



USA DAILY

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ZAGUNIS SELECTED AS FLAG BEARER

BY PEGGY SHINN

In her 17-year fencing career, Mariel Zagunis has experienced every high that an athlete can achieve. She has three Olympic medals, two of them golds, and eight world championship medals, including three golds.

Now she can add a new high to this lengthy list. At a meeting of U.S. team captains on Wednesday night (July 25), the 27-year-old fencer was selected to lead the 529-member 2012 U.S. Olympic Team into Friday's Opening Ceremony as flag bearer.

"It's such a great honor," said Zagunis, her smile as big as her blue eyes and tinsel glittering in her blonde hair. "It means a lot to be picked by my fellow athletes. It's not some random committee thinking that someone is deserving. The athletes are actually picking who is leading them into the Opening Ceremony. I can't believe that I'm going to be the one who has that opportunity."

Zagunis is particularly honored to represent the U.S. delegation at the Opening Ceremony because this is the first time that women outnumber men on the U.S. team.

"It's amazing," she said, "by leaps and bounds."

When Zagunis walks into the Olympic Stadium carrying Old Glory on Friday night, it will be a long way from her first trip to the Olympic Games eight years ago. At age 19, she did not make the cut when the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team was selected that April – a "huge devastating moment," she said. She only earned a berth in June after Nigeria opted out of women's individual saber, an event that made its Olympic debut in Athens.

Two months later, she became the first U.S. fencer to win gold at an Olympic Games in a hundred years. She did not have long to savor the moment though. She left Athens early to return to Notre Dame to start her freshman year in college.



FOLLOWING TEAM USA

WEB | TeamUSA.org

MEDIA | TeamUSA.org/Media

FACEBOOK | Facebook.com/USOlympicTeam

TWITTER | @USOlympic, @USOlympicNews

YOUTUBE | YouTube.com/TeamUSA

GOOGLE+ | Plus.Google.com/s/TeamUSA

FLICKR | Flickr.com/USOlympicTeam

WEATHER

LONDON | 75°, light rain

DORNEY | 75°, light rain

GLASGOW | 61°, light rain

HADLEIGH | 72°, heavy rain

PORTLAND | 73°, mostly sunny

WALTHAM CROSS | 75°, light rain

BIRTHDAYS

Amanda Smock (30) Track & Field

QUOTABLE

"It is an incredible feeling to be an Olympian. The Olympics transcend all sports, whether you are a cyclist, a fencer or a skier. Everyone in the world understands what being an Olympian and winning an Olympic medal means. It is a cultural icon and to be able to say I'm an Olympian is an amazing feeling."

--Timmy Duggan, road cycling

DID YOU KNOW?

London becomes the first city to host three Olympics Games, having previously hosted in 1908 and 1948. Athens (1896, 2004), Paris (1900, 1924) and Los Angeles (1932, 1984) have hosted two Olympic Games, while St. Moritz (1928, 1948), Lake Placid (1932, 1980) and Innsbruck (1964, 1976) have hosted two Olympic Winter Games.

ON THIS DAY

1993: NBC was awarded its third consecutive Olympic Games (Atlanta 1996).

1924: The Olympic Games closed in Paris, the first city to host athletes in an Olympic Village.

Four years later at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Zagunis successfully defended her gold medal in women's saber. But she missed the Opening Ceremony because her event was scheduled for the next day.

Now in London, she is the top-ranked women's saber fencer and hopes to become a three-time Olympic gold medalist.

Then earlier this week, she learned this Olympic Games would be special no matter what happens. Teammate Tim Morehouse told Zagunis that he was going to nominate her as flag bearer. Morehouse is fencing's team captain and a silver medalist in team saber at the 2008 Olympic Games. On Wednesday evening, he met with 22 other U.S. team captains, who each nominated an athlete to be flag bearer.

In the first round of voting, team captains are not allowed to vote for their nominee. After that initial round, they may vote for whomever they choose.

The 2012 U.S. flag bearer vote went to four rounds – with Morehouse advocating hard for Zagunis. Each time, it was a dead tie between Zagunis and another unnamed athlete. Finally, in the fifth voting round, Morehouse's lobbying prevailed as Zagunis took the majority of votes.

"Tim is a big advocate of fencing," said Zagunis of her fellow saber fencer. "He has been doing so much for our sport getting our names out there, promoting fencing. He was really pulling for me."

After the vote, Morehouse burst into Zagunis's room at the Olympic Village and gave her the news.

RAISE OUR FLAG

BY VIRGINIA HARRISON

If the smiles and dancing were any indication, the London 2012 Olympic Games can't come fast enough for Team USA.

Athletes from six U.S. teams cheered, applauded and danced at the U.S. flag raising ceremony at the Olympic Village on Thursday (July 26) in anticipation for the Games to begin.

"The Olympics never get old," said women's volleyball player and five-time Olympian Danielle Scott-Arruda (Baton Rouge, La.). "I don't want to miss a thing, like the incredible perfor-



BREAKING NEWS

The USOC distributes real-time news and results relating to the U.S. delegation. All media accredited through the USOC are automatically placed on the email distribution list. To be added, send a request to BreakingNews@usoc.org. In addition, breaking-news updates will be tweeted using [@USOlympicNews](https://twitter.com/USOlympicNews).

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

To be added to the distribution list for USA Daily, the official newsletter of the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team, [click here](#). The newsletter will be distributed each night at approximately 11 p.m. local time in London.

MEDIA GUIDE

The 2012 U.S. Olympic Team media guide is available in two formats – online and interactive PDF – at TeamUSA.org. The guide features athlete biographies, sport previews, history and records, USOC information, and facts and figures about the Olympic Games.

TRAINING CENTERS

The USOC is operating three non-LOCOG training venues in London, including the U.S. High Performance Training Center at the University of East London Docklands Campus and facilities at Sports Club Orient (SCORE) and Mile End Stadium. A variety of U.S. teams are training at each of the locations and schedules vary by sport. Additional information can be found in the Team USA media guide and media access requests can be sent to UELMedia@usoc.org.

USA HOUSE

USA House is a business and hospitality hub for members of the U.S. Olympic family to gather for meetings, host guests, celebrate victories and conduct other Games-related business. While the venue is not open to the public, there are a limited number of media opportunities at USA House. All requests must be directed to USAHouseMedia@usoc.org.

BROADCAST

Daily Schedule | [Schedule by Sport](#)

NBCUniversal is providing 5,535 hours of coverage for the London Games across NBC, NBC Sports Network, MSNBC, CNBC, Bravo, Telemundo, NBCOlympics.com, two specialty channels and the first-ever 3D platform. The

mance we saw today. It's an honor to be here and to have our flag raised. It's a memory I will always hold."

After processing into the Village Plaza from the residential area, the crowd of athletes, team officials and guests in attendance watched as the Stars and Stripes were raised during a playing of the Star Spangled Banner. Representatives from water polo, track & field, table tennis, weightlifting, indoor volleyball and swimming represented the red, white and blue.

USOC CEO Scott Blackmun and Chef de Mission Teresa Edwards, who is a five-time Olympian and the most decorated Olympic basketball player in the world, accepted a welcome from the Village mayor on Team USA's behalf.

"Seeing the flag raised was really special to us," said women's water polo attacker Brenda Villa (Commerce, Calif.). "We're getting really excited for the Opening Ceremony tomorrow. We're starting to see the bigger picture."

Four other nations – Chad, Granada, Jamaica and Madagascar – were also welcomed during the show, one of 54 held in the plaza leading up to the Games.

Performing a few songs from the British band Queen, actors dressed as Shakespearean poets led athletes into the plaza from their residences for an official welcome from the Village mayor. During the performance, they asked the athletes and team officials to recognize the powerful role sport plays in bringing in nations together and to sign glass walls in the plaza to show their support.

"Music always moves you," said weightlifter Kendrick Farris (Shreveport, La.). "I'm a big fan of Queen, and they're sharing such a positive message today, a message of peace through sport, something that unites us all. It was a beautiful thing. The experience just gets you fired up for the Games to begin."

RESULTS

SOCCER

The women's team earned three points with a 4-2 victory against France in its opening Group G match on July 25 in Glasgow, Scotland, at Hampden Park. Carli Lloyd (Delran, N.J.) came off the bench to score the game-winning goal following two scores from Alex Morgan (Diamond Bar, Calif.). After falling to an early 2-0 deficit, Abby Wambach (Rochester, N.Y.) ignited Team USA's historic comeback with a header off a corner kick in the 18th minute to start the four-goal unanswered stretch. The U.S. continues group play against Colombia at Hampden Park on July 28. **MORE**

PREVIEWS

ARCHERY | By Chris Deacon

The archery team is ready to begin its quest for gold and will look to build its growing reputation on the world stage. After falling short of the medal stand in Athens and Beijing, the U.S. team has been revitalized under the direction of Head Coach KiSik Lee.

By implementing the first specialized U.S. archery training program of its kind and sending a full roster of archers to international events, the U.S. could be ready to welcome its first Olympic medal since the turn of the century.

World No.1 Brady Ellison (Chula Vista, Calif.) is hoping to guide the team to the podium after achieving an individual bronze and team gold medals at the world indoor championships in Las Vegas earlier this year.

"I don't feel like we get heated rivalries in this sport," said Ellison. "We're all good friends and we enjoy competing. I like shooting against the best and I feel like shooting against the best makes me better."

Teammates Jake Kaminski (Chula Vista, Calif.) and Jacob Wukie (Chula Vista, Calif.) will partner with Ellison on the top-ranked U.S. men's recurve team.

"The way we work together as a cohesive unit is far better than anybody else," said Kaminski. "I don't see anybody communicate better than we do and a lot of other countries actually watch us to see how we communicate."

unprecedented level of coverage will surpass the coverage of the 2008 Games by nearly 2,000 hours.

HIGH-DEMAND TICKETS

For select events where demand for press seating and photo positions exceeds availability, the IOC requires that media representatives have tickets – in addition to a credential – for venue access. The Opening and Closing Ceremonies and all swimming finals are considered high-demand events and will be ticketed. Other sessions may be added throughout the duration of the Games at the discretion of the IOC and LOCOG. To request tickets, contact Bill.Hancock@usoc.org.

TEAM IN TRAINING

Today's Team in Training video features clips from the official opening of the U.S. High Performance Training Center at the University of East London Docklands Campus. **VIDEO**



Miranda Leek (Des Moines, Iowa), Khatuna Lorig (West Hollywood, Calif.) and Jennifer Nichols (College Station, Texas) make up the U.S. women's team, which will rely on its experience. The trio became the first U.S. women's archery team to qualify for the Olympic Games since 2004 after overcoming a strong Mexican squad at the Olympic qualifier to claim the gold medal. Nichols also became the first U.S. recurve woman to qualify for a world cup final.

The U.S. men's and women's teams will appear today (July 27) at Lord's Cricket Ground for the ranking round at the 70-meter Olympic distance, with team medal rounds set for Saturday and Sunday. The individual competition runs from July 30-Aug. 3.

SOCCER | By Virginia Harrison

On a quest for its third straight gold medal, the U.S. women's soccer team will have plenty of depth to fend off its growing international competition. Featuring veteran leadership in captain Christie Rampone (Pt. Pleasant, N.J.), who will be playing in her fourth Olympic Games, the roster also boasts rising stars like Alex Morgan (Diamond Bar, Calif.), who already has 19 goals in 2012. With this mix of talent and experience, the U.S. is poised to reclaim its place on the podium.

"Everything we've done is better than the Olympic Games in 2008," said Head Coach Pia Sundhage. "The thing I like the most about this team is the different personalities, so it looks different depending on who's playing in the starting lineup. For me it's a privilege, and I really want to emphasize that, to be around good players in 2008 but even better in 2012."

The squad already displayed its potency with a 4-2, come-from-behind win over France in its opening match on July 25.

Leading the squad into its second and third games of group play

against Colombia and North Korea will be midfield veterans Shannon Boxx (Torrance, Calif.), Carli Lloyd (Delran, N.J.) and Heather O'Reilly (East Brunswick, N.J.), who have multiple world cup and Olympic experience between them. On the attack, Lauren Cheney (Indianapolis, Ind.) and Megan Rapinoe (Redding, Calif.) will be dynamic pieces along with midfielders Tobin Heath (Basking Ridge, N.J.) and Amy Rodriguez (Lake Forest, Calif.). The only newcomer since the world cup, Sydney Leroux (Los Angeles, Calif.) will add youth to the front line.

Considered one of the best in the world, goalkeeper Hope Solo (Richland, Wash.) will hold the back line of capable defenders, featuring Rachel Buehler (Del Mar, Calif.), Heather Mitts (Cincinnati, Ohio), Amy LePeilbet (Crystal Lake, Ill.) and Becky Sauerbrunn (St. Louis, Mo.), who all have proven themselves on the international stage. The veteran core will help striker Kelley O'Hara (Fayetteville, Ga.) find a home on the defense in her first Olympic berth.

"I think this is the first time you've seen a full squad go into two world championships back-to-back with the exception of one new face," said Rampone. "We're all on the same page leading into these Olympic Games."

TWITTER TALK

@FRANKLINMISSY

It was so awesome to have the men's Olympic basketball team stop by the village tonight! Makes me proud to be a part of Team USA!

@LASHINDADEMUS

Made it to the Olympic Village today and seeing all the other teams really puts renews your Olympic spirit every time. #itsgametime



U.S. divers, David Boudia, Troy Dumais and Christina Loukas made a splash with fellow Olympians and celebrities at USA House as the USOC honored the 2012 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams with an all-american Benefit Gala on Thursday evening (July 26).

DAILY COMPETITION SCHEDULE

ARCHERY	M	Individual, Team (Ranking Round) <i>Brady Ellison, Jake Kaminski, Jacob Wukie</i>	Lord's Cricket Ground	9a
ARCHERY	W	Individual, Team (Ranking Round) <i>Miranda Leek, Khatuna Lorig, Jennifer Nichols</i>	Lord's Cricket Ground	1p

PRESS CONFERENCES

WATER POLO	M	MPC - Buckingham Room	10a
	W	MPC - Buckingham Room	11a
BASKETBALL	M	MPC - Main Media Conference Room	1p
CYCLING - ROAD	M/W	MPC - Buckingham Room	2p
TRIATHLON	M/W	MPC - Tower Room	2:30p

