they have six top-ten finishes and stand with 27 points.

Greece's **Panagiotis Mantis and Pavlos Kagialis** claimed three straight second-place finishes in races 8-9-10 to get to second, with 38 points, within striking distance in the double-points medal race.

Six-time World Champion and 2012 Olympic gold winner **Matthew Belcher** of Australia, with **Will Ryan** for the 2013-14-15 World wins, is also in position for a medal – and maybe a gold – at 40 points. They have two wins and five top-3 finishes in the 10 races.

Those three seem clear, with the U.S. pair of **Stuart McNay and Dave Hughes** fourth with 67, a little too far for a medal, but ... you never know.

• **Sailing: Women's 470**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12	London	New Zealand	Great Britain
WCh '13	La Rochelle	New Zealand	Austria
WCh '14	Santander	Austria	New Zealand
WCh '15	Haifa	Austria	Great Britain
WCh '16	San Isidro	France	New Zealand

This event is all but decided, with Britain's **Hannah Mills and Saskia Clark** well clear with 28 points, to 48 for New Zealand's **Jo Aleh and Polly Powrie**. But there are always odd possibilities, so nothing is sure ... yet.

Aleh and Powrie are in a fight for medals with **Annie Haeger and Briana Provancha** of the U.S. (49), **Camille LeCointre and Helene DeFrance** of France (50) and **Ai Kondo Yoshida and Miho Yoshioka** of Japan (52).

• **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)
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)

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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)	
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)



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Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
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
Open Water				
Aug 16	M 10 km	Weertman (NED)	Gianniotis (GRE)	Olivier (FRA)
Aug 15	W 10 km	van Rouwendaal (NED)	Bruni (ITA)	Okimoto (BRA)

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.

• **Synchronized Swimming/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 16	Duets	Russia	China	Japan

No doubt about the Russian win in Duets, a remarkable 2.6222 clear of the silver medalists from China.

• **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)
Aug 16	Women's Team	China	Germany	Japan

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

• **Table Tennis/Men's Team**

The formchart:		Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12	London	China	Korea	Germany
WCh '14	Tokyo	China	Germany	Chinese Taipei-Japan
WCh '16	Kuala Lumpur	China	Japan	Korea-England

The same three teams won Olympic medals in this event in 2008 and 2012: China, Germany and Korea. Things will change in 2016, as Japan will face the Chinese for the gold medal, while the Germans and Koreans will play for bronze.

The Chinese trio of **Jike Zhang**, **Long Ma** and **Xin Xu** have been ruthlessly efficient, winning their three matches against Nigeria, Great Britain and Korea by identical 3-0 scores. Japan, the runner-up at the World Team Table Tennis Championships held in February, has gotten stronger as the tournament has gone on.

The Japanese edged Poland, 3-2, then slipped past Hong Kong, 3-1, and defeated Germany, 3-1, to get to the final. **Jun Mizutani** won two matches to and **Maharu Yoshimura** and **Koki Niwa** won the doubles match to propel the Japanese in the semis. They will try to better their showing in the World Team Championships, where they fell to the Chinese, 3-0.

• **Taekwondo: Men's 58 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Joel Gonzalez (ESP)	Dae-hoon Lee (KOR)	Oscar Munoz (COL)-Alek. Denisenko (RUS)
WCh '13 Puebla	Tae-moon Cha (KOR)	Hadi Mostaan (IRI)	Damian Vila (MEX)-Guilherme Dias (BRA)
WCh '15 Chelyabinsk	F. Ashourzadeh (IRI)	Si Mohamed Ketbi (BEL)	Ruslan Posieev (RUS)-Shuai Zhao (CHN)

Farzan Ashourzadeh Fallon of Iran is just 19 years old, but he is World Champion in this class and ranked no. 1 by the World Taekwondo Federation. He's the favorite ... but not a lock.

Korea's **Tae-hun Kim** defeated Ashourzadeh in the 2015 Grand Prix Final and is ranked second worldwide; he's considered the prime challenger. But there are others: 2015 Worlds silver medalist **Si Mohamed Ketbi** of Belgium and bronze medalist China's **Shuai Zhao** are back, along with the highly-respected **Levent Tuncat** of Germany and **Rui Braganza** of Portugal.

But they will have to be at their best to match "The Tsunami" – as Ashourzadeh is known – to keep him from extending his perfect record in continental and world championships to 4-0 after his 2014 Asian Games and Asian Championships wins in addition to the 2015 world title.

• **Taekwondo: Women's 49 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	Jingyu Wu (CHN)	Brigitte Yague (ESP)	Chan. Sonkham (THA)-L. Zaininovic (CRO)
WCh '13 Puebla	Chan. Sonkham (THA)	Dana Haidar (JOR)	Lucija Zaninovic (CRO)-Yania Aguirre (CUB)
WCh '15 Chelyabinsk	Min-ah Ha (KOR)	Jingyu Wu (CHN)	Svet. Igumenova (RUS)-T.Bogdanovic (SRB)

China's **Jingyu Wu** has the rare opportunity for a three-peat after winning Olympic gold in 2008 and 2012. She's the favorite, but not a lock, having lost, 4-3, at last year's World Championships in the final to Korea's Min-ah Ha.

Ha is not in this class (So-hui Kim will fight for Korea), but 2015 Worlds bronze winner **Tijana Bagdanovic** of Serbia is back, along with 2012 bronze medalist **Lucija Zaininovic** of Croatia. Although not Worlds or Olympic medalists, **Panipak Wongpattanakit** of Thailand – no. 2 in the WTF Olympic rankings and WTF world-rankings leader **Yasmina Aziez** of France are ready to go.

They want to be make history, not just be part of Wu's historic third straight gold.

• **Tennis/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 14	Men's Singles	Murray (GBR)	Del Potro (ARG)	Nishikori (JPN)
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. Same for Britain, with Andy Murray defending his 2012 Olympic title from London.

• **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 15	M 105 kg	Nuruidinov (UZB)	Martirosyan (ARM)	Zaichikov (KAZ)
Aug 16	M +105 kg	Talakhadze (GEO)	Minasyan (ARM)	Turmanidze (GEO)
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!

• **Wrestling/Summary**

Date	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze(s)
Aug 14	Greco-Roman/M 59 kg	Borrero (CUB)	Ota (JPN)	Tasmuradov (UZB) Berge (NOR)
Aug 16	Greco-Roman/M 66 kg	Stefanek (SRB)	Arutyunyan (ARM)	Bolkvadze (GEO) Chunayev (AZE)
Aug 14	Greco-Roman/M 75 kg	Vlasov (RUS)	Madsen (DEN)	Kim (KOR) Abdavi (IRI)
Aug 15	Greco-Roman/M 85 kg	Chakvetadze (RUS)	Beleniuk (UKR)	Hamzatu (BLR) Kudla (GER)
Aug 16	Greco-Roman/M 98 kg	Aleksanyan (ARM)	Lugo Cabrera (CUB)	Ildem (TUR) Rezaei (IRI)
Aug 15	Greco-Roman/M 130 kg	Lopez (CUB)	Kayaalp (TUR)	Shariati (AZE) Semenov (RUS)

A copy of the 2015 World Championships on the first day of Greco-Roman wrestling as the reigning World Champions at 59 kg and 75 kg added Olympic gold medals to their trophy cases. The challengers took over on day two.

• **Wrestling: Women's Freestyle 48 kg**

The formchart:	Gold	Silver	Bronze
OG '12 London	Hitomi Obara (JPN)	Mariya Stadnik (AZE)	Clarissa Chun(USA)-Carol Hyunh (CAN)
WCh '13 Budapest	Eri Tosaka (JPN)	Mayelis Caripa (VEN)	Cheng Xu (CHN)-Alyssa Lampe (USA)
WCh '14 Tashkent	Eri Tosaka (JPN)	Iwona Matkowska (POL)	Mariya Stadnik (AZE)-Hyon-g. Kim (PRK)
WCh '15 Las Vegas	Eri Tosaka (JPN)	Mariya Stadnik (AZE)	Jessica Blaszk (NED)-Gen. Morrison (CAN)

Hard to argue with **Eri Tosaka** of Japan as the favorite in this class: she's won the last three World Championships! So, she's the prohibitive favorite, but will face a familiar cast of competitors that she has handled in the past ... but has to do so again.

Chief among these is Azerbaijan's **Mariya Stadnik**, the 2012 Olympic silver medalist and last year's World Championships runner-up. Poland's **Iwona Matkowska**, the 2014 World silver winner, is also in the field, as are bronze medal winners **Jessica Blaszk** and **Hyon-Gwong Kim** of DPR Korea.

• **Wrestling: Women's Freestyle 58 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London	not held (53 kg held)		
WCh '13 Budapest	Mariana Sastin (HUN)	Taybe Yusein (BUL)	Yuliya Ratkevich (AZE)-T Monkhtuyaa (MGL)
WCh '14 Tashkent	Kaori Icho (JPN)	Valeria Koblova (RUS)	Anas. Huchok (BLR)-Elif J. Yesilirmak (TUR)
WCh '15 Las Vegas	Kaori Icho (JPN)	Petra Olli (FIN)	Elif J. Yesilirmak (TUR)-Yul. Ratkevich (AZE)

This is a new class for women's wrestling in the Olympic Games. In 2012, this division was at 55 kg, but the new 53 kg division was added for 2016, so the move was made from 55 to 58 kg. For the 2013 World Championships, this class was at 59 kg.

Japan's **Kaori Icho** is the two-time defending World Champion and is obviously the one to beat in this class. But she is going to have to deal with both of the women she defeated in each of the last two years: **Valeria Koblova** of Russia and **Petra Olli** of Finland.

The ultra-consistent **Elif Jale Yesilirmak** of Turkey has been a bronze medalist the last two years: perhaps this is her time to get to the finals? Same for Azerbaijan's **Yuliya Ratkevich**, a Worlds bronze winner in 2013 and last year.

• **Wrestling: Men's Freestyle 69 kg**

<i>The formchart:</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
OG '12 London (72 kg)	Natal. Vorobeva (RUS)	Stanka Zlateva (BUL)	Maidier Unda (ESP)-Guzel Manyurova (KAZ)
WCh '13 Budapest	Alina Stadnik (UKR)	Stacie Anaka (CAN)	Sara Dosho (JPN)-O. Nasanburmaa (MGL)
WCh '14 Tashkent	Alice Focken (GER)	Sara Dosho (JPN)	Laura Skujina (LAT)-Natal. Vorobieva (RUS)
WCh '15 Las Vegas	Natalia Vorobeva (RUS)	Feng Zhou (CHN)	Sara Dosho (JPN)-Alice Focken (GER)

In 2012, this class was at 72 kg, but was changed to 69 kg with the addition of the 75 kg class to the Olympic program. In the 2013 World Championships, this class was at 67 kg.

This class is wide open, especially with a first-round match scheduled between 2014 World Champion **Alice Focken** of Germany and last year's silver winner, **Feng Zhou** of China. And Japan's **Sara Dosho** has won medals in each of the last three Worlds, but she will face 2013 World Champion **Alina Stadnik** of Ukraine. In both cases, somebody really good is going to open with a loss.

The favorite, then, has to be Russian **Natalia Vorobeva**, the London champ at 72 kg and then the World Champion last year at 69 kg. She'll face **Elmira Syzdykova** of Kazakhstan in the first round.



August 17, 2016

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, with the men bettering their Trials marks in 14/26 instances (53.8%) and the women were even better: 16 of 26 for 61.5 percent!

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