Friendship Formed Beyond the Olympic Rings

“Awards become corroded, friends gather no dust.” – Jesse Owens

Harrison Dillard and Herbert Douglas
A Letter From Richard Fosbury
U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association President

Dear Olympians and Paralympians,

In April, our officers convened our spring meeting in Washington, D.C. We met to conduct our business, participate in the ACE Summit and attend the Team USA Awards following the Winter Games in PyeongChang. I spoke at the welcome dinner for the Summit, our officers inducted the 2018 Olympians and Paralympians into the USOPA, each member was presented a membership pin. We met the first-time athletes competing at the Games and shared stories with the veterans. The next day we listened to a panel discussion that included our Vice President, Candace Cable, who shared experiences about getting to the Games and the transition into retirement. We all understand the challenges of facing the unknown after the Games: whether to continue competing at the elite level or to move forward with school, a career, or building a family. It’s such an emotional and mental swing from being super focused on your performance to a more normal daily life, it’s important to give yourself a break, relax and re-center.

The ACE Program has really grown under the strong leadership of Leslie Klein (canoe/kayak, 1980, 1984) and her staff at the USOC. The program provides resources to athletes to include mentoring on career and personal choices as well as academic counseling and scholarship opportunities. This was the first Summit our USOPA officers attended, we really enjoyed sharing our personal experiences inside and outside of our sports life. We look forward to building a collaboration with ACE, both in a mentoring capacity and having USPOA members take advantage of the resources when they are ready to retire. The Summit Expo included round table sessions where the athletes rotated through hour long sessions hosted by experts in careers, social media, nonprofits, broadcasting, and public speaking, just to name a few. I enjoyed sitting in and learning how to more effectively use my LinkedIn profile and build a targeted network. The USOPA hosted our own table to introduce everyone to our new social platform based on the Athletes Network model. Check it out for yourself and connect with me and our officers or your teammates in across the country.


The 2018 Team USA Awards presented by Dow – Best of the Games was excellent and well-produced, held at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., a beautiful venue. Their theatre was packed full of the returning team members, our alumni and many DC area athletes, and of course politicians and sports fans (like Mr T). I listened
carefully to the words spoken by USOC Acting CEO Susanne Lyons, expressing the serious work being done to change the culture in protecting athletes and then to celebrate the performances by our team at the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The nominations of athletes and coaches in the different categories showed how strong the performances really were; they all deserved recognition. I’m glad I didn’t have to choose the winners and enjoyed seeing how the public voted. The Post-party went well into the night with dancing, live music, and everyone mixing it up. This was a good Winter for sports fans!

Our work is carrying on, and we are working closely with the AAC, providing advice to the USOC Board regarding ‘Athletes First’ issues, being represented on the CEO Search Committee, and communicating regularly with our athletes on the USOC Board. I’m very proud of the efforts being made every month by our officers and their actions taken to promote SafeSport and Olympic values across the country. And while this is a challenging environment for all of us, I must say thank you to the staff in our Alumni office and in Headquarters and the Training Centers across the country for giving your best efforts to enable our athletes to become their best. We know it cannot be done without a strong support team.

June 23rd is International Olympic Day and we have athletes and groups signed up once again to celebrate all month and beyond. I hope you join me and all our members in participating this year. Speak to kids, families, and sports fans about the joy and effort of giving your best in health and fitness. We have many partners in sports clubs, schools, and the military, who would love to get together with you.

Whether you are an Olympian or Paralympian, we all know the benefits of playing your game and sharing in the experience. Thanks for sharing and enjoy your summer!

Yours in Olympic spirit,

Richard Fosbury

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the 1948 Olympic Games in London. It also, perhaps, highlights one of the oldest Olympic friendships of two athletes that competed there: that of Herb Douglas and Harrison Dillard.

At 96, Douglas is the oldest African-American Olympic medalist, having won a bronze medal at the 1948 Games in the long jump. Dillard, the oldest African-American Olympic gold medalist, will celebrate his 95th birthday in July – at a party coordinated in part by Douglas.

Though they met at the 1942 AAU Track and Field Championships, the experience of competing in London 70 years ago still ties them together more than any other milestone.

The 1948 Olympic Games were the first held after the outbreak of World War II forced the cancellation of four editions of the Games between 1940 and 1944.

Because of the economic hardships that befell much of Europe after the war, 1948 came to be known as the Austerity Games, which was reflected in the usage of existing venues and the bare-bones athletes’ quarters that required athletes to bring their own towels.

Still, the stark backdrop of the Games didn’t dull the shine of Douglas and Dillard’s performances. Notably, Dillard won his first Olympic gold medal in the 100 meters, a race where he wasn’t favored – and one where Barney Ewell, his competitor, thought he had crossed the finish line first.

“I thought I had won, because I felt the tape strike my chest and my arm. [Ewell] thought he had won, so he began to jump up and down in a victory celebration. I was declared the winner, in spite of Barney Ewell’s celebration,” Dillard said. “Of course, with all of us being good friends at this time, Barney was the first to congratulate me on winning.”

What Dillard remembers most, though, is being on the podium.

“Before we were presented with our medals, we faced the scoreboard at the end of the stadium and they played the national anthem,” Dillard said. “Standing
on that victory stand and then hearing the national anthem played was quite an impressive thing, and I can remember it made the hair stand up on the back of my neck.”

Douglas jokes that his goal was to compete in London and stand on the podium – but not necessarily to win gold like his friend.

“Since I was very young, I always prayed that I’d make the Olympic Team. And a sports psychologist said, ‘You wanted to make the Olympic Team, but you didn’t want to win a gold medal.’ And I never did think of that,” Douglas said. “I dreamed of standing on the podium and winning a medal, but never winning gold.”

Another tie that binds Dillard and Douglas is their admiration of Jesse Owens, who went to the same Cleveland high school as Dillard and earned a record-breaking four gold medals in track and field at the 1936 Games, the last to commence before the war. Owens was in the stands during the 100-meter race that Dillard won.

“Later on in the locker room, he, too, congratulated me,” Dillard said. “He said, ‘I’m happy for you. I thought you could do it.’”

When Owens passed away in 1980, Douglas – who had since received his master’s degree in education and moved onto the corporate world, working first for Pabst Brewing Company and then for Schieffelin & Co. (now Moët Hennessy USA) – established the Jesse Owens International Athlete Trophy and the Jesse Owens Global Award for Peace to honor his friend.

The awards are presented annually at the Jesse Owens Gala, which brings together business leaders and Olympians from around the world for a celebration of amateur sport. Douglas attends every year, and Dillard has joined him as often as he can.

“Over the years, I had a lot of events in the corporate world, and he never failed to show up to any I had,” Douglas said. “He supported me all the time. When I would get a little sad, he evidently would pick up on it, and he would say, ‘Herb, you can do it. If you’re gonna do that, it’ll be good.’”

The pair will see each other next in Cleveland for Dillard’s 95th birthday celebration. Dillard calls Douglas his “closest Olympic friend” and says they’ve talked on the phone every few weeks for over 70 years.

In turn, Douglas has nothing but glowing things to say of Dillard.

“When you get old, in your 90s, there are only a few people you can put on one hand where you can say, that man’s been an honorable person most of his life,” Douglas said. “Harrison Dillard is one.”
The United States Olympic Committee announced the 2018 winners for the Team USA Awards presented by Dow, Best of the Games, recognizing Team USA’s outstanding performances and awe-inspiring achievements from the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 in the following eight categories:

- Female Olympic Athlete of the Games, presented by DICK’S Sporting Goods – Chloe Kim, snowboarding
- Male Olympic Athlete of the Games – Shaun White, snowboarding
- Olympic Team of the Games, presented by Dow – U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team
- Olympic Coach of the Games – Jason Cork, cross-country skiing
- Female Paralympic Athlete of the Games – Oksana Masters, Nordic skiing
- Male Paralympic Athlete of the Games – Dan Cnossen, Nordic skiing
- Paralympic Team of the Games, presented by Dow – U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team
- Paralympic Coach of the Games – Gary Colliander, Nordic skiing

The awards were presented during a live recording of the Team USA Awards presented by Dow, Best of the Games ceremony, held April 26 at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C. The awards show – which featured NBC sportscaster Mike Tirico as host – was televised May 12 on NBCSN as a 90-minute feature for the first time ever.

The six athlete and team award winners were determined by online fan voting at TeamUSA.org/Awards, where nearly 600,000 fan votes determined 50 percent of the final tally. Members of the Olympic and Paralympic family – including an esteemed panel of Olympic and Paralympic journalists – accounted for the other 50 percent. For coaching awards, National Governing Bodies selected their nominees and the winners were determined via selection committee.

The celebration also recognized Olympic figure skating champion Kristi Yamaguchi with the third annual Jesse Owens Olympic Spirit Award – which recognizes an individual(s) who has served as a powerful force for good in society, inspiring others by contributing to a better world, uniting people or leading a cause – and Tom Kelly, vice president of communications at U.S. Ski & Snowboard, as the recipient of the Building Dreams Award, presented by USG, which honors an individual, group or community that has gone above and beyond in its support of Team USA.
In addition to Dow, the presenting sponsor, the Team USA Awards are supported by DICK’S Sporting Goods and USG.

**Female Olympic Athlete of the Games, presented by DICK’S Sporting Goods**
**Chloe Kim (Torrance, California), snowboarding**
In her first Olympic Games, Kim nailed a 98.25-point victory lap run in halfpipe after posting a 93.75 on her first run to secure the gold medal. She is the youngest woman from any nation to win a gold medal in snowboarding.

**Male Olympic Athlete of the Games**
**Shaun White (Carlsbad, California), snowboarding**
With an impressive 97.75-point final run to claim gold, White became the first snowboarder to ever win three Olympic gold medals and is the first American man to win gold medals at three Olympic Winter Games. He now owns the second most gold medals among U.S. men in Olympic Winter Games history.

**Olympic Team of the Games, presented by Dow**
**U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team**
For the first time since 1998, Team USA defeated rival Canada for the Olympic gold medal in women’s ice hockey. The U.S. women bested the four-time Olympic champions, 3-2, in a shootout after tying the game with 6:21 remaining in regulation.

**Female Paralympic Athlete of the Games**
**Oksana Masters (Louisville, Kentucky), Nordic skiing**
After fracturing her right elbow three weeks prior to the Paralympic Winter Games, Masters overcame unsurmountable odds to win five medals (two golds, two silvers and one bronze) in biathlon and cross-country competition. She left PyeongChang as the most decorated athlete on the team and in the history of the Para Nordic skiing program.

**Male Paralympic Athlete of the Games**
**Dan Cnossen (Topeka, Kansas), Nordic skiing**
In his second Paralympic Games, Cnossen medaled in each of the six cross-country and biathlon events he entered, winning one gold, four silvers and one bronze. He also made history as the first American man to win biathlon gold at the Olympic or Paralympic Winter Games.

**Paralympic Team of the Games, presented by Dow**
**U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team**
Powered by the late shooting heroics of Declan Farmer, Team USA claimed an unprecedented third consecutive gold medal at the Paralympic Winter Games with a thrilling 2-1 overtime victory over Canada.

**Olympic Coach of the Games**
**Jason Cork, cross-country skiing**
As a coach for the U.S. National Cross-Country Ski Team and the personal coach of two-time Olympian Jessie Diggins, Cork was instrumental in leading Team USA to its first-ever Olympic medal in women’s cross-country skiing and the first U.S. gold medal in the sport. In addition to the historic gold medal in team sprint, Cork also guided Diggins to three individual top-five finishes – the best-ever for an American woman in Olympic cross-country skiing (prior to the gold medal).
Paralympic Coach of the Games
Gary Colliander, Nordic skiing
With Colliander’s biathlon expertise, the U.S. Paralympic Nordic Skiing Team concluded the PyeongChang Games in record-setting fashion with seven biathlon medals. Prior to the PyeongChang Games, the U.S. had only garnered one biathlon medal in Olympic or Paralympic Winter Games history. He also coached the team to nine medals in cross-country races, bringing its event total to 16 medals – including six golds.

Building Dreams Award, presented by USG
Tom Kelly, vice president of communications at U.S. Ski & Snowboard
In a career that has spanned 32 years and nine Olympic Winter Games, Kelly has dedicated his life’s work to telling the incredible stories of Team USA athletes and highlighting the historic milestones that have made U.S. Ski & Snowboard a perennial power on the world’s biggest stage. In a pioneering move that reimagined media coverage at the Olympic Games, Kelly was the mastermind behind the USOC’s Managing Victory tour, which is designed to help Olympic medalists capitalize on their success and promote their sport in the immediate aftermath of their podium performance. Now a cornerstone of both summer and winter versions of the Games, Team USA celebrated the sixth installment of the program at the PyeongChang Olympics, which also marked the final Games for Kelly in his current role with U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

Jesse Owens Olympic Spirit Award
Kristi Yamaguchi, 1992 Olympic gold medalist (figure skating)
Yamaguchi embodies the word champion, both in her athletic achievements and dedication to giving back to the community. Since being crowned the women’s figure skating Olympic champion in 1992, she has continued to define excellence and inspire others through many philanthropic efforts. Yamaguchi’s personal motto inspired her to establish the Always Dream Foundation, which aims to support disadvantaged children in her native Bay Area. Later, she launched the Always Reading program, which focuses on the development of early childhood literacy skills by integrating e-tablets, digital and traditional books in the classroom. Yamaguchi also established the Always Dream Play Park, offering play equipment designed for children with disabilities, and the Always Striving scholarship, awarded annually to an individual or pairs figure skating team that reflects the dedication, potential and character of an Olympic hopeful.
It was 1932 and the greatest worry was that the ice wouldn’t freeze. Lake Placid was experiencing a veritable heatwave with temperatures in the mid-50’s in January. The Hudson River had not frozen over for the first time in the 147-year history of the New York state weather bureau. Lake Placid Olympic Organizers feared that there would not be any snow for the Olympic Winter Games. The bobsled run was washed out by heavy rain and ultimately, snow was brought in by train for the Games. Finally, a blizzard hit Lake Placid just days before Opening Ceremony alleviating some concern; but throughout the Games, the warm temperatures in Lake Placid would prove problematic. In the midst of this, the U.S. Hockey Team began the Olympic tournament that would also serve as the 6th Hockey World Championship. For the first time, not only would hockey games be held outside but indoors as well.

The U.S. Olympic Ice Hockey Committee hosted a series of tryouts in Minneapolis, Detroit, Boston and New York. Each section whittled the players down to a select regional team that then played each other with the final winners to be chosen to represent the United States. In the West, the University of Minnesota team ended up on top and was sent to Boston Arena to play the East team.

In the east, Boston and New York both fielded teams. The New York team was mainly comprised of St. Nicholas Hockey Club players. This team defeated a selected team from the Adirondack region in early December and then went on to play the Boston team on December 28 and January 2 with a win and a tie. From those two teams, came the final East team of comparative “all stars” that handily defeated the University of Minnesota 4-0 on January 14. Thus, the team that represented the United States was mostly comprised of St. Nicholas senior amateur players and Boston Hockey and University Clubs. Their goalie was a former Yale hockey player, Franklin “Tot” Farrel, III, who joined St.
Hockey Mask – Frank Farrel’s Hockey Mask from the 1932 Lake Placid Olympic Winter Games. Frank Farrel Collection, Crawford Family U.S. Olympic Archives.


Photograph courtesy of Franklin Farrel, III Collection, Crawford Family U.S. Olympic Archives, U.S. Olympic Committee

Nicks just the year before but proved to be an excellent addition. When Farrel was goalie for Yale, he lost four games – total – one each year while he was there.

Due to the depression, only four teams were present at Lake Placid for the III Olympic Winter Games hockey tournament; the United States, Germany, Poland and Canada, the team that had won each previous Olympic hockey tournament and the last 5 World Championship Hockey tournaments. For the Olympic tournament, a point system was used; winning a game was worth 2 points, a tie 1 point, and a loss equaled 0 points. The team with the most points would win both Olympic glory and the world championship.

On February 4th, after having just a little over two weeks together and only one real competition that they lost, the combined team from the United States was pitted against Canada for the first match of the tournament. The team representing Canada was the Winnipeg Winnipeg. The Winnipeg were founded in 1890 as an Amateur senior-level men’s team and had won the 1931 Allan Cup (the Canadian Senior Amateur Championship). As the amateur champions, the Winnipeg were chosen to represent Canada at the Olympic Games and had only allowed a total of 9 goals scored against them all season.

Playing outside, the U.S. team struck first, scoring the first goal four minutes into the second period and led until the last period. With two men in the penalty box for the United States (John Garrison & Winthrop Palmer), Canada tied the game with just 1:40 minutes left in the third period. Five minutes into overtime, Canada finally won the game 2-1.

The United States would go on to play a double Round-Robin tournament against Germany and Poland, winning all four games with no goals scored against Farrel (backup goalie Edward Frazier played in the first game against Poland in which the U.S. won 4-1). This led to the United States playing undefeated Canada again not only for the Olympic gold but also for the World Championship title. Fans packed in tight to watch the final game of the tournament in the enclosed arena.

Once again, the U.S. scored first early in the first period and led until the final period with a score of 2-1. Canada finally tied the game at 2-2 with only 33 seconds left to play with a fluke puck bounce from uneven ice (the ice was not scraped during periods due to a figure skating exhibition). Through 30 more minutes of extended play, the tie would remain unbroken in three overtime periods. Canada was crowned World Champions and won the Olympic gold medal for the 4th time in a row.

Although the United States took home the silver medal for both, it was a major achievement; the United States had kept Canada from being undefeated in Olympic history - a feat no other nation
accomplished up to then. In addition, during the entire tournament, Farrel had only 4 goals scored on him, solidifying his fame as an outstanding goalie.

When Farrel played in the late 1920 and 1930s; goalies did not wear pads or face masks as they do now. Farrel was one of the few hockey players however, that did wear a mask; he wore glasses and wearing a mask ensured he would not “lose an eye” in his words. “The mask must has saved me 30 or more bangs on the face or in the eyes even if it did take a nick out of my nose each time,” he wrote in 1990 to the Yale women’s hockey team. Farrel also was quick to state that the reason photographs did not show him wearing a team jersey but always in a sweatshirt was so he could sew felt on the arms as make-shift pads. Standing only 5 feet 6 inches, Farrel also noted that he did not have a proper chest protector, his was actually a catcher’s chest protector modified to fit him.

In 1980, When Lake Placid hosted the Winter Games for a second time, members of the 1932 men’s ice hockey team and their families returned to Lake Placid for a reunion. Not only were they able to witness the Miracle on Ice; but they were also able to get together as team once more.

We are thrilled to have Franklin Farrel’s Olympic history preserved in our archives. His family donated his Olympic and World Championship silver medals as well as his Olympic diploma, hockey mask, photographs and scrapbooks. It is from his collection that we are able to relate his history as well as that of the 1932 Lake Placid Ice Hockey team.
IN RESPONSE TO THE OFTEN ASKED QUESTION OF “WHAT IS BEING DONE FOR THE VICTIMS/SURVIVORS”?

There are 2 separate efforts in place or underway:

USA Gymnastics Athlete Assistance Fund

USA Gymnastics, through their Foundation, set up an Athlete Assistance Fund for purposes of counseling and medical treatment. This fund has been active, and USA Gymnastics has been promoting the program to its membership since February. Gymnastics athletes can find the following link at the top of USAG’s website with information about the fund and how to request support. (https://www.usagym.org/pages/aboutus/pages/aaf.html)

The National Gymnastics Foundation is in the process of setting up a separate 501c3 foundation to protect the money and a third party (PHP Management Systems) is administering the requests and the disbursements for confidentiality and will help athletes get connected with a service provider if they don’t have one already. No athlete is waiting for funding while these details are being worked out and anyone who has a need is being taken care of right now. The direct link to the USA Gymnastics Athlete Assistance Fund is below.

Athlete Assistance Fund. Established by the National Gymnastics Foundation, the Athlete Assistance Fund provides financial resources for and access to counseling and related services for any current or former gymnast who was a member of USA Gymnastics and suffered sexual abuse within the sport of gymnastics. Eligible athletes may apply for assistance by visiting www.phpaafund.org, which is administered by PHP Management Systems.

USOC Athlete Assistance Fund/Program

In addition, the USOC is setting up a separate program for victims/survivors of other sports. We are currently reviewing and determining the best methodology to deliver counseling, treatment and testing services to athletes across multiple NGBs. This will take more time but is underway and we expect this to be in place by the end of the year.

In the meantime, support services are available at:

Safe Sport Helpline. For 24/7 crisis support, contact the SafeSport helpline for crisis interventions, referrals and emotional support. This confidential and secure helpline https://www.safesporthelpline.org is operated by RAINN, the nation’s largest anti-sexual violence organization.

Additional details will be shared in this space as information is available.

The Olympian will include quarterly updates from the Center for SafeSport in an effort to keep all Olympians and Paralympians informed and aware of important sites for additional information.

The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (S.534) was signed into law in February 2018. The Law designates the U.S. Center for SafeSport to serve as the independent national safe sport organization, with the responsibility for developing policies and procedures to prevent the emotional, physical and sexual abuse of amateur athletes.

The Center provides response and resolution services within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movements and provides education and training.
to coaches, administrators, athletes, parents and the larger sports community. The Center’s responsibilities include:

- setting training and policy requirements for national governing bodies (policies include limiting one-on-one interactions between adults and minors)
- receiving all sexual misconduct reports (which can be reported anonymously) from NGBs and anyone within the Movement
- investigating reports of abuse in a confidential manner
- issuing decisions if an individual did or did not violate the SafeSport Code (required for each NGB)
- sanctioning individuals who violated the Code, up to permanent ineligibility
- establishing oversight mechanisms, including regular and random audits of the NGBs

www.safesport.org

If you have reason to believe an athlete is being abused, report it.

Online: www.safesport.org and click on “report a concern.”
Fill out the Sexual Misconduct Incident Reporting Form.
Call: 720-531-0340

In either case, you may remain anonymous. However, the more information you can provide, the more thorough the investigation will be.

Please note, ALL reports of child abuse of a minor must also be reported to local authorities.

SafeSport’s board consists of nine, independent board members who share the ideals and principles of SafeSport’s vision, mission and core values. Board members are listed here: https://www.safesport.org/who-we-are.

The two athlete members selected by the AAC are:

Connie Smotek
(connie.smotek@gmail.com)

Megan Ryther
(Megan.Ryther@icemiller.com)
ACE and USOPA Celebrate Winter Games 2018 Athletes During Team USA Week

Nearly 90 U.S. Olympians and Paralympians from the PyeongChang Winter Games 2018 gathered in Washington D.C. to kick off Team USA Week and participate in the Athlete Career and Education (ACE) Olympic and Paralympic Summit 2018. Hosted in conjunction with the United States Olympic Committee’s Team USA Awards and customary visit to the White House following the Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, the ACE Summit was an interactive, multi-day event focusing on personal and professional development. Athletes were given the opportunity to reflect on their lives in sport, learning to leverage their athletic careers and Games experiences to develop their personal brands for business opportunities, access resources to start a professional career and navigate the job market, while engaging in discussions with peers and professionals as they explore life after PyeongChang.

Athletes were immediately welcomed as active participants the opening night of the ACE Summit, beginning with an induction into the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association (USOPA). Led by USOPA President and legendary Olympian Dick Fosbury, athletes were pinned and hailed into one of the most exclusive memberships in the United States by the USOPA leadership team and several attending U.S. Olympic/ Paralympic alumni including Steve Mesler, Denise Parker, Chris Coleman, Leslie Klein, and Cindy Stinger. Following the ceremony, enthused and inspired, athletes were invited to participate in an open town hall led by the USOC’s Vice President of Strategy and Business Consulting, Chad Sunderland.

Sunderland, in partnership with ACE, welcomed attending athletes to provide feedback and recommendations to help the USOC better understand the unique benefits of competing as a Team USA athlete, as well as ways to provide additional support to improve the athlete experience both leading up to the Games, during competition, and through his or her transition from professional athletics. The 90-minute session focused on answering four key questions:

1. How can the USOC better support athletes during their transition from professional athletics?
2. What additional resources are needed to help athletes succeed in the job market?
3. How can the USOC improve the athlete experience leading up to the Games?
4. What feedback can help improve the overall athlete experience during competition?
1. What are the unique, positive experiences Olympians and Paralympians receive?
2. What are unique challenges Olympians and Paralympians face?
3. Thinking about the 2018 Games experience (before and during the Games), what support or services would help an athlete compete better?
4. Given ACE’s purpose, think about an athlete’s life outside of sport. What impactful programs can ACE design to support athletes beyond training and competition?

The questions prompted fruitful, open dialogue, highlighting several needs, concerns, and ideas for the ACE team, and the USOC to review and build upon. USOPA’s Induction Ceremony and the ACE Town Hall set a tone of active engagement, preparing the attendees for an event filled with interactive workshops, small group discussions, and networking; while creating space for athletes to feel supported and heard.

Retired Olympic and Paralympic legends Jeremy Bloom, Sasha Cohen, Lauryn Williams, and Candace Cable joined Mesler for an athlete panel, helping kick off day two by sharing their journeys toward success after the Games, while providing words of wisdom to the current group of athletes on how to leverage their recent experiences to gain valuable opportunities.

Following the panel, athletes were invited to attend a series of workshops on topics focused on athlete marketing, public speaking fundamentals, professional development, and personal growth. Highlighted by author and professor Dave Evans of Stanford University Life Design Lab and his Designing Your Life workshop, sessions all centered on the underlying theme of athletes defining, documenting, and sharing the story of who they are, how sport impacted them, the value associated with their experience, and how to capitalize on future endeavors.

The concept resonated with five-time Olympic snowboarder Kelly Clark, as she shared her thoughts with Team USA writer Lisa Costantini. “One thing I’ve taken away is that what we’ve done as athletes whenever we do decide to transition and retire, we’ve acquired so much from our athlete careers that does transfer to the next adventure in life — whatever that might be,” Clark explained. “It was just good to do some self-reflection and start to pay attention to what you are passionate about. What’s helped you be successful already will carry over into the next stage of life and help you be successful in that as well.”

“Every athlete I talked to enjoyed it and felt that it was a great use of time, and that they learned something... I’m not going to lie; I’m very jealous this wasn’t there when I was an athlete!”

Following its third Summit, the ACE program is well positioned to continue to support Team USA athletes working towards Tokyo 2020, Beijing 2022,
and beyond. This summer ACE is set to host its fifth Pivot Program session, provide an estimated $100,000 in tuition grants, continued support of full-tuition scholarships through DeVry University, and recruit athletes to apply for VISA’s second annual Olympians and Paralympians in Business Development Program. The staff is in ongoing development of programs in the areas of financial education, public speaking and business development, branding and sponsorship, and entrepreneurship with sights set on launching opportunities to engage in early 2019. The future of ACE, in support of Team USA athletes, looks bright and stronger than ever.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ACE, VISIT WWW.TEAMUSA.ORG/ACE OR REACH OUT TO ACE@USOC.ORG.
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Valid through December 8, 2018.
1. Five-time Olympian Tony Azevedo joined LA84 President & CEO Renata Simril, Kathy Robinson-Young, (daughter of Olympian Mack Robinson) and film director Deborah Riley Draper for a discussion with 750 area high school students, after a screening of Draper’s film, “Olympic Pride, American Prejudice,” about the 18 African American athletes who competed at the 1936 Olympic Games. The event, sponsored by LA84, took place at UCLA and was part of the school’s 4th annual MLK Remembrance Day.

2. The LA84 Foundation, LMU, the West Coast Conference, and the Vatican’s Sport at the Service of Humanity teamed up to present a two-day conference scheduled for just after this magazine is printed. The invitation-only conference will feature more than 50 speakers, including Anita L. DeFrantz (IOC Vice President, International Olympic Committee) and nine-time Paralympian Candace Cable.

3. The National Basketball Players Association Foundation joined the LA84 Foundation in taking new steps towards closing the equity gap in youth sports participation. Both organizations are pleased to announce the NBPA Foundation’s pledge of $150,000 to be used to build or refurbish basketball courts for Southern California school-based and community youth sports organizations. Chris Paul, two-time Olympic basketball gold medalist and chair of the NBPA Foundation Board said, “I have always been interested in providing kids with resources to help them achieve their goals through sports and after-school enrichment programs. The NBPA Foundation grant will support the LA84 Foundation and the work they continue to do to enhance positive youth development.”

The #PlayForAll Movement is spreading, but the Play Equity gap still persists. Here are some recent highlights from LA84’s projects and partnerships to make positive change.
4. Phyllis Easton, Bill O’Brien and Janet Evans have been named to the LA84 Foundation Board of Directors. Each have connections to the Olympic movement.

Easton served on the LA 2024 Board of Directors’ Los Angeles 2024 Exploratory Committee. She has shared international experiences and partnered with her husband Jim Easton during his tenure as IOC Member in the USA and International President of the World Archery Federation. Evans is the LA 2028 Director of Athlete Relations. She earned four Olympic gold and one silver medal and broke seven world records during her swimming career, and has twice served as a keynote speaker at the annual LA84 Foundation Summit. O’Brien serves as Chief Executive Officer for Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling (RCCB), a West Coast Coca-Cola bottler and distributor operating in California and Nevada. O’Brien currently serves as a board member of the Los Angeles Sports Council. He formerly served on the boards of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, 2016 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials and 2015 Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles.

5. Save the Date! The annual LA84 Foundation Summit will be held October 18, 2018 at the JW Marriott at L.A. Live in Downtown Los Angeles. For more information and to inquire about attending, visit https://la84.org/summit-2018/. Summit speakers and attendees the past two years have included Olympians and Paralympians such as Allyson Felix, Kerri Walsh Jennings, Julie Foudy, Mallory Weggemann, Lex Gillette, Ibtihaj Muhammad, Brenda Villa, Gary Hall, Jr. and many more.

6. Fox Sports West and the LA84 Foundation co-created a pro bono public service announcement that aired on Fox Sports West, Prime Ticket, and online. The PSA is about Play Equity, and can be viewed by visiting the www.la84.org website or on YouTube, by searching for, “PSA: Close the Play Equity Gap.”

7. A cohort of 20 USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism students, staff and Dean Willow Bay visited the LA84 Foundation as part of the school’s Maymester program. LA84 was the sole non-profit the group visited, in addition to major media companies and professional sports teams. Special guest speaker and USC alumnus John Naber (with arm extended upward in the photo) came through to talk about his career as a broadcaster and his Olympic experiences. Naber won four gold and one silver medal in 1976.
8. 200 people gathered at LA84 Foundation headquarters to celebrate the publication of LA Sports: Play, Games, and Community in the City of Angels (University of Arkansas Press). The book is co-edited by Wayne Wilson, LA84 Foundation’s recently retired – and still consulting – vice president for education services, and George Mason University professor of sport history David K. Wiggins. Many Olympians were in attendance to honor Wayne, including, pictured here, Tai Babilonia.

9. The LA84 Foundation will celebrate Olympic Day 2018 – happening just after this magazine goes to print – by partnering with 130 of Beyond The Bell elementary and middle schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District that are open for summer programming. Each school will receive an activation package including a welcome letter, an LA84 banner, USOC Olympic Day banner, instructions for team handball, and more! The overall theme of Olympic Day is for the children to Move, Learn and Discover.

10. Delano Robinson – photographed here holding an 1984 Olympic torch, stopped by the LA84 Foundation library, archive and exhibition space recently. LA84 staff displayed 1936 and 1984 Olympic photographs, books and other materials that featured her late husband, Mack Robinson; and had the pleasure of listening to many remarkable stories. The library is also home to the Olympian Lounge, and all Olympians and their families are welcome!
Former Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games (SCCOG) Chairman Barry Sanders was celebrated during a reception held in his honor at the new Banc of California Stadium on May 30.

After 15 years at the helm, Sanders retired from the organization at the beginning of the year. Under his stewardship, SCCOG kept the Olympic flame burning in Los Angeles by leading Los Angeles’ 2016 Olympic bid and actively supporting the successful bid for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

During his tenure, SCCOG also launched the groundbreaking Ready, Set, Gold! program, which places local Olympic and Paralympic athletes into LAUSD classrooms to educate students on the importance of physical fitness and to motivate them to incorporate exercise into their daily lives.

More than 70 invited guests from the Los Angeles business and sports communities attended the celebration.

Sanders is succeeded as SCCOG chair by J. Eugene Salomon, Jr., a partner in the Beverly Hills law firm Gang, Tyre, Ramer & Brown.

Founded in 1939, the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games (SCCOG) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the Olympic Movement in Southern California. Contact: Mark Meyers, (714) 318-2332
Arthur “Art” Barnard
(Track & Field, 1952)

Arthur “Art” Barnard died on May 1, 2018 at the age of 89.

Art, who lettered in track and field at USC from 1949-51, earned a bronze medal in the 110m hurdles at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland. He ranked in the top 10 in the world in the hurdles from 1950-53, ranking as high as fourth in 1953.

Barnard was co-captain of USC’s 1951 national championship team and helped lead the Trojans to three consecutive national titles in track and field. He placed fourth with a time of 14.5 in the 120-yard hurdles at the 1950 NCAA Championships and was third with a time of 14.2 at the 1951 NCAA Championships.

He served in the Navy and was a captain for the City of San Diego Fire Rescue Department.

Art is survived by two sons, Kevin and Eric; two step-sons, Barron and Peter Charleton; daughter-in-law, Diana Barnard and his grandson, Aaron Rule.

Robert Prime “Bob” Beattie
(Ski Coach, 1968)

Robert Prime “Bob” Beattie died on April 1, 2018 at the age of 85.

The plaque that rested for years on ski icon Bob Beattie’s desk was inscribed with a matter-of-fact motto: It can be done.

An all-too-fitting mantra for the ski racing pioneer who helped launch the World Cup circuit more than 50 years ago and was part of the commentary crew that called one of the most thrilling Alpine races at the 1976 Winter Games.

“Once he made up his mind something needed to happen, he would keep pounding away until he got it done,” his son, Zeno, said. “He had a lot of friends and they always came up to him and said, ‘If it wasn’t for you, I never would’ve accomplished whatever.”

“He never really thought about that too much. His whole world was about working really hard. And if you worked really hard at something and you did it as a team and not as an individual you can pretty much do anything you ever wanted to do.”

Known as “Beats” or “Coach” to his friends, Beattie’s career included stints as coach of the U.S. ski team and at the University of Colorado, where he led the Buffaloes to a pair of national titles.

In addition, Beattie was paired with Frank Gifford to call one of the Winter Olympics’ most famous ski races for ABC – Austrian great Franz Klammer’s electric downhill run to capture gold in 1976.

“They realized Bob Beattie and I had a peculiar way of calling it,” the late Gifford once said in an interview. “Bob loved ski racing. ... He would get so excited at the race. My job was almost like ‘Monday Night Football,’ identify the players and let him go. He brought an unbelievable excitement to it.”

Beattie attended Middlebury College in Vermont, where he lettered in tennis, skiing, football and cross-country running. He became the ski coach following his graduation, where the team finished third at the NCAA championships in 1956.

Soon after, he went to Boulder, Colorado, to be an assistant football coach before taking over the ski program and turning it into a national power. The Buffaloes won the title in 1959 and again in ‘60.

That gained him even more recognition and he oversaw the U.S. ski team at the 1964 Olympic Games, where Billy Kidd and Jimmie Heuga finished 2-3 in the slalom. It marked the first two Alpine medals captured by the American men at the Winter Olympics.

“The pressure was severe. We had promised everything – rightfully or wrongly – we had promised everyone the world,” Beattie told U.S. ski team historian Tom Kelly last summer. “We loved each other. We were a team.”

In the mid-1960s, Beattie partnered with journalist Serge Lang and French coach Honore Bonnet to create the World Cup, with racers traveling the globe to compete. It’s still going strong with stars such as Lindsey Vonn, Mikaela Shiffrin and Marcel Hirscher leading the way.

On Twitter, the racers showed their appreciation:

– “So grateful I had the chance to meet this innovator, icon, and legend! Rest in peace Bob Beattie,” Shiffrin posted.

– “R.I.P. Bob ... such an amazing and charismatic man who did so much for ski racing. We will miss you!” Vonn wrote.

Over his career, Beattie worked four Olympic Winter Games, along with calling.
volleyball at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. He also was involved with ABC’s Wide World of Sports and hosted a ski show for ESPN. In 1984, he was inducted into the U.S. ski and snowboard hall of fame.

Beattie also found time to author several books on skiing and started a kid’s program in the Aspen Valley that flourishes today. The family is planning a celebration with the ski club this fall.

“He influenced a lot of people,” his son said.

**Clifford Frederick “Cliff” Bourland**

*Track & Field, 1948*

Clifford “Cliff” Bourland died on February 1, 2018 at the age of 97.

At the time of his death, Cliff was the oldest living gold medalist in the United States.

Cliff won gold at the 1948 London Games while running the second leg of the U.S. 1,600-meter relay. He also finished fifth in the 200 meters.

He won the NCAA 440-yard championship in 1942 and 43 while attending USC. He was a three-time letterman, with the Trojans winning the NCAA team title each year under coach Dean Cromwell.

Bourland was captain of the 1943 team, which had just four athletes at the NCAA championships but still won the team title.

He placed third in the 100 and second in the 220 in 1941 and finished third in the 220 the next two years. The 46 total points Bourland scored at the NCAA’s set a school record and currently is fourth-most ever.

At the AAU championships, he won the 400 in 1942 and ‘43 and was second in the 200 both years. He ran a leg on a 1,600 relay at the 1941 AAUs that broke the world record despite the team finishing second.

Bourland was the Los Angeles city 440 champion in 1938 while attending Venice High School.

He was a captain in the Navy during World War II. After his sprinting career, he worked in the shoe, insurance and mortgage banking industries.

Cliff is survived by his wife, Caroline Jane, sons Cliff Jr. and Alexander, daughter Rhonda Jane Groves, a grandson and two great-grandchildren.

Given her great love to help support future physicians and scientific research, Betty chose to donate her body to the Anatomical Gift Program at the University of Rochester. Betty valued celebrating life and it was always her wish to have a private celebration of life occur following her death for friends and family. In lieu of flowers, she would want you to make sure that you walk up and thank a veteran or active duty military service member as she valued her and others time in the military tremendously.

She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl S. (Jim) Orefice and son, Scott F. Perkins as well as granddaughters, Julie M. Schum and Dr. Jennifer (Matthew) S. Funderburk and two great-granddaughters, Mia and Bryn Funderburk. She will also be deeply missed by loving family member Michael Schum and her companion of the last nine years, Guy Kittelson.

**Betty Perkins Carpenter**

*(Diving Coach)*

Betty Perkins-Carpenter died on May 26, 2018 at the age of 87.

Betty lived a fascinating and extraordinary life. She regularly pushed the boundaries achieving feats unknown to many women. She was a sergeant in the United States Air Force, first American woman to coach a men’s and women’s Olympic diving team, an entrepreneur of 4 businesses, an author, a renowned speaker on fitness, and a woman who obtained her Ph.D. in Health Administration at 72 years young.

In Rochester, she is best known for previously owning and running a public swimming pool, Perkins Swim Club, an acclaimed preschool program Fit By Five, and her book, How to Prevent Falls© and the guide, The Six-Step Balance System©. Recently, she became known nationally for her work on Snapshots from the Korean War, where she worked hard to connect pictures taken during the Korean War with the Veterans in them.

**Robert “Bob” Lynn Clotworthy**

*(Diving, 1952, 1956)*

Robert “Bob” Lynn Clotworthy died on June 1, 2018 at the age of 87.

Bob was surrounded by his loving family. He spent his last week with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. The birth and death of this great man, however, is not nearly as relevant as all the days and nights that he lived to the fullest. He lived his life not for the things that he could acquire, but for the love of family and friends and stories he had to tell. And his life was an incredible story.

Bob was an amazing yet humble athlete. After a remarkable career as a diver, Bob reached the pinnacle of his sport winning a gold medal in the 3-meter springboard event at the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia in 1956. His
accomplishments as a diver are too long to list and would take away from who he really was as a man. He touched many lives along his journey as a coach and teacher. As the head swimming and diving coach at Princeton, he produced National and Olympic champions, but his swimmers and divers, at all levels, have even more significant stories of how he changed their lives.

The love of his life, Cynthia Gill Clotworthy, died six years ago, also surrounded by her children. Her final words: “It’s wonderful”. They first met in 1955 on the ten-meter diving tower at the Pan American Games in Mexico City, where Cynthia was a medalist in the 100-meter backstroke. Their honeymoon was an around-the-world tour performing swimming and diving exhibitions in more than a dozen countries.

After years of coaching at Princeton, their great adventure continued with their children. In 1970, Bob packed up the family and joined the Peace Corps. The family lived in Caracas, Venezuela where he trained their Olympic diving coaches. After other successful collegiate coaching roles, Bob ended his career as a teacher at the Albuquerque Academy and retired to his beloved Taos, New Mexico.

The week before his death, his children asked him what was on his bucket list. With a huge smile, he formed a big zero with his hands. What a story it was.

He leaves behind, his brother William (Jo); his four loving children, Susan Syring, Bruce (Leslie), Jodi Best (Steve), and Erin Joosse (Chris); his twelve grandchildren; and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Anne Donovan died on June 13, 2018 at the age of 56.

Anne was a 6-foot-8 center, one of the most dominating players of the early 1980s in women’s college basketball and later won championships as a coach in the WNBA and the Olympics.

Anne Donovan was recruited by more than 100 colleges in 1979. Her size, her soft shooting touch and her strong rebounding made her nearly impossible to guard — and a coup for any college that she chose attend.

She selected Old Dominion, in Norfolk, Va., then a powerhouse in women’s basketball. In her first year, Donovan led the Lady Monarchs in scoring, rebounding and blocked shots. The team won the 1980 national championship, which was then overseen by the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (two years before the NCAA started its women’s tournament). Over four seasons, she averaged 20 points, 14.5 rebounds and 5.9 blocks a game.

The Lady Monarchs (since renamed the Monarchs) never won the NCAA title while Donovan was on the team. The closest they came was in 1983, when they reached the Final Four but lost to Louisville Tech in a semifinals matchup in which Donovan scored 22 points, blocked 6 shots and had 10 rebounds. It was her final college game. When asked afterward if she was prepared for her career to end with a loss, she said, “Not this way, no,” as tears rolled down her cheeks.

Anne seemed fated to be tall. Her father, Joseph Sr., was an engineer who stood 6-foot-6. Her mother, Anna Mae (Mann) Donovan, who worked as a secretary after her husband died in 1966, was close to 6 feet tall.

Anne was the youngest of eight children, who were separated by 15 years and whose height ranged from 5-foot-10 (her sister Michele) to 7-foot-1 (her brother Joseph). They all played basketball in the driveway of the family home.

When Donovan finished her career at Old Dominion, she played in Japan and Italy and then won gold medals at the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games.

She was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., in 1995 and the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1999.

She began coaching at Old Dominion as an assistant, which led to a peripatetic run of head coaching jobs at both the college and professional levels. She was the coach of the East Carolina University team from 1995 to 1998; the Philadelphia Rage of the American Basketball League in 1998, until that short-lived women’s league folded; and WNBA teams in Indiana, Charlotte and Seattle.

Donovan guided the Seattle Storm to the 2004 WNBA championship and the United States women’s team to a gold medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. She was also the assistant coach of the gold medal winning team at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

In 2009 she was hired as assistant coach of the New York Liberty of the WNBA. Despite a 22-12 record in the 2010 season, Donovan left the Liberty to coach at Seton Hall in New Jersey. After three losing seasons there, she returned to the WNBA to coach the Connecticut Sun. She resigned after her teams compiled a 38-64 record over three years. “It’s not easy walking away from a team that I put my heart and soul into,” she said at the time, “but I think it is in my best interest to move on.”

Her brother John said she had been enjoying retirement but had also been contemplating a return to coaching.

In addition to John, she is survived by brother, Kevin, and four sisters, Kathleen Donovan, Michele DiPiano, Patrice O’Donnell and Mary Grab. Anne is predeceased by her parents Joseph, Sr. and Anna Mae Donovan, and brother Joseph, Jr.
Kenneth “Ken” Flach (Tennis, 1988)

Kenneth “Ken” Flach died on March 12, 2018 at the age of 54.

Flach and Robert Seguso formed one of the top teams of the 1980s, reaching No. 1 in the men's doubles rankings in 1985. They won 28 titles together, including championships at the United States Open in 1985 and at Wimbledon in 1987 and 1988. They were the runners-up at the Open twice. They also collected a gold medal for the United States at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea.

The two men's partnership began in college. They played together at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and won three Division II national championships.

Flach finished his career with a total of 34 men’s doubles titles, including a victory at the 1993 U.S. Open with Rick Leach. His Grand Slam mixed doubles trophies came with Kathy Jordan at the French Open and Wimbledon in 1986.

He also played doubles on the United States Davis Cup team from 1985 to 1991, compiling an 11-2 record.

He retired as a professional in 1996 and became a college tennis coach, leading Vanderbilt to the NCAA finals in 2003.


Jon Rein Engen died on April 26, 2018 at the age of 61.

Jon was raised in Raelingen, Norway. He developed a passion early in life for Nordic skiing, and began ski jumping at age 4. He trained and raced throughout his childhood and young adulthood, excelling in the highest ranks in Norway. After serving in the Norwegian army and attending the University of Oslo, Jon came to the U.S. in the early 1980s to ski for Montana State University after seeing photos of the Montana mountains in National Geographic. Jon graduated from MSU in 1983 with a B.S. in civil engineering.

After graduation, his ski racing career continued on an upward trajectory. He became a U.S. citizen, and in 1988 he competed at the Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Canada, for the U.S. Nordic team. Jon represented the U.S. again as a biathlete at the 1992 Winter Olympic Games in Albertville, France and the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway. During his World Cup career, Jon reached the top 20 in the world in both sports. He raced for many years thereafter at international and national races, winning more than 20 master’s World Cup medals, 12 of them gold. He was sponsored by Rossignol for most of his career.

His love for the sport, and for athletic competition generally, led Jon to dedicate his life to racing, coaching and working with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Association, where he served on the board of directors, to raise the profile of Nordic skiing. He was also chair of its Cross-Country Sport Committee for 10 years. In 2014, Jon was honored with a USSA Special Recognition Award. Two weeks prior to his death, Jon was named the recipient of the prestigious USSA Al Merrill Nordic Award, which is presented to an individual or group involved with any aspect of Nordic skiing who or which demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment, leadership and devotion to excellence. Over the years, he coached and led hundreds of elite cross-country ski clinics around the world.

Jon was smitten by the Sun Valley, Idaho, area and Darlene Young. Jon and Darlene were married on the beach in 2006 in Hawaii. They both were fixtures on the Harriman and Galena cross-country ski trails and at local races, including the Boulder Mountain Tour, where he had many top finishes. He continued his ski racing career up until his cancer diagnosis, and he even continued some coaching this winter while undergoing treatment. Jon founded the Sun Valley masters Nordic ski program and was also an instructor for Sun Valley Co. for 15 years. He was inducted into the Sun Valley Ski Hall of Fame in 2014.

During warmer months, to nurture his passion for sport and the outdoors, Jon could be found hiking Baldy, running and riding his bike. He regularly competed in road races and time trials, as well as running races and the Baldy Hill Climb. One of his favorite places to ride his bike was the island of Hawaii, where he and Darlene shared a second home and vacationed several times a year. When at home, he and Darlene also chased after their big white dogs, first Geilo and for the last seven years, Bamse. He and Bamse spent many hours seeking out grouse to bring home for dinner.

While not training, racing or coaching, Jon supported Darlene in more ways than can be conveyed in writing. He was the “behind-the-scenes” partner in her real estate business, personal chef, equipment manager and, of course, ski coach extraordinaire.

Jon was known for his sense of humor and unique observations of human nature. He also had an unwavering ability
to manage pain and suffering to achieve his athletic goals. Those characteristics were readily apparent throughout his battle with cancer. He never gave up hope and remained optimistic and fiercely determined to overcome his illness.

Jon is survived by his beloved wife, Darlene Young; his father, Rein Engen, of Norway; his uncle and aunt, Bjarne and Ragnhild Johansen, also of Norway; and many close cousins there.

Jon was a true ambassador for the sport of Nordic skiing, and the tracks will never be the same without him. Irreplaceable and never forgotten.

John J. Hooten, Jr.
(Rowling Coach, 1976)

John J. Hooten, Jr. died on March 6, 2018 at the age of 66.

John attended Father Judge High School and received his degree in Business Management from Temple University, where he was the coxswain of the rowing team from 1970-73.

John coached the first U.S. Women’s Olympic rowing team (including his future wife) in the 1976 Montreal Games and was a four-time U.S. Women’s National Team coach from 1976-79. Under his tutelage at Vesper Boat Club in Philadelphia, 18 rowers became Olympians and 32 earned spots on the U.S. National Team. Until his passing, he was a competitive master’s rower.

John treasured time spent with his family. Beloved in his community, “Coach John” inspired the Johnson Ranch Barracudas for 12 years and led hundreds of swimmers to seven championships. A Boy Scout during his childhood, John served as Scoutmaster of Troop 121 for more than 20 years, motivating many to attain the highest rank of Eagle Scout. Among his many talents, John was an artist, creating cartoons and nail puzzles, as well as a unicyclist and founder of the Troopizi Unicycle Club.

John was an avid storyteller, full of witty catchphrases, and a quirky tie enthusiast. A consummate volunteer, John gave his time and efforts to help young people flourish. His main passion was mentoring others to achieve their greatest potential. He knew how to bring out the best in every person. His impact will continue to be felt throughout the countless lives he touched.

John is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 40 years, Dr. Susan Morgan Hooten; sons, Jon (Andrea) Lumiere and Woody; daughter, Julia; sisters, Catherine (P. Michael) Bolger, Mary (Thomas) Green, and Roseanne (Kenneth) White; numerous nieces; nephews; and in-laws; and countless friends from his rowing, scouting, and swimming communities. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Catherine Hooten.

Robert “Bob” Ocvirk

Robert “Bob” Ocvirk died on March 12, 2018 at the age of 67.

Bob grew up and lived most of his life in Bowling Green, Ohio. Although he contracted polio at age four, his parents, Otto and Betty Ocvirk, encouraged independence early on. Dr. Sam Cooper urged him to swim as therapy. He became the first Eagle Scout for troop 422 in 1965. Bob graduated from Bowling Green Senior High school in 1968. He graduated in 1973 from the University of Illinois (BFA, BE), Champaign-Urbana, a school ahead of its time when it came to accommodating wheelchair students and athletes. He was a member of the Gizz Kids Wheelchair basketball team for four years, earning National Titles twice. His future became immersed in sports.

Bob participated nationally and internationally in wheelchair sports proudly representing the United States in the Paralympics. He achieved gold medals in the freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and slalom. Robert participated in three Paralympic Games: 1972 in Heidelberg, Germany, 1976 in Toronto, Canada and 1980 in Arnhem, Netherlands. Bob also attended the International Stoke Mandeville Games in England and the Pan American Games in Kingston, Jamaica. He was inducted into the U.S. Wheelchair Hall of Fame in 1996. Bob coached the Toledo Silver Streaks wheelchair basketball team along with softball and rugby in Colorado and Columbus. During his years at Bowling Green, Bob was the night manager for the Bowling Green Ice Arena, where he touched the lives of many figure skaters and hockey players. The Ice Arena provided fond memories for Bob and his family as both of his siblings skated.

He was employed by the Department of Defense for nearly 25 years as a Customer Account Specialist in Key West, and in Columbus with the Defense Logistics Agency for the Navy’s Trident Submarine. Robert continued to live a life among the able-bodied world, independently, with family, and longtime friends. He was known for his big heart, a hero to many, and will be deeply missed by his family.

Bob is survived by his brother Tom (Jan) Ocvirk and sister Carol (Neal) Frazier; nephew Jason (Allison) Ocvirk, nephew Patton Frazier, niece Tiffany (Luke) Chmielewski, niece Piper Frazier and grandnieces Katelin and Julie Ann Ocvirk. Tributes can be made to: U.S. Olympic Committee, Attn: Development, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. Private condolences can be sent through Evans Funeral Home (Columbus, Ohio).
Robert “Bob” J. Pickens
(Wrestling, 1964)

Robert “Bob” Pickens died on April 12, 2018 at the age of 75.

Those who knew this legendary athlete said he was not one to talk extensively about his accomplishments — and there were many.

But there was one distinction Pickens liked to point out to friends. An offensive lineman for the Chicago Bears from 1967-69 and a Chicago Park District commissioner for over a decade starting in 2000, Pickens is listed on a Bears alumni wall inside Soldier Field and on a plaque outside the stadium that recognizes Park District and Illinois Sports Facilities Authority officials, among others, who were instrumental in the renovation of the stadium.

“He is the only person to have his name outside Soldier Field, and inside,” said Judith, who married Bob in 2002. “He was proud of that. He’d show people the outside and the inside.”

He was inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association Hall of Fame in 1983, the Evanston Township High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996 and the University of Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in 2010.

Bob also was one of three African-Americans to wrestle in the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. They were the first African-Americans to represent the U.S. at the Olympic Games in wrestling, he was the first to compete, according to USA Wrestling. Bob finished sixth in the Greco-Roman heavyweight class.

He had a successful career that included time in advertising with Foote, Cone & Belding and 18 years with Sears, Roebuck & Co., many of them spent as a buyer in the toy department. Bob’s daughter Tori remembers that job fondly because she and her brother Todd always had the latest and greatest toys before any of their friends.

Bob later served as the owner and managing director of a Hong Kong-based trading company that dealt in toys and other small goods and he was the construction coordinator for a family-owned development and consulting firm. Bob volunteered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Boundless Playgrounds, which creates playgrounds that are accessible to children with disabilities. Much of his charity work, according to his daughter, was about giving opportunities to children who otherwise might not have them.

Bob was a very active member of the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association as the president of the Georgia Olympians & Paralympians Chapter.

In addition to his two children, Tori and Todd and his wife Judith, Bob is survived by two grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Robert “Bob” J. Shields

Robert “Bob” Shields died on May 21, 2018 at the age of 53.

Bob was a graduate of North Brunswick Township High School and Middlesex County College. He worked as a coordinator in the engineering department of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority in Woodbridge for 29 years.

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by brothers - William P. Hartwig and Thomas R. Hartwig; and by his sister Shirley Terwilliger. Surviving are two brothers - Raymond Hartwig and his wife Lynn of Totowa and Kenneth Hartwig of North Brunswick; his brother-in-law Bruce; a sister-in-law Gretel; and nieces and nephews - Buddy, Shannon Hartwig, Jacqueline Spitz and Paul Stevens.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Spina Bifida Association, 1600 Wilson Blvd, Suite 800, Arlington, VA 22209 or to United States Olympians and Paralympians Association, United States Olympic Committee, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

William “Bill” Thomas Smith
(Wrestling, 1952)

William “Bill” Smith died on March 20, 2018 at the age of 89.

Bill grew up in Council Bluffs, Iowa and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He then attended Iowa State Teachers College (UNI) in Cedar Falls, Iowa where he also wrestled and played football. He won 2 individual National wrestling titles and his team won a team title in 1950. He then went on to win an Olympic gold medal in the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland.

He was united in marriage on September 3, 1950 to Bonita (Olson) Smith. Bill taught school and had a long and successful coaching career at various levels. Bill was inducted into numerous wrestling hall of fames.
Jeanne Wilson Vaughan (Swimming, 1948)

Jeanne Wilson Vaughan died on April 18, 2018 at the age of 92.

Jeanne graduated from Morgan Park High School. During that time, she represented the Lake Shore Club in Water Ballet and swimming. She and her sister, Lillian, were National Duo Water Ballet Champions two years in a row.

Jeanne attended Northwestern University for one year, where she became a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity. She was then recruited to Purdue University. Jeanne earned her Bachelor of Science Degree and holds the honor of first female swimmer at Purdue. During Jeanne’s time at Purdue, she held 10 American records and was elected to the All-American Swim Team four years in a row, in all breaststroke events and medley relays. She went on to win the United States Olympic trials in Detroit, Mich. and then on to represent the United States in the 1948 Olympic Games in London.

Jeanne was voted “Best Looking Athlete” in the 1948 Olympics. She was also elected the Purdue Year Book (Debris) Queen. The Associate Press announced, “Beautiful Mermaid Marries” when she married Lafayette native, Jack N. Vaughan, whom she met at the Lafayette Country Club where she was a lifeguard during college. As a model, she appeared in Life Magazine, Colliers, Esquire, Photography, and others. Jeanne was voted Mrs. Indiana in 1953.

In the 1960’s, Jeanne started, organized, and coached 7th and 8th grade girls at St. Mary’s School to play volleyball. She organized an all school city volleyball tournament. St Mary’s 7th and 8th grade team won that city tournament three years in a row. She even made time to become a Boy Scout Leader and Brownie Leader.

In 1972, with the help of Mary Ellen Crose, they started the Central Catholic Woman’s Swim Team. Since 1972, Jeanne annually sponsored the Most Valuable Swimmer Award at Central Catholic. For over 50 years, she has also annually sponsored the Richard Papenguth Award for the Most Outstanding Swimmer on the Lafayette Country Club Swim Team.

In 1998, Jeanne was elected into the Purdue Athletic Hall of Fame. She received her 65-year pin from Kappa Kappa Gamma and served on the Purdue Kappa Kappa Gamma House Board. Jeanne was a member of St. Mary’s Cathedral, Delta Theta Tau, and the Lafayette Country Club.

Jeanne enjoyed boating, waterskiing, and entertaining on Lake Freeman. She played golf, and was on a bowling league, even bowling a perfect game. Her greatest enjoyment came from watching her children, grandchildren, and their friends play sports.

She is survived by three children, Jack W., Charleston WV, Vint W., and Jeanne V. Walker, Gainesville, GA. Grandchildren, Jack and Tracey Vaughan, Tom and Nicholas Vaughan, Jeanne Walker Vaughan and son, Thomas W. Vaughan.

Charles “Chuck” T. Vinci (Weightlifting, 1956, 1960)

Charles “Chuck” Vince died on June 14, 2018 at the age of 85.

Vinci was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1933 and was one of the greatest athletes in the city’s history. He was the U.S. Senior National Champion from 1954 to 1956 and then from 1958 to 1961. Vinci won silver medals at the 1955 and 1958 World Championships. At the Pan American Games in 1955 and 1959 he won gold medals.

He won the gold medal at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne and set a world record with his three lifts (snatch, clean and jerk, overhead press), totaling 342.5 kilograms. He also won the gold medal at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome.

During his career, he set 12 world records in the 56kg bodyweight category.

After he retired from competitive weightlifting, he remained a force in the sport, inspiring the new generations of athletes.

Chuck Vinci is the father of 8 children.
Thomas “Tom” F. Von Ruden
(Track & Field, 1968)

Thomas “Tom” Von Ruden died on May 17, 2018 at the age of 73.

Tom was a 1966 Oklahoma State University graduate. His passion was competition in any sport, especially track and field. His track career began when he was awarded a scholarship to Oklahoma State University after winning the mile and leading his team from Notus, Idaho to the Idaho State Championship Title in 1962.

By 1966, he had become the best miler in OSU history. Tom earned NCAA All-American in the mile in 1966, won the individual NCAA Indoor 880 title in 1965, was a member of two NCAA Indoor Championship relays in 1965 and 1966 and a member of the world record two-mile relay team in 1965. After graduation, he continued his running career and won more honors including several indoor and outdoor world records.

Tom was the Pan Am Games 1500m champion in 1967 and was a member of the 1968 Olympic team in Mexico City, he was a finalist in the 1500m race. He ran more than 500 races in a career that spanned 14 years. Not only did Tom race all over the world, he was a goodwill ambassador. He was relentless on the track, a respected competitor and most of all, he was a good friend with a kind word for everyone he met. Tom’s track career ended in 1976.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1967-69. Then he returned to OSU to complete his MBA and take a job as an unpaid assistant track coach. Every runner he coached without exception holds fond memories of working out and being trained by one of the best runners in the world.

Tom worked in the hotel industry until his recent retirement in 2013. He and Betty Ray have spent their time doing daily workouts and filling the items on their bucket list with a trip to Maui and numerous road trips.

Tom is survived by his wife Betty Ray; sisters Ardith Birdsell of Julian, Calif. And Bonnie Stillman of San Diego, Calif. Tom’s brother Edwards preceded him in death. He is also survived by his stepchildren Kelly Reid and Michael Ray; grandchildren Alexandra Reid, Benjamin Reid, Peyton Ray and Addisyn Ray...they will miss their Papa.

John R. Welchli
(Rowing, 1956)

John R. Welchli died on March 23, 2018 at the age of 89.

John was known to be bright, accomplished in many areas in life, but most of all, respected by his family and friends. John’s success started early in life at the distinguished Brown University where he completed his undergraduate work. Followed by completing his MBA at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1952.

As an undergraduate, John was a swimmer, ran track for four years, and captained the cross-country team. It was a skiing accident that led him to rowing. While recuperating from a knee injury, he used the locker room facilities of the Detroit Boat Club and did his running on the nearby bridle paths. Walter Hoover, the venerable rowing coach at the Club, talked to John about switching sports and the Brown graduate has been pulling his own oar ever since. After two years of military service, he resumed rowing in 1954 and in just two years became a member of the Olympic rowing team.

This was the most successful group ever boated by the United States, winning six medals in seven events. Perhaps the key to John’s success is his versatility. He is one of the few men ever to achieve success in both sculling and sweep rowing as a heavyweight (which he is not) and as a lightweight.

John was a member of Brown’s distinguished list of alumni who have participated in the Olympic Games. He was a member of the United States team that took a silver medal in the four-man crew without coxswain at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia. He was also involved in 32 U.S. National and Canadian Henley National championships in sculling and sweep rowing in the heavy and lightweight categories between the years of 1955-64.

For many years he held the national record (2000 meters) in the lightweight single and double, and the Canadian Henley in the lightweight singles. John has rowed in the veteran’s categories at Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston and managed the fastest elapsed time on several occasions, including 1978. He took first place (age 45-51) in the singles and in the 50-and-over bracket for four with coxswain at the first Annual Masters Rowing Championship in Craftsburg, Vermont.

John also had a love for golden retrievers and was always seeking different field trial accomplishments with his dogs.

In his professional life, he was the vice-president and treasurer of Securities Counsel, Inc., located in Jackson, Michigan. He was the proud owner of the Investment Counsel as a Financial Advisor in Grosse Pointe for many years. He was a member of the Detroit Boat Club, The Friends of Detroit Rowing, Golden Retrievers Club, and the Lions Club of Jackson, Mich.

Cherished husband of, Lynn. Loving father of Russell (Dee) and John (Victoria). Dear grandfather of Grant. Loving brother of, Robert Welchli.
1. John Naber (Swimming, 1976) and Alice Brown-Harris (T&F, 1980, ’84,’88) heard 2018 Olympic bobsled silver medalist, Lauren Gibbs, address a meeting at the Pasadena Senior Center on June 8.

2. Anita DeFrantz (rowing, 1976, 1980) with her namesake boat. This boat is in the Vesper Boat Club in Philadelphia.

3. A Memorial Row and multiple boat christenings took place in Philadelphia for John V. Hooten, Montreal 1976. As is tradition in the sport, a “missing man row” was held during the recent Dad Vail Regatta, with a vacant seat to commemorate John. Women who had rowed for Coach Hooten (including 6 Olympians), gathered and also rowed down the course. John V. Hooten boats were christened at both Vesper Boat Club and Temple University.

Top image: Women who rowed for John and were present for the memorial and christening are: LtoR: Ann Jonik (rowing, 1976), Marie Jonik (rowing, 1976), Sue Hingley (rowing, 1980), Pam Behrens Golding (rowing, 1976), Sue Hooten (rowing, 1976), Anita DeFrantz (rowing, 1976, 1980), Ginny Kaufmann, Darlene Disney, Coz Crawford (rowing, 1978 Worlds silver medalist).

Bottom image: John V. Hooten boat being christened by John’s wife 1976 Olympian Susan Morgan Hooten.
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