

September 8, 2016



Goal!

Jozy Altidore & U.S. a step closer to Russia

(Photo: USA TODAY Spors/Logan Bowles)





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On the Cover

Jozy Altidore of the U.S. Men's National Team celebrates one of his two goals vs. Trinidad & Tobago during a 4-0 U.S. win that clinched its World Cup qualifying group. (*Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Logan Bowles*)



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Codes and Symbols

It wouldn't be sports without symbols, right? First and foremost, we use the International Olympic Committee's three-letter country codes; the complete list can be found [here](#). Other common symbols:

- dnf = did not finish
- dns = did not start
- kg = kilograms
- m = meters
- w = wind-aided in athletics

Lane One: *Don't forget about the Paralympics*



Eltaron via Wikipedia Commons

After all of the drama surrounding the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, the much-less-noticed Paralympic Games started last night in Rio.

This Games has had equal amounts of trauma with some of the same issues as the Olympic effort, namely money and doping.

The financial difficulties which hurt the Olympic Games (and held the crowds down) caused delays in travel assistance payments to some of the National Paralympic Committees, which put their participation in the Games in jeopardy. But reports from Rio indicate that these payments were finally made.

On the doping front, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) banned the entire Russian team from Rio in view of the strong evidence of a state-run doping program. Multiple appeals were made and turned down; there is no Russian participation in these Paralympics.

But there are still a reported 4,342 participants from about 160 countries competing in 23 sports and 528 events. Ticket sales have picked up, with 1.6 million tickets having been sold with sales continuing for the 11 days of competition.

There will be extensive coverage of the Games on NBCSN in the U.S., as well as streaming coverage on NBCOlympics.com and TeamUSA.org (the U.S. Olympic Committee site).

What these athletes accomplish is remarkable, but there isn't any question that the audience and interest in the Paralympic Games is only a fraction of that in the Olympic Games proper.

One significant reason for this is the timing. After two weeks of the Olympic Games, with too many athletes and too many events to follow, it's hard to get re-focused on another Games that starts just 17 days later and has 528 events to 306 in the Games of the Olympiad.

However, this can be changed. Having been involved in the organization of many events of this size and type, it has long been my view that the Paralympics is missing an opportunity to raise its profile and give its athletes a chance to shine brighter.

The solution: move the Paralympic Games to one year *before* the Olympic Games.

This has multiple benefits:

- As the featured event in the year prior to the Olympic Games, it will have the undivided attention of the host city and country. This is good for sponsorships and ticket sales, but also for the message of the Paralympic Movement to give those with physical disabilities the opportunity to participate meaningfully in society.
- The organizing committee and host-city governmental functions will get a true test of event scale and find their problems in providing services for the Olympic Games by hosting a pre-Olympic event of such scale. This will draw additional attention to the Paralympic Games, which is another plus.

- Requiring the host-city organizing committee to put on the Paralympic Games a year prior will help speed construction, recruitment and systems of all kinds for the organizers. This is a chief complaint during Olympic Games, that systems have not been tried before. Hosting the Paralympics will help to resolve issues earlier rather than later.



The International Paralympic Committee has achieved noteworthy success in expanding the imprint of the Paralympic Games through its relationship with the International Olympic Committee. Beginning in 1988, both the Olympic and Paralympic Games were co-hosted in the Olympic city.

The current IOC-IPC agreement from 2001 – which extends to 2020 – provides that organizers of the Olympic Games will also put on the Paralympics (and pay for them).

This ensures that the Paralympic Games will be well supported by the host city, but the impact of the Games beyond it is another matter. By changing the year of the Paralympics to the year prior to the Olympic Games, the full spotlight can shine on the athletes who have overcome physical disabilities to achieve world-class results on the playing fields ... and can do so in society if given the chance.

Isn't that what the Paralympic Games is supposed to be about?



Rich Perelman
Editor

About The Sports Examiner

The Sports Examiner is a new publication. Our purpose is to cover championship-level 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 the most popular in individual countries, such as baseball, basketball, football (several kinds), ice hockey and others. Why not offer an all-in-one briefing, available online, which can provide fans with a 360-degree view of the top-level meets, matches and tournaments in world sport?

Although the Rio Games are a memory, 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!

Agenda: Competition Calendar

The worldwide sports carousel is back in full swing. Here are highlights of the top-level (Championships ~ Grand Prix ~ World Cup) competitions in Olympic sports for the coming weeks:

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Type ~ Event</i>	<i>Site</i>	
• 05-10 September:				
Cycling	20 Aug-11 Sep	UCI World Tour ~ Vuelta a Espana	ESP	Spain
Tennis	29 Aug-11 Sep	ATP/WTA Tour ~ U.S. Open	USA	New York
Baseball	03 Sep-11 Sep	WSBC Women's World Cup	KOR	Gijang City
Cycling	06 Sep-11 Sep	Mtn Bike/World Championships ~ Downhill & 4x	ITA	Val de Sole
Canoeing	07 Sep-11 Sep	Slalom/World Cup Final	SLO	Ljubljana
Ice Hockey	08 Sep-14 Sep	2016 World Cup of Hockey exhibition games		Various
Athletics	09 Sep	Diamond League ~ Van Damme Memorial	BEL	Brussels
Cycling	09 Sep-11 Sep	UCI World Tour ~ Grand Prix Cycliste de Quebec	CAN	Montreal
• 11-17 September:				
Cycling	11 Sep	UCI Women's World Tour ~ Madrid Challenge	ESP	Madrid
Triathlon	11 Sep-18 Sep	World Triathlon Championships	MEX	Cozumel
Volleyball	14 Sep-18 Sep	Beach/Swatch FIVB World Tour Final	CAN	Toronto
Ice Hockey	17 Sep-01 Oct	2016 World Cup of Hockey	CAN	Toronto
• 18-24 September:				
Cycling	19 Sep-25 Sep	UCI World Tour ~ Eneco Tour	BEL & NED	
Badminton	20 Sep-26 Sep	World Superseries ~ Yonex Open Japan	JPN	Tokyo
Archery	24 Sep-25 Sep	World Cup ~ Hyundai World Cup Final	DEN	Odense
• 25 September-01 October:				
Athletics	25 Sep	World Marathon Majors: BMW Berlin Marathon	GER	Berlin
Badminton	27 Sep-01 Oct	World Superseries ~ Victor Korea Open	KOR	Seoul
Cycling	30 Sep-01 Oct	BMX/Supercross World Cup	USA	Rock Hill
Swimming	30 Sep-01 Oct	FINA World Cup (25 m) airweave ~ World Cup #4	CHN	Beijing
Wrestling	30 Sep-01 Oct	Grand Prix ~ Golden Grand Prix Final	AZE	Baku
Cycling	01 Oct	UCI World Tour ~ Il Lombardia	ITA	Lombardy

For you fans of winter sports, don't worry ... your time is coming. The first World Cup race in alpine skiing is less than two months away: the Giant Slaloms at Soelden, AUT on 22-23 October!

Cover Story

• **Football/U.S. swamps Trinidad & Tobago to win World Cup qualifying group**

*FIFA World Cup 2018 ~ CONCACAF Qualifying
November 2016-October 2017*



If you follow the U.S. Men's National Team, there is a lot of anxiety about almost every game. Perhaps this is the surest sign that soccer really has arrived as a major sport in the U.S.

But the American side showed 19,410 at EverBank Field in Jacksonville and a FoxSports 1 audience that it has new tricks up its sleeve in a 4-0 thrashing of Trinidad & Tobago on Tuesday evening (6 September) to win Group C in the CONCACAF World Cup Qualifying's round four.

A 44th-minute goal from midfielder **Sacha Kljestan** gave the U.S. a 1-0 halftime lead, expanded in the second half with two goals from striker **Jozy Altidore** (59th and 62nd minutes) and a final goal from substitute midfielder **Paul Arriola** (71st minute). The win gave the Americans first place in Group C and moved the U.S. into the final round of World Cup 2018 qualifying from the CONCACAF region.

Beyond Kljestan's excellent play as an attacking midfielder, the U.S. benefitted mightily from 17-year-old **Christian Pulisic** in the midfield. He set up play after play in the Trinidad end and had the final assist on Altidore's second goal. Next time you see the U.S. play, watch for no. 10 – he's already that good.

The CONCACAF region – North and Central America and the Caribbean – gets three slots in the 32-team World Cup Final field and a chance to win one more through a play-off with an Asian zone team. The top two teams from each group advanced and they were the top six-ranked teams going in – Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago and the U.S.:

- *Group A:* 1. Mexico, 16 points (5-0-1)
2. Honduras, 8 points (2-2-2)
- *Group B:* 1. Costa Rica, 16 points (5-0-1)
2. Panama, 10 points (3-2-1)
- *Group C:* 1. United States, 13 points (4-1-1)
2. Trinidad & Tobago, 11 points (3-1-2)

Now these six will play off over the next year to determine who will go to the 2018 World Cup in Russia, in home-and-home matches:

- *11 November 2016:*
B1: Costa Rica @ C2: Trinidad & Tobago
A1: Mexico @ C1: United States
B2: Panama @ A2: Honduras
- *15 November 2016:*
C1: United States @ B1: Costa Rica
C2: Trinidad & Tobago @ A2: Honduras
A1: Mexico @ B2: Panama
- *24 March 2017:*
A2: Honduras @ C1: United States
B2: Panama @ C2: Trinidad & Tobago
B1: Costa Rica @ A1: Mexico

- *28 March 2017:*
C1: United States @ B2: Panama
B1: Costa Rica @ A2: Honduras
A1: Mexico @ C2: Trinidad & Tobago
- *09 June 2017:*
C2: Trinidad & Tobago @ C1: United States
B2: Panama @ B1: Costa Rica
A2: Honduras @ A1: Mexico
- *13 June 2017:*
C1: United States @ A1: Mexico
A2: Honduras @ B2: Panama
C2: Trinidad & Tobago @ B1: Costa Rica
- *01 September 2017:*
B1: Costa Rica @ C1: United States
B2: Panama @ A1: Mexico
A2: Honduras @ C2: Trinidad & Tobago
- *05 September 2017:*
C1: United States @ A2: Honduras
C2: Trinidad & Tobago @ B2: Panama
A1: Mexico @ B1: Costa Rica
- *06 October 2017:*
B2: Panama @ C1: United States
A2: Honduras @ B1: Costa Rica
C2: Trinidad & Tobago @ A1: Mexico
- *10 October 2017:*
B1: Costa Rica @ B2: Panama
C1: United States @ C2: Trinidad & Tobago
A1: Mexico @ A2: Honduras



USA's Christian Pulisic in action vs. Trinidad & Tobago (Photo: USA TODAY Sports/Logan Bowles)

Featured Attractions

- **Athletics: 10 events to watch at final Diamond League meet of 2016**

IAAF Diamond League no. 14
Brussels (BEL) ~ 09 September 2016



The last major track meet of the 2016 season is warming up in Brussels for the 40th AG Insurance Memorial Van Damme, with \$40,000 bonuses to be awarded to the winners of the Diamond Race in 16 events.

A U.S. athlete is only expected to be in contention in one Diamond race, where **Erik Kynard** sits second with 26 points, with the top six places to be awarded 20-12-8-6-4-2 points. The meet will be televised in the U.S. by beIN Sports.

But there are 10 events with special intrigue from American athletes in their last major competition of the year:

- **Men's 800 m:**
Clayton Murphy surprised everyone with his lifetime best of 1:42.93 to win the bronze medal in Rio. How will he do as a co-favorite with Kenya's **Alfred Kipketer** (1:42.87 in 2016) and Poland's **Adam Kszczot** (1:43.76)?

- **Men's 3000 m Steeplechase:**
The Rio medalists are back for one last tango: champion **Conseslus Kipruto** (KEN), silver winner **Evan Jager** of the U.S. and bronze

medalist **Mahiedine Mekhissi** of France. Throw in 2008 Olympic champion **Brimin Kipruto** (KEN), and this could be epic.

- **Men's High Jump:**
Ukraine's **Bohdan Bondarenko** leads the Diamond race with 29 points, followed by **Erik Kynard** of the U.S. at 26, **Mutaz Essa Barshim** of Qatar at 24 and Britain's **Robbie Grabarz** at 23. The event and the \$40,000 bonus is here for the taking.

- **Men's Long Jump:**
Xinglong Gao of China and France's **Fabrice Lapierre** lead the Diamond race at 24 points each, but the interest here is in **Jarrion Lawson** of the U.S. He equaled Jesse Owens' 1935 and 1936 feats of winning the 100 m, 200 m and long jump at the NCAA Championships this year for Arkansas and made the U.S. Olympic team in the long jump. He was fourth in Rio, and looked like he might have won it on his last jump, but just barely dragged his trailing hand. Perhaps a memorable end to 2016?

- **Women's 100 m:**
Last match-up of Jamaica's 100/200 champ **Elaine Thompson** against 200 silver winner **Dafne Schippers** of the Netherlands, with American **Jeneba Tarmoh** also in the field.

- **Women's 400 m:**
American 4x400 m gold medalists **Courtney Okolo** and **Natasha Hastings** – who ran the first two legs in that order – are favorites, but the question mark is South Africa's 800 m gold winner **Caster Semenya**. She had toyed with entering this event in Rio, but decided to concentrate on two laps. What can she do here?

- *Women's 5000 m:*

Shannon Rowbury of the U.S. looked great in winning the fast, tactical 1,500 m race in Zurich last week and now moves up to 5,000 m to take on Rio 10,000 m golden girl **Almaz Anaya** (ETH) and Rio 5000 m silver medalist **Hellen Obiri** of Kenya.

- *Women's 400 m Hurdles:*

Britain's **Eilidh Doyle** is leading the Diamond race with 36 points, but **Cassandra Tate** of the U.S. has a chance for the bonus; she's at 30.

- **Canoeing/Slalom: Final World Cup on for Tacen this weekend**

ICF Canoe-Slalom 2016 no. 5

Tacen (SLO) ~ 09-11 September



The final Canoe Slalom World Cup event will be held this weekend in Tacen, Slovenia (near Ljubljana) with multiple seasonal titles on the line. If you'd like to check out the action, you can see it online on the new [Olympic Channel](#) (check for the time in your location).

- *Men's Canoe Single (C-1):*

Slovakia's **Alexander Slafkovsky** leads the World Cup standings at 180 points, 19 points ahead of France's **Nicolas Peschier**, 25 up on Slovenia's **Anze Bercic** and +31 on fourth-standing **Adam Burgess** (GBR). That makes Slafkovsky, who won the World Cup title in 2012, the favorite, but the title is not out of reach for anyone in the top four. But Slafkovsky is the only one to win twice on the 2016 Tour so far.

- *Men's Canoe Double (C-2):*

- *Women's Pole Vault:*

Rio gold and silver medalists **Katerina Stefanidi** of Greece and **Sandi Morris** of the U.S. are both expected to compete. In addition to her gold medal, Stefanidi is in position to win the Diamond race as well.

- *Women's Shot Put:*

The rivalry between Rio gold winner **Michelle Carter** of the U.S. and New Zealand's **Valerie Adams** will continue; Adams has already clinched the Diamond race for 2016.

Any of the top four in the standings could win the title, especially with double-points (120 for the win) available for the World Cup final. France's **Pierre-Antoine Tillard and Edern Le Ruyet** (176) are the leaders, followed by Germany's **David Schroeder and Nico Bettge** (168), France's **Pierre Picco and Hugo Biso** (153) and Czechs **Ondrej Karlovsky and Jakub Jane** (144).

Only Tillard and Le Ruyet have won twice on Tour this year, so they are favored, but cousins **Ladislav and Peter Skantar** (SVK) – three-time World Cup champs – won the Olympic gold medal in this event in Rio have competed on only two of four events. With 102 points, something dramatic would have to happen for them to win, but isn't that what Slalom is all about?

- *Men's Kayak Single (K-1):*

Anyone in the top dozen in the standings has a shot at the overall title in a season where no man has finished on the podium of a K1M World Cup event twice.

Vit Prindis (CZE) leads with 164 points, trailed by **Ondrej Tunka** (CZE, 153), **Dariusz Popiela** (POL, 143), Slovakia's **Jakub Grigar**

(140) and **Sebastian Schubert** (GER, 139) in the top five.

None of the Olympic medalists are higher than 18th in the standings, but **Jiri Prskavec** (CZE) won the last World Cup race, but is only 31st in the standings.

- *Women's Canoe Single (C-1):*
Great Britain's **Mallory Franklin** leads the standings at 207 points, and has been on the podium three times in four races. But Australia's **Jessica Fox** is coming on strong, winning two races and a second in the three races she has competed in; she's the defending World Cup champion and the 2013 champ.

Also strong: **Kimberley Woods** (GBR, 182), **Nuria Vilarrubla** (ESP, 161) and France's **Claire Jacquet** (144).

- *Women's Kayak Single (K-1):*
Ricarda Funk (GER) has a solid lead with 214

• **Cycling/Mountain Bike: Can anyone beat Rachel Atherton?**

UCI Mountain Bike World Championships
Val de Sole (ITA) ~ 06-11 September



Four world titles will be on the line this weekend in northern Italy as the mountain bikers conclude their season in the 4-Cross (4x) and Downhill categories. The 11 September finals will be shown online via [Red Bull TV](#) (check the listing for time in your area).

- *Men's 4-Cross:*
The 600 m course is the longest on the 4x tour this year. Four riders are entered in each race

points and has won two of the four World Cup races this year. She's comfortably ahead of **Ana Satila** (BRA, 173), four-time World Cup champ **Jana Dukatova** (SVK, 171) and Australia's Fox (170).

- *World Cup Slalom Cross*
The Slalom Cross events are not part of the season-long World Cup program, but will be contested in Tacen.

On the men's side (K1M Cross), **Hannes Aigner** (GER), **Vavrinec Hradileck** (CZE) and Prindis have won World Cup races this season, and Prindis (3) and Hradilek (2) are the only two men with multiple podium finishes in the K1M Slalom Cross.

Caroline Loir (FRA), **Martina Wegman** (NED) and **Ajda Novak** (SLO) have won the women's World Cup races thus far. Only Wegman and Novak have finished in the top-three more than once.

and the top two advance to the next round until only the final four are left to decide the medals.

Tomas Slavik (CZE) has won this championship twice, in 2010 and 2014, but **Aiko Gohler** of Germany is the defending champion. The top 11 riders on the UCI rankings list and 13 of the top 15 are entered.

Britain's **Luke Cryer** and **Benedikt Last** (GER), the 2015 silver and bronze medalists are in and are ranked 1-2 on the UCI list for 2016. Switzerland's **Simon Waldburger**, bronze winner in 2014 and ranked eighth in 2016, will race, along with **Scott Beaumont** (GBR-ranked 4th), **Giovanni Pozzini** (ITA-5th), Austria's **Hannes Slavik** (6th) and Russian **Iakov Auster** (7th).

- *Men's Downhill:*

This course is known as the “Black Snake” and covers 2,200 m (1.37 miles) with a average gradient of 24.5%. Yikes!

A very large field of 133 entries includes all of the top riders, including 2011 champion **Danny Hart** (GBR), UCI World Cup winner (and no. 1-ranked) **Aaron Gwin** of the U.S., defending champion **Loïc Bruni** of France, two-time World Champion **Greg Minnaar** of South Africa (2012-13) and silver and bronze medalists from the past three Worlds: **Josh Bryceland** (GBR: ‘14 silver & ‘15 bronze), **Mick Hannah** (AUS: ‘13 silver) and **Troy Brosnan** (AUS: ‘14 bronze).

For the Men, it is 2011 UCI World Champion Danny Hart (Great Britain) who is on a winning streak, having won the last three World Cups. Others to watch include Aaron Gwin (USA), the 2016 UCI World Cup winner who has yet to add a world title to his palmares; Greg Minnaar (RSA), who will be looking for a fourth title; Australia's Troy Brosnan; and defending champion Loïc Bruni (France), back from injury.

- *Women's 4-Cross:*

Defending champion **Anneke Beerten** of the Netherlands, ranked second this year, is trying

- **Cycling/Road: Quintana to face one more charge at La Vuelta**

UCI World Tour ~ Vuelta a Espana
Spain ~ 20 August-11 September



Colombia's **Nairo Quintana** remained unchallenged as the leader of the Vuelta a Espana with four stages remaining.

After expanding his lead to 3:37 over

for a fourth title after winning in 2011 and 2012. She will be challenged by another three-time winner, **Caroline Buchanan** of Australia, who won in 2009-10-13.

Only 13 women are entered, but the field includes fourth-ranked **Lucia Oetjen** (SUI), **Romana Laboukova** (CZE, 5th), **Helene Valerie Fruhwirth** (AUT), **Katrin Karkhof** (GER, 7th) and **Monica Hrustnik** (SLO, 8th).

- *Women's Downhill:*

The top 10 riders in the world are entered, led by the seemingly unbeatable **Rachel Atherton** of Great Britain. She won all seven World Cup downhills this year and has won 13 in a row, not to mention world titles in 2008, 2013 and 2015.

But she will be challenged by second-ranked **Manon Carpenter**, also of Great Britain, who won the 2014 world title ahead of Atherton. Australia's **Tracey Hannah** has bronze medals from 2013 and 2015 and Britain's no. 3 – and fourth-ranked worldwide – **Tahnee Seagrave** would like to make this a British sweep.

France's fifth-ranked **Morgan Charre** – the 2012 World Champion – is not to be doubted, but she has – if you will pardon the pun – an uphill battle against the Brits.

Britain's **Chris Froome** in Stage 15, no change was made in the last two stages. However, there are both flat and mountain stages left, as well as an all-out Time Trial on Friday which could benefit Froome.

American **Andrew Talansky** has made his way into the top 10 of the overall classification, now in sixth place. If he were to hold that spot, it would be the best-ever finish for the 27-year-old

from New York. He's previously finished seventh in La Vuelta (2012) and 10th in the 2013 Tour de France, as his best "Grand Tour" finishes.

The 2016 race – the 71st edition – will cover 3,315.4 km in all (2,060.1 miles) in 21 stages,

1. Nairo Quintana (COL), 69:35:32
2. Chris Froome (GBR), 69:39:09
3. Johan Esteban Chaves (COL), 69:39:29
4. Alberto Contador (ESP), 69:39:34
5. Simon Yates (GBR), 69:41:35

The remaining stages:

- Stage 18 (08 Sep.): 200.6 km (Flat)
- Stage 19 (09 Sep.): 37.0 km (Time Trial)
- Stage 20 (10 Sep.): 193.2 km (Mountain)
- Stage 21 (11 Sep.): 104.8 km (Flat)

Stage summaries:

UCI World Tour ~ Vuelta a Espana: Spain: 20 August -11 September. (Full results [here](#)):

Stage 1 (20 Aug.): 27.8 km Time Trial – 1. Peter Kennaugh (GBR), 30:37; 2. Salvatore Puccio (ITA), 30:37; 3. Michal Kwiatkowski (POL), 30:37; 4. Leopold Konig (CZE), 30:37; 5. Chris Froome (GBR), 30:37.

Stage 2 (21 Aug.): 160.8 km Time Trial – 1. Gianni Meersman (BEL), 4:16:39; 2. Michael Schwarzman (GER), 4:16:39; 3. Magnus Cort Nielsen (DEN), 4:16:39; 4. Kwiatkowski, 4:16:39; 5. Jonas van Genechten (BEL), 4:16:39.

Stage 3 (22 Aug.): 176 km (Hilly) – 1. Alexandre Geniez (FRA), 4:28:36; 2. Ruben Fernandez Andujar (ESP), 4:28:57; 3. Alejandro Valverde (ESP), 4:29:02; 4. Froome, 4:29:02; 5. Johan Esteban Chaves (COL), 4:29:02.

Stage 4 (23 Aug.): 163.5 km (Hilly) – 1. Lilian Calmejane (FRA), 4:05:19; 2. Darwin Atapuna (COL), 4:05:34; 3. Benjamin King (USA), 4:05:34; 4. Andrey Zeits (KAZ), 4:05:37; 5. Nathan Haas (AUS), 4:05:42.

Stage 5 (24 Aug.): 171.3 km (Flat) – 1. Meersman, 4:16:42; 2. Fabio Feline (ITA), 4:16:42; 3. Kevin Reza (FRA), 4:16:42; 4. Luis-Leon Sanchez Gil (ESP), 4:16:42; 5. Zico Waeytens (BEL), 4:16:42.

with seven flat stages, 12 hill and mountain stages, one individual time trial and one team time trial.

The leaderboard after Stage 17:

6. Andrew Talansky (USA), 69:43:06
7. Samuel Sanchez Gonzalez (ESP), 69:43:44
8. Davide Formolo (ITA), 69:43:45
9. Michele Scarponi (ITA), 69:44:00
10. David de la Cruz (ESP), 69:44:24

Requena to Gandia
Xabia to Calp
Benidorm to Alto de Aitana
Las Rozas to Madrid

Stage 6 (25 Aug.): 163.2 km (Hilly) – 1. Simon Yates (GBR), 4:05:00; 2. Sanchez Gil, 4:05:20; 3. Feline, 4:05:22; 4. Ben Hermans (BEL), 4:05:22; 5. Kenny Elissonde (FRA), 4:05:22.

Stage 7 (26 Aug.): 158.5 km (Hilly) – 1. Jonas van Genechten (BEL), 3:55:44; 2. Daniele Bennati (ITA), 3:55:44; 3. Valverde, 3:55:44; 4. Philippe Gilbert (BEL), 3:55:44; 5. Reza, 3:55:44.

Stage 8 (27 Aug.): 177.0 km (Flat) – 1. Sergey Lagutin (RUS), 4:09:30; 2. Axel Domont (FRA), 4:09:40; 3. Perrig Quemeneur (FRA), 4:09:47; 4. Mattia Cattaneo (ITA), 4:09:54; 5. Pieter Serry (BEL), 4:10:10.

Stage 9 (28 Aug.): 164.5 km (Hilly) – 1. David de la Cruz (ESP), 3:47:56; 2. Dries Devenyns (BEL), 3:48:23; 3. Moreno Moser (ITA), 3:48:29; 4. Sanchez Gil (ESP), 3:48:47; 5. Mathias Frank (SUI), 3:48:47.

Stage 10 (29 Aug.): 188.7 km (Mountain) – 1. Nairo Quintana (COL), 4:50:31; 2. Robert Gesink (NED), 4:50:55; 3. Froome (GBR), 4:50:56; 4. Omar Fraile (ESP), 4:50:59; 5. Valverde (ESP), 4:50:59.

Stage 11 (31 Aug.): 168.6 km (Flat) – 1. Froome (GBR), 3:44:47; 2. Quintana (COL), 3:44:47; 3. Valverde (ESP), 3:44:53; 4. Konig (CZE), 3:44:53; 5. Alberto Contador (ESP), 3:44:55.

Stage 12 (1 Sep): 192.3 km (Hilly) – 1. Jens Keukeleire (BEL), 4:31:43; 2. Maxime Bouet (FRA), 4:31:43; 3. Feline (ITA), 4:31:43; 4. Kristian Sbaragli (ITA), 4:31:43; 5. Sanchez Gil (ESP), 4:31:43.

Stage 13 (2 Sep): 213.4 km (Hilly) – 1. Valerio Conti (ITA), 5:29:04; 2. Danilo Wyss (SUI), 5:29:59; 3. Lagutin (RUS), 5:29:59; 4. Michael Gogl (AUT), 5:29:59; 5. Vegard Stake Laengen (NOR), 5:29:59.

Stage 14 (3 Sep): 196.0 km (Mountain) – 1. Gesink (NED), 5:43:24; 2. Elissonde (FRA), 5:43:31; 3. Egor Silin (RUS), 5:43:33; 4. George Bennett (NZL), 5:43:55; 5. Yates (GBR), 5:44:03.

Stage 15 (4 Sep): 118.5 km (Mountain) – 1. Gianluca Brambilla (ITA), 2:54:30; 2. Quintana (COL), 2:54:33; 3. Feline (ITA), 2:54:55; 4. Elissonde (FRA), 2:54:58; 5. de la Cruz (ESP), 2:55:01.

Stage 16 (5 Sep): 156.4 km (Flat) – 1. Jean-Pierre Drucker (FRA), 3:21:18; 2. Rudiger Selig (GER), 3:3:21:18; 3. Nikias Arndt (GER), 3:21:18; 4. Meersman (BEL), 3:21:18; 5. Lorenzo Manzman (FRA); 3:21:18.

Stage 17 (7 Sep): 177.5 km (Mountain) – 1. Mathias Frank (SUI), 4:34:38; 2. Konig (CZE), 4:34:44; 3. Gesink (NED), 4:34:49; 4. Pello Bilbao (ESP), 4:34:52; 5. Dario Cataldo (ITA), 4:34:54.

• **Wrestling: U.S. future shines bright at World Junior Championships**

*United World Wrestling World Junior Championships
Macon (FRA) ~ 30 August-04 September*



The United States has won more medals in Olympic wrestling – 128 – than any other country in history. It may stay that way in the future after excellent results at the United World Wrestling World Junior Championships

in Macon, France.

American entries won eight medals in all – two gold and six bronze – and placed 14 wrestlers in the quarterfinals or better in the 24 weight classes in men’s and women’s Freestyle and men’s Greco-Roman style.

The highlights came from gold-medal winners **Spencer Lee** at 50 kg (110 lbs.) and **Mark Hall** (74 kg/163 lbs.):

- Lee, the defending World Junior champion in this class, dominated his first four opponents, winning by a combined 35-0 score in three matches and a pin in the fourth. But he had

his hands full with **Khurshid Parpiev** of Kyrgyzstan, who ran out to leads of 4-0 and 9-4 before Lee scored the final seven points of the match to win by an 11-9 final.

“I just overcame a lot,” said Lee afterwards. “I’m getting in places where I’m normally comfortable, and next thing you know it I’m giving up exposure points and fours. I didn’t know what to do. I just kept wrestling I guess.”

- Hall had no such trouble in his final against Asian Junior champ **Ahmad Bazrighaleh** of Iran, quickly building a 10-0 lead to win by a technical fall.

“That’s the first time I’ve ever had tears of joy,” Hall told USA Wrestling’s Richard Immel “It feels good, and it helps me know that I have step that I’m on now, and I’ve just got to keep climbing the others. This is big, but there are bigger and better things that I can get to.”

U.S. coach **Brandon Slay** noted after Lee’s victory that “Winners know how to win. Whether

they take somebody down and tech them in thirty seconds or whether they come from six-zero to win, winners know how to win. I think it gives them confidence in their future. It lets them know that if I can win a Cadet World title and a Junior World title then I can win a Senior World title and an Olympic gold medal.”

UWW World Junior Championships: Macon (FRA) ~ 30 August-04 September. U.S. placements in the top eight:

Men's Freestyle:

- 50 kg (110 lbs.): Gold: Spencer Lee (USA) dec. Khurshid Parpiev (KGZ), 11-9.
- 55 kg (121 lbs.): Bronze: Daton Fix (USA) dec. Andriy Yatsenko (UKR), 10-3.
- 60 kg (132 lbs.): 8th: Seth Gross (USA).
- 74 kg (163 lbs.): Gold: Mark Hall (USA) tech. fall vs. Ahmad Bazrighaleh (IRI), 10-0.

- 84 kg (185 lbs.): 7th: Zahid Valencia (USA).

Women's Freestyle:

- 44 kg (97 lbs.): 8th: Marina Doi (USA).
- 51 kg (112 lbs.): 8th: Brenda Reyna (USA).
- 59 kg (130 lbs.): Bronze: Kayla Miracle (USA) dec. Nabira Esenbaeva (UZB), 2-0.
- 63 kg (139 lbs.): Bronze: Maya Nelson (USA) dec. Maria Kuznetzova (RUS), 9-4.
- 67 kg (147.5 lbs.): Bronze: Alexis Porter (USA) tech. fall vs. Brandy Perry (CAN), 10-0.

Men's Greco-Roman:

- 50 kg (110 lbs.): 7th: Randon Miranda (USA).
- 60 kg (132 lbs.): Bronze: Taylor LaMont (USA) dec. Oleksandr Hrushyn (UKR), 5-3.
- 74 kg (163 lbs.): 8th: Kamal Bey (USA).
- 96 kg (221.5 lbs.): Bronze: G'Angelo Hancock (USA) dec. Yuta Nara (JPN), 3-0.

Panorama

Athletics: *Berlin (GER), 03 September –*

The amazing track career of **Bernard Lagat** supposedly came to an end last Saturday at the ISTAF meet in Berlin, where he used his patented last-lap kick to finish second in the 3,000 m.

Born in Kenya, but who fell in love with the U.S. during his collegiate career at Washington State, Lagat won Olympic bronze for Kenya in the 1,500 m in 2000 and silver in 2004 before becoming a U.S. citizen. He won the World title in both the 1,500 m and 5,000 m for the U.S. in 2007 and three other World Champs medals in 2009 and 2011, but no more Olympic medals.

At 41, he made the U.S. Olympic team in the 5,000 m after dropping out of the 10,000 m in the Trials. Retired? Lagat says he will run on the roads in the future, but even at 45 in 2020, don't be surprised if he tries the 10,000 again.

Zagreb (CRO), 05 September – Ryan

Crouser is living a dream. Not only did he win the Olympic gold medal in the shot put at age 23 with a lifetime best of 22.52 m (73-10 3/4)., he proved it was no fluke with a 22.28 m (73-1 1/4) win over the other Rio stars in an IAAF World Challenge meet in Zagreb. Rio bronze winner **Thomas Walsh** of New Zealand was second, with a lifetime best and new national record of 22.21 m (72-10 1/2).

Baseball: The WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup 2016, presented by LG, is midway through the Super Round that will pair the final two teams to play for the title of world champion of women's baseball.

The tournament is being held in Gijang City, Korea, with Chinese Taipei and Japan (both 2-0) leading the Super Round halfway through, with Canada and Venezuela at 1-1 and Australia and Korea at 0-2. The Super Round will finish on 10

September with the gold-medal and bronze-medal games on 11 September.

Gymnastics: American superstar **Simone Biles** announced that she would be taking a break from competitive gymnastics after her five-medal performance at Rio that capped for four straight World/Olympic titles in the women's All-Around.

"I will be taking a year off, I think, just 'til everything settles down, because now we have photo shoots and other opportunities that will come our way," she said in a *Sports Illustrated* video interview. "It will be really hard for us to be in and out of the gym and train very serious during this time period. So afterwards, then we'll see."

[Indianapolis \(USA\), 06 September](#) – The [Kellogg's Tour of Gymnastics Champions](#) was announced ([tickets](#)), with 38 stops in 36 cities between 15 September and 13 November. The women's Olympic gold-medal-winning all-around team – Biles, **Gabby Douglas**, **Laurie Hernandez**, **Madison Kocian** and **Aly Raisman** – will be the stars of the program, which will also include the Olympic-finalist men's team (**Chris Brooks**, **Jake Dalton**, **Danell Leyva**, **Sam Mikulak** and **Alex Naddour**), the American rhythmic gymnastics and trampoline teams and 2008 and 2012 women's stars **Nastia Liukin**, **Shawn Johnson** and **Jordyn Wieber**.

Swimming: FINA confirmed the final Cluster 1 standings and bonus payments made to the top six swimmers – men and women – in the first triad of the nine-meet airweave Swimming World Cup 2016.

Hungary's three-time Olympic gold medalist **Katinka Hosszu** and Russia's **Vladimir Morozov** ended up as the big winners:

• *Men:*

1. \$50,000 Vladimir Morozov (RUS), 226 pts.
2. \$35,000 Chad le Clos (RSA), 192
3. \$30,000 Philip Heintz (GER), 138
4. \$20,000 Cameron van der Burgh (RSA), 102
5. \$10,000 Bobby Hurley (AUS), 99
6. \$ 5,000 Kirill Prigoda (RUS), 81

• *Women:*

1. \$50,000 Katinka Hosszu (HUN), 366 pts.
2. \$35,000 Jeanette Ottesen (DEN), 141
3. \$30,000 Yuliya Efimova (RUS), 120
4. \$20,000 Daryna Zevina (UKR), 120
5. \$10,000 Katie Meili (USA), 111
6. \$ 5,000 Emily Seebohm (AUS), 105

By our calculations, Hosszu won \$91,500 over the three meets, with Morozov collecting \$84,500, including two \$10,000 bonuses for world short-course records in the 100 m Medley.

FINA's short-course tour will pay \$2,178,000 to swimmers, including bonuses to the overall points leaders, and leaders after each of the three clusters.

The second World Cup cluster starts 30 September in Beijing, followed by meets in Dubai and Doha.

[Colorado Springs, 07 September](#) – Multiple news reports indicate that U.S. swimmer (and 12-time Olympic medalist) **Ryan Lochte** will be suspended for 10 months and not allowed to compete at the 2017 World Championships. The full announcement of swimming sanctions for Lochte and the others involved in the fracas at a Rio gas station during the Olympic Games – **Gunnar Bentz**, **Jack Conger** and **James Feigen** – is supposed to be announced today (08 September).

If true, the suspension for Lochte is only about half that for **Troy Dalbey** in 1988 when he "borrowed" a statue from a hotel lobby during

dinner and was arrested for theft (more [here](#)). He got 18 months from USA Swimming.

Rio officials still want Lochte to come back to Brazil to answer more questions, but there is no indication as of yet that the swimmer will accommodate them.

Naples (ITA), 04 September – The third and final race of the FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix for 2016 saw **Evgenij Pop Acev** of Macedonia finish ahead of defending champion **Damian Blaum** (ARG) and **Bertrand Venturi** of France in the 36 km (22.4 miles!) swim from Capri to Naples. Pop Acev timed 6:17:04 to 6:17:19 for Blaum and 6:25:49 for Venturi.

In the women's competition, Argentina's **Pilar Geijo** finished in 6:46:34, well ahead of **Olga Kozydub** (RUS, 6:47:37) and **Ilaria Raimondi** (ITA, 6:50:04). It's Geijo's second win at the event, after her triumph in 2011.

Tennis: The U.S. Open, last of the four tennis majors of the year, is nearing its climax in New York. Serbia's **Novak Djokovic** (top seed) will face **Gael Monfils** of France (10th seed) in one semifinal, while Japan's **Kei Nishikori** (6th seed) – who eliminated Britain's Olympic champ Andy Murray – will play Switzerland's **Stan Wawrinka** (3rd seed).

On the women's side, top-seeded **Serena Williams** will play **Karolina Pliskova** (CZE, 10th seed) in one semi, and **Caroline Wozniacki** (DEN, unseeded) will play **Angelique Kerber** (GER, 2).

No one seems to care much about the doubles tournaments, but there are three of them: men's, women's and mixed. In the men's, the semis will

include **Pierre Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut** (both FRA, 1st seed) vs. **Jamie Murray** (GBR) and **Bruno Soares** of Brazil (4th seed) and **Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez** (ESP, 8th seed) vs. **Pablo Carrena Busta and Guillermo Garcia-Lopez** (ESP, unseeded).

The women's doubles semis are **Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic** (both FRA, 1st seed) vs. sixth-seeds **Martina Hingis** (SUI) and **Coco Vandeweghe** (USA), and 12 seeds **Bethanie Mattek-Sands** (USA) and **Lucie Safarova** (CZE) vs. **Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina** (Both RUS, 5 seed).

The Mixed Doubles final is set: seventh-seeds **Coco Vandeweghe and Rajeev Ram** (both USA) vs. unseeded **Laura Siegemund** (GER) and **Mate Pavic** (CRO).

Triathlon: In the calm before the World Championships in Cozumel, MEX next week, the International Triathlon Union [announced](#) the World Triathlon Series schedule for 2017:

- 03-04 Mar.: Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- 08-09 Apr.: Gold Coast (AUS)
- 13-14 May: Yokohama (JPN)
- 10-11 Jun.: Leeds (GBR)
- 15-16 Jul.: Hamburg (GER)
- 29-30 Jul.: Edmonton (CAN)
- 05-06 Aug.: Montreal (CAN)
- 26-27 Aug.: Stockholm (SWE)
- 14-17 Sep.: Rotterdam (NED)

Abu Dhabi, Gold Coast, Hamburg and Edmonton will be contested over the sprint distance (750 m swim, 20 km bike, 5 km run), while the others will use the Olympic distances of 1.5 km, 40 km and 10 km.

About the Author

Rich Perelman has been a bid developer, planner and/or operator of 20 multi-day, multi-venue events, including five Olympic/Olympic Winter Games, in the U.S., Canada and Europe. In addition to nearly 100 books, event and statistical guides, he has written for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Track & Field News*, *Universal Sports* and many other publications. He is a longtime member of the Association of Track & Field Statisticians (ATFS), International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) and the Track & Field Writers of America (TAFWA).

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