Dear Olympians and Paralympians,

The month of May was National Physical Fitness and Sport Month, as declared by the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sport. As Olympians and Paralympians, we can play a role in promotion of Sport and Fitness: The World Fit program is underway with middle school kids logging the miles they run, walk, bike and swim each day; my local YMCA has swim classes for every second grader in our district so they will be safe in the water this summer. Our athletes are coaching kids, and helping them learn new games like fencing, kayaking, BMX and archery. It’s fun to try something new!

After all, we believe in the Fundamental Principles of Olympism: “The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practicing sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic and Paralympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.”

Looking back at the last few months, the USOPA executive committee held our Spring meeting at the LA 84 Foundation offices, where we saw preparations for the LA 2024 bid. We all love Paris, but nevertheless are totally focused on winning the bid. Help us bring the Games back to LA!

The executive committee is busy with various tasks. Carol Brown is the Treasurer and is chairing the new Safe Sport Commission. Candace Cable is the liaison to the LA 2024 Bid and the Paralympian representative. Alison Baver is chairing the Awards Commission and developing social media and communications. Micki King is chairing World Fit and Physical Fitness programs, working with Past President Gary Hall, Sr. Carol Lewis is the liaison to the Athletes Advisory Council, and collaborating with the newly elected leadership. Caryn Davies is the Governance expert and is working on a Speakers Referral Service. Willie Banks is organizing the 2019 Reunion and is serving on the World
Olympians Association Executive Committee. John Naber continues to prepare our minutes and provide wise counsel.

We hoped you all enjoyed the International Olympic Day on June 23, where we had a multitude of over 2,400 activities throughout the month of June, with nearly 935 athletes signed up.

Please check out our Facebook page for what’s new, what activities are happening near you, what the board is up to, and feel free to post anything that is appropriate to share with the group. Our private group is called the “United States Olympians and Paralympians”, exclusively for Team USA athletes.

As you can see, the USOPA Board is very busy. If you’d like to get involved, have an idea, or have some interest in serving on a Commission, you can contact your local chapter or contact Cindy Stinger at the USOPA office. We are always appreciative of Olympians stepping up to help, it’s fun and rewarding! Stay healthy and enjoy your summer.

Yours in Olympic spirit,

Richard Fosbury
Impacts Of Title IX Still Felt By Team USA Athletes Today
By Karen Price

As Team USA marks the 45th anniversary of the passage of Title IX, which legislated gender equality in education, we take a look at how the law has impacted women in the Olympics since its passage in 1972.

Historic participation numbers and medals in 2016. Winning streaks and dominance by many American women’s teams. Increased opportunities in sports once considered only the domain of men. Title IX has led to strength in women’s athletics today that could hardly be imagined 45 years ago.

“Title IX reaffirms that sport opportunities belong to everyone and we are incredibly proud that the United States has been at the forefront for equality in sports – both in the Olympic and Paralympic movements, and through our collegiate athletic system,” said Sarah Wilhelmi, USOC director of collegiate partnerships. “I join countless female athletes worldwide who have benefited from Title IX, and I’m grateful that my two little girls will be able to learn the life lessons I did through participation in sport.

“In its 45-year history, Title IX has provided millions of girls and women the opportunity to dream, develop and realize their true potential. Nowhere was this more evident than in Rio, where Team USA fielded the largest female contingency to ever compete at an Olympic Games and American women set a record with 61 medals. In the U.S., young girls whose names won’t be known for years to come are now on the path to achievement thanks to what Team USA accomplished in Rio – a true testament to the impact of Title IX, which we celebrate today.”

Here are just a few examples of the impact Title IX has had on women’s Olympic sports.

How Far We’ve Come

The Olympic Games in Munich were held the year Title IX was passed, in 1972. Of the 400 athletes representing the United States in West Germany, only 84 were women. Women won a total of 23 medals in archery, diving, swimming, and track and field. The men, meanwhile, won 71 medals. Forty years later, at the 2012 Olympics in London, for the first time ever, U.S. women outnumbered the men in both representation (269 to 261) and medals won (58 to 45). In Rio, women once again outnumbered men, 294-264. It was the largest female contingent ever sent by any nation to the Olympic Games. And once again, American women won more medals than men, 61-55, plus another five in mixed events, as well as 27 of the United States’ 46 gold medals.

The U.S. women’s medal haul in Rio was so substantial that had they competed as their own country, they would have ranked third among all nations in the overall medal chart and tied for first in the gold-medal count with 27.

U.S. women also claimed more than half of Team USA’s medals at the Rio Paralympics (70) and had three podium sweeps in triathlon and track and field.

The women’s eight team throw their coxswain Mary Whipple into the water as they celebrate with their gold medals at the Olympic Games London 2012 at Eton Dorney on Aug. 2, 2012 in Windsor, England.
Teamwork Makes The Dream Work

Team sports played at the college level have led to resounding success at the Olympic level. In basketball, rowing, water polo, soccer, softball and ice hockey, the United States produces powerhouses. The women’s basketball team has won gold at the last six Olympic Games. In rowing, the women’s eight boat has won Olympic gold at the last three. In 2016, the women’s water polo team became the first to repeat as Olympic champions since the sport’s inclusion for women in 2000, with 12 college players on its 13-player roster. The women’s soccer team won three consecutive Olympic gold medals before an upset knocked them out in the quarterfinals in 2016. The women’s ice hockey team won the first-ever Olympic gold medal in 1998 and hasn’t missed the podium since. Softball was added in 1996 and the United States won three consecutive golds and a silver before the sport was dropped from the Games beginning in 2012 (it will be back in 2020).

Many successful athletes in individual sports and smaller teams are also the products of college athletics. The most decorated beach volleyball Olympian of all time, Kerri Walsh Jennings played indoor volleyball while on scholarship at Stanford University, where she led the Cardinal to three final four appearances and two NCAA titles. Ginny Thrasher, who won the first gold medal of the 2016 Games in rifle, was at the time just beginning her sophomore year at West Virginia, where she became the first-ever freshman to sweep NCAA titles in smallbore and air rifle. Gwen Jorgensen, who swam and ran for the University of Wisconsin, gave Team USA its first gold medal in triathlon in 2016. Helen Maroulis won the first gold medal in wrestling by an American woman and continues to be an outspoken advocate for women’s college wrestling.

In addition, there are numerous Olympic athletes who have chosen to compete at the college level even after achieving Olympic success. Katie Ledecky, who dominated and won four gold medals in Rio, began her freshman year at Stanford when she returned home from the Games; she has since led the Cardinal to Pac-12 and NCAA titles. Similarly, Missy Franklin returned home from London in 2012 with four gold medals and began her college career at the University of California, Berkeley. She has since turned pro but led Cal to an NCAA title in 2015.

Brains And Brawn

It’s difficult to go through lists of the greatest female athletes in Olympic history and not find a host of U.S. athletes with college ties. Jackie Joyner Kersee, one of the all-time greats in heptathlon and long jump, was a track and basketball standout at UCLA. She redshirted one year midway through her career to focus on the Olympic Games Los Angeles 1984. Dara Torres, one of the few Olympians to medal in five different games, was a standout swimmer for the University of Florida.

A number of sports contested by Team USA in 2016 had 90 to 100 percent of their athletes (men and women) with a background in college athletics: basketball, diving, fencing, field hockey, indoor volleyball, rowing, triathlon, soccer, swimming, water polo and track and field.

Of the 558 athletes on Team USA, 439 (including men) competed collegiately;
176 of the 211 U.S. medalists either had competed or were en route to competing collegiately.

Some NCAA student-athletes who went on to Olympic success in the sports in which they competed in college found additional Olympic success crossing over. Lately, former college track stars who competed at the Olympics have gone on to make their marks in winter sports as well. Lauryn Williams, who went to the University of Miami, became the first U.S. woman to win a medal in both the summer and winter Games when she won a bobsled silver medal in 2014 to go along with the gold she won in the 4x100-meter in 2012 and the silver in the 100-meter in 2004. Two-time Olympic hurdler Lolo Jones also competed in bobsled in 2014 and continues her involvement in the sport today. The U.S. women’s bobsled team is full of crossover athletes; Elana Meyers Taylor starred in softball for George Washington University, Aja Evans competed in shot put and sprint events at the University of Illinois, and Jamie Greubel Poser was a member of the track team at Cornell University where she competed in the heptathlon and pentathlon.

Even in recent years, athletes who’ve competed in the Olympics used Title IX to find their own opportunities while still in school. 2016 Olympian Adeline Gray, for instance, wasn’t allowed to wrestle on her high school team because she was a girl, but successfully used the legislation to change administrators’ minds.

A New Generation Of Leaders

With girls getting more opportunities in education, female athletes are now rising to leadership positions both in and out of sport. Angela Ruggiero, a four-time Olympic medalist in ice hockey and 2015 inductee of the Hockey Hall of Fame, graduated cum laude from Harvard University and currently serves as a member of the International Olympic Committee and U.S. Olympic Committee Board of Directors. In both positions, Ruggiero serves alongside Anita DeFrantz, a 1976 Olympic rowing bronze medalist and 1980 U.S. Olympic Team member who went on to work as an attorney, for the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee and as a steward of the Women’s Sports Foundation.

But athletes don’t have to be retired to be making their mark on the world at large. Gevvie Stone, who won silver in women’s single sculls rowing in Rio, finished medical school before the Olympics and is currently in the midst of her residency in orthopedic surgery. Fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad won saber team bronze in Rio and was the first U.S. athlete to compete in a hijab at the Olympics. She has since been named one of TIME Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in 2016 and serves on the U.S. Department of State’s Empowering Women and Girls Through Sport Initiative.
All weekend, the lines stayed long and the smiles never stopped.

From Saturday morning to Sunday evening during the recent annual and mammoth Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, fifteen Olympians joined beloved mascot Sam the Eagle as well as staff and volunteers from the LA84 Foundation and LA 2024 to meet members of the public, sign books and memorabilia, share information about the extraordinary grant-making work, civic and thought leadership and so much more that LA84 continues to do three decades after the organization’s founding, plus answer questions about the current Olympic bid and help people sign up for the LA 2024 volunteers list.

One hundred and fifty thousand Los Angeles residents and visitors attended this annual civic, literary, culinary and cultural extravaganza held in late April on the USC campus – a campus and student body with a significant Olympic heritage.

“LA84’s partnership with LA 2024 at the Festival of Books is another great example of our #PlayingForward the Olympic spirit that inspires us all,” said Renata Simril, the LA84 Foundation President and CEO.

Two-time soccer gold medalist Julie Foudy was among the Olympian authors who posted up at the LA84 – LA 2024 tent. Foudy’s new book is titled, “Choose to Matter: Being Courageously and Fabulously YOU.” When a videographer asked Foudy about what readers can take from her book, she said: “You don’t need an Olympic gold medal to be a leader in life, to choose to matter. You’ve just got to raise your hand.”

Five-time swimming medalist John Naber, author of “Awaken the Olympian Within: Stories from America’s Greatest Olympic Motivators,” signed and met fans. So did two-time gold-medal winning swimmer Donna De Varona, author of “More Than a Game: One Woman’s Fight for Gender Equity in Sport;” five-time Olympian and 1956 discus throw gold medalist Olga Connolly, author of “The Rings of Destiny;” eight-time swimming medalist Shirley Babashoff, author of “Making Waves;” and two-time swimming medalist Jessica Hardy Meichtry, author of “Swimming Toward the Gold Lining.”

A contingent of L.A.-area Olympians also visited the booth to show support. Haley Anderson, Joe Bottom, Egerton Forster, Lovie Jung, Michael Lenard, Ramona Pagel, Samantha Peszek and Rebecca Soni all stopped by to show support for the Olympic Movement, along with an all-star lineup of sports-related authors including skateboarding pioneer Cindy Whitehead, Molly Schiot, David Davis, Chris Epting and George Hirthler.

Hirthler, a communications campaign strategist who has worked for ten Olympic bid cities, signed copies of his book, “The Idealist: The story of Baron Pierre de Coubertin.”

“Coubertin’s entire vision was to marry sport and education in a way that would create an enduring social force to unite the world in friendship, peace and sport, ideals that are found at the heart of sport. Those are the same ideals that the LA84 Foundation was established to promote,“ Hirthler said. “By promoting sport to young people across Southern California, LA84 has done a magnificent job of installing the values of sport – friendship, respect, excellence, discipline, perseverance and physical fitness at all levels – in kids across Southern California. It’s a great organization and it really does embody and carry on the ideals of Baron de Coubertin.”

The festival was held 2.5 miles from the LA84 Foundation campus. LA84 was established with surplus funds from that highly successful 1984 Los
Angeles Summer Olympic Games. LA84 has since invested approximately $230 million in the community, impacted more than three million kids and their families, trained more than 80,000 coaches, supported more than 2,200 non-profit partners across more than 50 sports, and helped build or rebuild more than 100 youth sports facilities. LA84 is also an archive, gallery, thought leader and convener that regularly bring together groups such as skateboarding NGOs and female coaches. The 2016 LA84 Summit drew a sold-out crowd of leading athletes, executives, elected officials, non-profit leaders, coaches, technologists and others. The 2017 event will take place Friday, October 27 at the J.W. Marriott LA Live in Downtown Los Angeles. For more information, visit http://la84.org/summit/.

Back on the LA84 campus, located in the city’s historic West Adams District, Simril noted that the LA84 Foundation is the “House the Olympics Built.” “Every Olympian and Paralympian should consider LA84 their home away from home,” Simril said. The Southern California Olympians and Paralympians Association now has a permanent home office at LA84, established in 2016.

Indeed, all Olympians and Paralympians are invited to come use an office or meeting and conference space, relax with Wi-Fi on a couch in the “Olympians Lounge”, visit LA84’s ongoing exhibition, “Los Angeles: The Olympic City,” and connect with foundation’s staff historians, librarians and archivists who assist with research for books, articles, academic papers, films, television, radio, etc.

“Most everyone knows the impact that the LA84 Foundation makes in changing the lives of youth through sports,” Simril said. “But not everyone knows what historians, researchers, journalists and students are aware of — that LA84 is also the steward of one of the largest sport heritage, Olympic memorabilia and digital sport history collections in the world,” Simril said. Indeed, the organization’s electronic library at la84.org had six million downloads last year, while countless articles and at least 175 books have been written using its free-of-charge archives.

The Festival of Books isn’t LA84 Foundation’s sole recent gathering of Olympians — not by a longshot. For example, LA84 partnered with the USA Swimming Foundation to save lives through swim lessons while raising awareness to reduce the risk of child drownings. Simril joined USA Swimming Foundation ambassadors Missy Franklin and Rowdy Gaines as well as USA Swimming executive director Debbie Hesse in late May for a convening at LA84 and then at the LA84 Foundation/John C. Argue Swim Stadium for a press conference that highlighted the importance of people of all ages learning to swim.

Franklin and Gaines were joined poolside by a pair of fellow famous Olympians – Naber, and five-time USA Water Polo Olympian Tony Azevedo – and more than 100 youth participating in the Learn To Swim program. Franklin donned a swimsuit to join the young athletes in the pool, which is located on the site where the 1932 Olympic swimming and diving competition took place. “Being in the water is where you can be whoever you want to be,” Franklin said.

LA84’s Learn to Swim program will reach 15,000 Southern California youth this summer, continuing to provide swim lessons in underserved areas at a reduced cost. The program is part of LA84’s Summer Splash program, which was established in 1986, has served 150,000 kids, and provides basic instruction and competitive opportunities at over 100 Los Angeles County pools in four aquatic sports: swimming, diving, water polo and synchronized swimming.

Examples abound of LA84’s ongoing Olympic collaborations and programs. At the time of this writing, LA84 is preparing for a pair of major June events. At the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, home of two Olympic Games and part of the bid for a third, a ceremony will honor two iconic women who are absolutely vital to the Olympic Movement. Head west to the sands of the Pacific Ocean, and LA84 and LA 2024 are collaborating on a citius, altius, fortius –level Olympic Day for the second consecutive year. Hundreds of schoolkids from across the city are expected to join many Olympians and other volunteers for a fun day of playing, learning, celebrating and embodying the ideals and spirit of the Olympic Movement. Look for write-ups of these two events in the next issue of this publication.
The groundbreaking ceremony for the U.S. Olympic Museum (USOM) took place on June 9, 2017 in downtown Colorado Springs. This ceremony marked the culmination of a five-year vision of Dick Celeste, chairman of the USOM and former Ambassador, governor of Ohio and president of Colorado College, to create the first Olympic and Paralympic Museum and Hall of Fame for the United States. We are thrilled to see the culmination of years of cooperation with the USOM private foundation become a reality.

This $75 million, 60,000-square foot museum will be in downtown Colorado Springs near the USOC headquarters with the iconic Pikes Peak in the background. It will also include the Olympic Hall of Fame, a theater, retail space and a café and serve as a cornerstone for downtown Colorado Springs revitalization and development in the area bringing in estimates of 350,000 to 400,000 visitors each year. Scheduled to open in 2019, the USOM will highlight both summer and winter Olympic Games as well as focus on the training, families and careers of our athletes leading up to competition. Since both Olympic and Paralympic Games continue, this museum will offer the visitor, new stories, athletes and artifacts each time they return. Dick Celeste, the chairman of the board of the USOM stated at groundbreaking, “From the gleam in their eye, from the inspiration, from the support they get from parents and coaches, we'll be able to train like an Olympian, we'll be able to understand the science and technology behind their competitions.”

For the Crawford Family U.S. Olympic Archives, the USOM affords us the opportunity to display our ever-growing collection of artifacts preserving the history of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in the United States. Our artifacts will be incorporated into vibrant, interactive exhibits and displays designed to be interchangeable as the Olympic movement continues into the mid-twenty first century. To have our collections, currently not open to the public, on display in this facility is an exciting prospect for all.

In our last archives update, we sent out a request for photographs of our athletes at a young age just beginning their sporting careers or as children.
These images will be included in the USOM as part of their displays. We would love to have more Olympians and Paralympians provide images from their personal collections to be included in the USOM exhibit. If you send in your original photographs, we will be happy to digitize them, return the photographs along with a digital copy emailed to you for your personal use. Unfortunately, we cannot use a photocopy of the image; the planned display in the museum will enlarge the photos so greatly that these images will become blurry and unusable. Please make your Olympic and Paralympic moments are included in the U.S. Olympic Museum beginning with your photographs.
Competing for Team USA at an Olympic/Paralympic Games is an incredible honor and achievement requiring more than talent, fortitude, and relentless effort. The path to becoming an Olympian or Paralympian demands years of training, a passion to succeed, the drive to overcome challenges and short-term losses, and a single-minded focus to achieve what others can barely dream of. Athletes often sacrifice what most people take for granted to stand atop the podium – career opportunities, financial stability, emotional balance, personal relationships, personal growth, and more. Thus, an athlete’s identity is often defined by their latest performance on the big stage.

Once the bright lights of the Games

ACE MENTOR NETWORK

ACE and the new Pivot Program are small steps in Your journey to “Life beyond Sport”
dim and athletes face life after elite competitive sport, unpacking the meaning behind their achievements and tackling their next journey can become an emotional albatross inhibiting their ability to move beyond their athlete identity and find success in their next pursuit. The USOC’s Athlete Career & Education (ACE) program recognizes the challenges confronting Team USA Olympians and Paralympians struggling to find purpose outside of their athletic selves by creating the ACE Pivot Program.

Facilitated by sports psychologists, leadership consultants, career transition specialists and Olympic and Paralympic alumni, Pivot is a two-day, in-person workshop, followed by monthly group video meet-ups, providing athlete participants a variety of tools and techniques enabling them to pivot and pursue success in endeavors beyond elite competitive sport. Program goals are to create a safe space to openly discuss and normalize the fact life post-competitive sport is an emotional struggle for most elite athletes and it is natural to feel overwhelmed; to provide tools to overcome the challenge of turning the page to begin life’s next chapter; and to bring to light a support network of fellow athletes and staff ready to assist participants with discovering and cultivating their next passions and goals.

Susan Katz, a two-time Paralympian (’96, ’04) and gold medalist in wheelchair basketball, participated in two Pivot workshops as a table coach. In her role, Katz served as a supportive ear to the athletes, while pushing them to better understand their wants and concerns, as well as mining her experiences to impart post-sport life lessons. “Our experience as retiring athletes is extremely unique, Katz reflects. “There are not a lot of people in the world who have this shared experience, and giving back your experience and time to support something that is so hard is more valuable than money.”

The Pivot program provides athletes a base to share experiences and build a support system, enabling them to become more self-aware and understand the emotions tied to their athletic identity. Katz says “Pivot makes athletes aware the transition process is real; they are not alone; and tools and resources exists to help.”

As a testament to the value of recognizing the process and positively impacting the athletes, ACE asked participants, pivoters, their feelings coming to the workshop. Responses revealed feelings of failure, embarrassment, depression and confusion. Many left with a brighter outlook, noting “it’s OK to have these emotions,” “I am not alone.” One athlete noted, “For the first time, I felt I still had value even if I wasn’t an athlete.” The emotional journey through retirement is a difficult one at any stage; Pivot is one way in which ACE helps athletes make forward progress.

Katz took away more from the experience than she ever imagined and believes all athletes should go through Pivot in some capacity. “I went to Pivot to give back to the movement. I didn’t expect to participate in the program with the athletes. I realized I hadn’t dealt with my athletic transition and took so much away personally. Along with the athletes, I felt a sense of camaraderie and support. I got more out of it than I ever imagined.”

Additionally, Katz and all pivoters left the workshop with tangible resources and support from the ACE team. For Katz, those resources led to her own career pivot, landing a new job and professional path with North Bridge Staffing Group as a recruiter/account manager. “I was at a point in my career where I took a crazy left turn. I was ready to move in my career track and didn’t know how. At this critical point where I was transitioning in my life, I give full credit to ACE and their career coaches in helping me attain my new job and make the pivot.”

The Pivot Program is just one way ACE is providing tools and resources to Olympic and Paralympic alumni. ACE career coaches work one-on-one with athletes to help them achieve their career goals. The program administers education scholarships for alumni including the DeVry | Team USA partnership, USOC tuition grants and continues to identify and partially fund continuing education programs such as Dartmouth University’s Tuck School of Business Next Steps: Transitioning to Business.

Feeling the value and impact of the of the ACE Pivot Program firsthand, Katz is eager to connect more athletes to the program, “Just do it. There is so much value in having shared experiences in a group that’s hard to connect with. Give yourself the gift of spending time with them. You’ll get more out of it than you could ever imagine.”

ACE plans to host the next Pivot workshop fall 2017. For more information on the workshop, the ACE program, or if you are an Olympic/Paralympian struggling post-retirement, please reach out to ACE at ACE@usoc.org. #ACEyourPivot
LA 2024 hosts America’s flagship Olympic Day event from sunny SoCal shores

LA’s Olympic spirit was on full display at the iconic Will Rogers State Beach, as more than 500 young Angelenos Followed the Sun to celebrate Olympic Day with LA 2024 and the LA84 Foundation!

America’s flagship Olympic Day event, the celebration hosted by LA 2024, the LA84 Foundation, the United States Olympic Committee, and the Foundation for Global Sports Development headlined a record-breaking Olympic Day that saw more than 2,400 events in 1,503 communities engaging more than 600,000 Americans.

Joined by more than 30 Team USA Olympians and Paralympians, the young athletes at LA’s Olympic Day event participated in eight Olympic and Paralympic sport clinics including fencing, gymnastics, Paralympic sitting volleyball, rugby, table tennis, team handball, track and field and volleyball.

In addition to LA 2024 Vice Chairs five-time Olympic medalist Janet Evans and 12-time Paralympic medalist Candace Cable, athletes attending the Olympic Day celebration included gymnasts Samantha Peszek and Raj Bhavsar and figure skaters Alex and Maia Shibutani.

“LA 2024 believes in the power of the Olympic values to unite our communities and to encourage youth around the world to play sports and pursue active competition.”
lives,” said LA 2024 Chairman Casey Wasserman.

“It makes me very proud to know that hundreds of thousands of people around the nation followed LA’s lead today in celebrating the power of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Days like today boost our belief that LA 2024 is the perfect partner to help the IOC strengthen and spread Olympic values in the US and worldwide.”

#FollowTheSun - literally!

LA 2024 celebrated the longest day of the year - the Summer Solstice - with a pop-up badminton match at Griffith Observatory, featuring Olympians Iris Wang and Paula Obanana.

Below are some of our favorite moments from the celebration...

But that’s not all...

1. Anita DeFrantz and Joan Benoit Samuelson engraved in Coliseum history...

2. Angel City Games provided a thrilling weekend of adapted sport for Angelenos of all ages...

Angel City Games, the leading adapted sports festival in the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, returned to UCLA for its 3rd edition.

This year’s Games offered exciting new elements, such as five adaptive sports competitions, its best Celebrity Basketball Game yet, its first-ever Charity Fun Run & Roll, five amazing Sports Clinics, its first-ever Great Games Family Cookout Event, and an expanded Fun Zone for kids.

3. U.S. pro leagues, NCAA throw support behind LA 2024..

Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, the National Football League, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association have joined the National Basketball Association and the Women’s National Basketball Association in support of Los Angeles’ bid for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The announcement reflects LA 2024’s focus on the future of the Olympic and Paralympic Movements. LA 2024’s Games Plan is designed to ensure all sports are able to tap into America’s $250 billion sports market.
Olympian Angela Ruggiero inducted into IIHF Hall of Fame

By Kayla Lombardo

Former defenseman and four-time Olympic medalist Angela Ruggiero was inducted into the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Hall of Fame on Sunday, May 21, 2017.

Ruggiero captured one gold, two silver and one bronze at the Olympics as a member of the U.S. women's national hockey team. She joined Saku Koivu, Uwe Krupp, Joe Sakic, Teemu Selanne and Dieter Kalt as part of the 2017 IIHF class.

Brandi Chastain, Shannon MacMillan latest U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame inductees

Brandi Chastain looked at the assembled crowd in a tent under the rain and addressed former coach Tony DiCicco, who had just introduced her at the induction ceremony for the U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame.

"Thank you, not just for today but for every day that you gave me the chance to play for the women's national team, and for having the confidence in me and the guts to tell me I wasn't going to be a forward," she said.

Brandi Chastain, whose penalty kick defeated China in the 1999 World Cup final, was inducted into the U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame. Chastain, a forward on the 1991 World Cup champion team and a left back whose penalty kick won a shootout for the 1999 title, was inducted along with midfielder Shannon MacMillan, a 1996 Olympic gold medalist and World Cup champion three years later.

The ceremony was held before the U.S. men played Honduras in a World Cup qualifier.

Remembered most for pulling off her shirt after her winning goal and celebrating in a sports bra, Chastain
grew up in San Jose and talked about her early days playing youth soccer in the area, starting with the Quakettes. After winning her first World Cup title, she was left off the 1995 roster before reviving her career as a defender.

“Change is good. Though, scary, it’s good. And I think we would all benefit from seeing change as an opportunity for growth and development, and for a new adventure,” she said.

Now 38, Chastain scored 30 goals in 192 international appearances and won a pair of Olympic gold medals. MacMillan, 42, had 60 in 176 international games.

“It was always such a massive honor that gave me chills every time I walked in that locker room, whether it was my first cap, my 100th cap or my last cap,” MacMillan said. “It was something that I never took for granted.”

Soccer America’s Paul Kennedy was given the Colin Jose Media Award.

Queens Adds Men’s Wrestling; Ken Chertow Named Head Coach

With the announcement of the addition of men’s wrestling to Queens University of Charlotte’s Department of Athletics, Queens Director of Athletics Cherie Swarhout reveals that Olympian Ken Chertow will lead the program.

“Ken will make an immediate impact on our new wrestling program,” said Swarhout. “There is not a better person to start this effort and to foster an environment of excellence. Ken has been successful in all of his endeavors and we look forward to him leading our program and building a strong foundation.”

Chertow has found success in wrestling at all levels of competition, both as an athlete and as a coach. Currently he is the coordinator and owner of Ken Chertow’s Gold Medal Training Camp System, which he began in 1989 after conducting summer day camps throughout his collegiate career. The summer camp has grown from 100 to over 2,000 students from 49 states and many countries making it the largest wrestling camp in the world. Many of Chertow’s campers have gone on to win NCAA Championships. Chertow also has a large six-day winter break training camp and has operated Ken Chertow’s Home Training Center in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania since 1997.

In addition to running world renowned camps, Chertow spent time as an assistant wrestling coach at Penn State and at Ohio State following his collegiate career with the Nittany Lions. During his stint as a collegiate coach, Chertow helped Penn State become the National Dual Meet Champions and take second in the NCAA Championships. At the time, it was the best finish since their 1953 season. At Ohio State, Chertow helped build the Buckeyes into a national powerhouse as they grabbed fourth and fifth place finishes at the 1991 and 1992 NCAA Championships, respectively.

As a student-athlete at Penn State Chertow was a three-time NCAA All-American, World Espoir Champion, and Pan American Champion. He also excelled in the classroom, earning
academic all-American honors three times. In 1988 Chertow was the U.S. Olympic Trials Champion, going on to compete in the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. Chertow would go on to be a six-time U.S. National Team member, and in 1996 he was honored with the chance to be an Olympic Torch Runner in Atlanta.

Chertow received his bachelor’s degree in biology from Penn State in 1989.

There are currently 60 NCAA Division II wrestling programs in the U.S. and Canada. Though it is not a South Atlantic Conference sponsored sport, seven schools in the southeast region currently house the sport as part of the Eastern College Athletic Conference. SAC members Coker and Newberry are both members.

The Department of Athletics at Queens University of Charlotte is a leading NCAA Division II program in the United States distinguished by its commitment to transforming the lives of its students, and consistently competing at the highest possible levels. Housing 29 varsity level sports, the Royals are a member of the South Atlantic Conference with the men’s and women’s swimming teams competing in the Bluegrass Mountain Conference.

Queens University of Charlotte is a master’s-level university with a commitment to both liberal arts and professional studies. Located in the heart of Charlotte, Queens offers undergraduate, graduate and online degrees such as a highly regarded MBA program, a top-10 Low-Residency MFA program, and an online MSN-Clinical Nurse Leader degree. The university serves approximately 2,250 students through its College of Arts and Sciences, McColl School of Business, Wayland H. Cato, Jr. School of Education, James L. Knight School of Communication, Hayworth School of Graduate and Continuing Studies and Andrew Blair College of Health which features the Presbyterian School of Nursing.

Southern California Indoor Volleyball Hall of Fame Inaugural Induction Banquet

The committee did a tremendous job in narrowing the over 100 deserving Southern California (San Diego to Santa Barbara) nominees to an opening class of 25 indoor players and coaches,” said Mike Gallups, the President of American Sports Centers where the Hall of Fame will be housed later this year. “We are excited that the 25 selections cover the major eras of volleyball and look forward to honoring additional outstanding athletes and coaches with ties to Southern California in years to come.

Among the 25 inductees there are over 100 combined Olympic medals, NCAA, AIAW & USVBA Titles and numerous United States Volleyball Association (USAV) honors from the 1950s into the 2000s.

Andy Banachowski
Laurel Brassey-Iversen
Craig Buck
Deitre Collins-Parker
Tara Cross-Battle
Bob Ctvrlík
Marv Dunphy
Dusty Dvorak
Rolf Engen
Debbie Green
Kathy Gregory
Bryan Ivie
Karch Kiraly
Ricci Luyties
Chris Marlowe
Misty May-Treanor
Kim Oden
Mike O’Hara
Doug Partie
Al Scates
Gene Selznick
Sinjin Smith
Jeff Stork
Steve Timmons
Paula Weishoff

Lifetime Service Award Elissa Sato
Mother of Olympians Eric and Lianne Sato and Olympic Coach Gary Sato.

Of all 25 members, Karch Kiraly and Bob Ctvrtlik, Steve Timmons, Craig Buck and Doug Partie, Jeff Stork and Ricci Luyties and head coach Marv Dunphy were part of the 1988 Seoul Olympics Gold Medal group and will enter the SCIVBHOF together.

Captain of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Women’s Volleyball Team Kim Oden, a three time All American at Stanford joins two Seoul teammates: 2-Time NCAA MVP, and 2-time NCAA Champion at Hawaii - Dietra Collins-Parker, 1950s-60s players Mike O’Hara and Rolf Engen and 1979 NCAA MVP Sinjin Smith all attended UCLA and were part of 29 national championships.

Besides Timmons from USC’s 1980 NCAA title team, the Trojans are represented by 1984 USA Olympic Games Gold Medal winning and NCAA MVP Dusty Dvorak, two-time NCAA champion and MVP Bryan Ivie and women’s AIAW champions and Olympic medalists Debbie Green and Paula Weishoff.

Dunphy, who coached Pepperdine to four NCAA titles, joins Wave alumni and Olympic Gold Medalists in Ctvrtlik, Buck and Stork.

San Diego State has three HOF members in current Aztecs women’s head coach Deitre Collins-Parker, 1984 Olympic Team captain and Gold Medalist Chris Marlowe and 80 and 88 Olympian Laurel Brassey-Iversen. Marlow and Brassey were teammates on the men’s team in 1974.

Long Beach State is represented by four-time USA Olympic and 1989 NCAA champion and MVP Tara Cross-Battle, 1998 NCAA champion and MVP and Olympic Gold Medalist in Beach Volleyball Misty May-Treanor and Green, who was an assistant coach for 23 years for the 49ers including NCAA titles in 1989, 1993 and 1998.

Green and Brassey-Iversen were both members of the 1980 Boycotted Olympic Team.

The remainder of the induction class includes long-time UC Santa Barbara women’s head coach and great player
in the 1960s-70s, Kathy Gregory; and the first USA player to ever make the All-World Team, Gene Selznick. Selznick, the USA international captain from 1953-1967, passed away in 2012.

Elissa Sato, who had a long career as a VB scorekeeper and is the mother of the Sato volleyball family, was selected for the first SCIVB Lifetime Service Award.

The SCIVBHOF (a 501c3 charity is currently in the midst of raising funds to build the HOF walls as part of the Sidelines Café inside the American Sports Centers (ASC) facility in Anaheim where the USA Men’s and Women’s National Teams train. The induction ceremony was May 7th.

Rowing Olympians nominated for FISA Thomas Keller Medal

Team USA members Caryn Davies and Eleanor Logan are among this year’s six worldwide finalists for the most prestigious medal awarded in rowing, the Thomas Keller Medal. The Medal has never gone to a U.S. Rower.

Created in 1990 by the World Rowing Federation (FISA), the Thomas Keller Medal celebrates athletes who have had an outstanding career in rowing. It honors those who have shown exemplary sportsmanship and technical mastery of the sport as well as having shown a legendary aspect both in and outside of their rowing career.

Caryn and Elle rowed together in both the 2008 and 2012 USA women’s gold-medal winning eights. Prior to joining with Elle, Caryn earned a silver medal in the same event in 2004. After Caryn’s retirement in 2012, Elle went on to win a third Olympic gold in 2016, thereby becoming USA rowing’s most decorated Olympian (male or female).

This isn’t the first time Caryn and Elle have competed for top honors in rowing. In the lead-up to each Olympics, every oarswoman at the Olympic training center competes against almost every other oarswoman for a seat in the eight. Coach Tom Terhaar once told these athletes that he planned to race them against each other so often and so hard that it would be a relief to go to the Games and line up against athletes from other countries.

Despite this fierce competition, strong bonds of friendship develop and remain between teammates. “My favorite part about rowing is the very close-knit team where you, for the rest of your life, will be connected to those people and [I often reflect on] how special that is and how lucky I am to have experienced it,” said Davies in a recent PBS interview.

“There's something about the teammate aspect [of rowing] that connected with me,” Elle told her hometown newspaper shortly before heading to Rio. “You have to commit 100 percent to it, and not just for yourself, but for the boat and one another.”

Elle also loves the competitive aspect. “I love to race,” Elle said. “I love being at the starting line when the gun goes off.”

All the same, lining up to compete at the Olympic Games can be traumatic,
especially for the less experienced athletes. Recognizing this, Caryn made sure to keep the atmosphere in the boat light before Elle’s first Olympic final.

Elle remembers: “We had been watching the ‘Die Hard’ series [at the Olympic Training Center] in Chula Vista that winter and I was obsessed with John McClane. Right before the start [my heart was pumping out of my throat I was so nervous, and] Caryn turns around and says “Hey Elle, Yippee ki yay ****** *********!”

Caryn is also credited as being a phenomenal racer...with a teammate describing her as an iconic stroke who “lays down a rhythm that seems to become more punishing with every stroke”.

After years of racing together, Elle and Caryn have some advice for the next generation of young women aiming to build on their winning legacy. “Once you get out there, you don’t focus on the legacy, just the 2,000 meters between you and the finish line.” (Caryn) “Trust your teammates’ intentions unequivocally and focus on yours entirely. Nothing else matters.” (Elle)

Some Interesting Tidbits:

Caryn Davies – 6’4 180 lbs.
- Started rowing in high school in Ithaca, NY
- Rowed for Harvard University
- Graduate degrees include: Doctor of Law – Columbia and MBA – Oxford University
- Stroked the women’s Oxford boat to victory in the 2015 Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race.
- Practicing attorney in Boston
- Currently serving as a Vice President - U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association

Why did you start rowing?
I started rowing at age 14 when a very large man came up to my father and me in a local grocery store in Ithaca, New York and said “I want YOU to row!”

Eleanor Logan (now Eleanor Dinares Cardenal) – 6’2 190 lbs.
- Started rowing in high school at Brooks School, Andover, MA
- Rowed for Stanford University
- Named Pac-12 Rower of the Century in 2016
- Works in Seattle in the construction technology field
- Volunteer rowing coach at University of Washington
- Married and expecting a son in August

Why did you start rowing?
When I was in seventh grade, my family went to see the Head of the Charles in Boston, an annual regatta billed as the world’s biggest two-day rowing event. I saw all these people in unison, rowing like a machine, like pistons in an engine. A friend said “This is the hardest sport there is.” And I said, “That’s what I want to do.”

(Alumni in Honor continued on page 32.)
ALLISON PARK, Pa. — As he sat down to address a group of first through fifth graders taking part in a youth running camp in a park outside Pittsburgh, Olympian Herbert Douglas Jr. posed a question to them.

“How many of you would like to make the Olympic team?” he said.

Twenty-five hands shot in the air.

“All of you?” he asked. “Well, all right.”

At 95 years old, Douglas is the oldest living African-American Olympic medalist, having won bronze in the long jump in London in 1948. He was joined by 1972 Olympic canoeist Wick Walker to speak to young runners taking part in a camp hosted by P3R, the organization that produces the annual Pittsburgh Marathon, to help celebrate Olympic Day.

This was also the first time that Douglas, who grew up in Pittsburgh, participated in Olympic Day. But it certainly was not the first time he’s shared his knowledge with a younger generation.

“It’s a must that we pass down the richness of our experiences to young people because that ends up in growth and gives them my thoughts and views that people are people,” Douglas said.
“Their contribution and what they learn as they progress, they have to pass it down to the next generation. That’s my thinking.”

Douglas talked about running back and forth to the store to buy things for his mother when he was a child, saying that’s how he got to be so fast. He talked about meeting Jesse Owens at the age of 14, the same year the Olympic legend won four gold medals at Olympic Games Berlin 1936.

“When I met him I said, ‘Mr. Owens, I run, too,’ and I told him what I did in the 100 (meters) and the long jump,” Douglas said. “He said, ‘You did better than I did,’ but I knew he was lying through his teeth because I checked it out. But he gave me the inspiration.”

He also told them how he tried swimming, football and wrestling, but couldn’t imagine what a big part of his life sports would become until he discovered canoeing and the magic of being on the water.

“Everyone thinks going into it that the Olympics is the ultimate goal, it’s the end-all be-all, but for me it was more a building block that gave me confidence for the rest of my life to do other things and keep going,” said Walker, who now lives on a farm in Southwestern Pennsylvania. “It wasn’t, ‘Oh, you got to the Olympics, that’s the end of it.’ It wasn’t the end of my sporting life, either. It was just the beginning. It gave me the confidence to keep doing the activities that I’m still doing today.”

The children had questions for the Olympians — can you compete in basketball and running? Do people from all over the world compete in the Olympics? — and Douglas had some questions for them as well.

“What are you going to do to get to the Olympics?” he asked.

Work hard, one said. Sprint. Practice. “Do you think you could beat me?”

A resounding no was the answer.

“Yeah, yeah you could beat me,” he said, chuckling. “I can hardly walk now.”

Then he asked who is the fastest runner in the world right now, and a sea of hands shot in the air to answer Usain Bolt.

“Right. That’s right,” Douglas said. “Who came in second to him?”

Nothing.

“See there? See what it means to be No. 1?” he said. “You remember No. 1. Strive to be No. 1 in your classes, strive to be No. 1 in your running and, the most important thing, is strive to help others. You have to try to learn as much as you can and then pass it down when you get older.”

Karen Price is a reporter from Pittsburgh who has covered Olympic sports for various publications. She is a freelance contributor to TeamUSA.org on behalf of Red Line Editorial, Inc.
Gordon Gene “Ginny” Christian  
(Ice Hockey, 1956)

Gordon Christian passed away on June 2, 2017 at age 89.

Gordon graduated from Warroad High School in 1947. He then attended the University of North Dakota and played on the 1948 team that upset national powerhouse Michigan 6-5 which vaulted UND to national prominence. Gordon led UND in goals in 1948-49 and scoring in 1947-48 and 1948-49. He was named the team’s Most Valuable Player in 1948-49. Gordon finished his career with 62 goals and 105 points in 59 games played. He then played semi-pro hockey in San Bernardino with several UND teammates.

Gordon was called up by the U.S. Army National Guard in 1951 and was stationed in Camp Rucker, AL.

In 1955 Gordon, played for the U.S. National Team at the World Hockey Championship in West Germany, where they finished in 4th Place. In 1956, he played for the USA in the Winter Olympics in Cortina, Italy, where they won a silver medal. Gordon was the 10th leading scorer in the tournament. In 1958, he played for the U.S. National Team at the World Hockey Championship in Oslo, Norway. His brothers Roger and Bill were also on the team. Gordon continued playing hockey with the Hibbing Flyers and the Warroad Lakers senior hockey teams. He also coached the Hibbing Flyers and in 1969 they placed second in the U.S. National Junior Tournament.

Gordon was an excellent carpenter and he worked for his father’s construction company in Warroad and for Erickson Lumber, in Hibbing, MN. On December 27, 1958, Gordon married Emma Marie Vytlacil in Warroad.

He worked with his brothers and father building U.S. Customs stations along the US-Canada border in the early 1960’s. Gordon moved back to Hibbing in 1965 to raise his family and to build taconite plants across the Iron Range and Upper Michigan with ABI Construction from Virginia, MN. The family moved to Beulah, ND in 1982, where he worked on building a coal gasification plant. They moved back to Warroad in 1985, where Gordon supervised construction of building #7 at Marvin Windows and the new Warroad Gardens hockey arena. He and Emma built their dream house on the banks of the Warroad River.

Gordon was inducted into the UND Athletic Hall of Fame in 1980, the Warroad High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996, and the Minnesota Olympic Wall of Fame in 1990. In 2006, Gordon was listed in the “UND Legends” area at Ralph Engelstad Arena.

Gordon is survived by wife Emma, children Gordon (Jodee) of Eagan, MN; Steven (Stephanie) of Grand Forks, ND; five grandchildren, Peter (Laura), Emily (Kyle), Samuel, Abigail (Jace), Nicholas; brother William of Naples, FL and sister Sharon of Seattle, WA.

Gordon is preceded in death by his parents, sisters Ramona and Theone and brother Roger.

Steven Holcomb  

Steven Holcomb passed away on May 6, 2017 at age 37.

It would be easy to define Steven by his long list of bobsledding accolades – his participation in three Olympic Games, his three Olympic medals and the 62-year four-man medal drought he broke by winning gold for the United States in 2010, his five World Championship titles or his 60 World Cup medals. He was expected to be a part of the U.S. team that would compete in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South
Korea. To really know Steven was to know that there was so much more to the man than just the athlete.

Originally from Park City, Utah, a city in which he would find an early passion for ski racing. Steven was, first and foremost, a teammate and friend to those around him. His quiet confidence was complemented by genuine humbleness, unwavering focus and most prominently, a down-to-earth personality and sense of humor that was constant no matter who he was interacting with. A tribute to Steven’s easygoing nature, a former teammate recalled his ability to stop in the middle of warm ups and perform his famous ‘Holcy Shuffle’ upon hearing it sung from the other side of the track. No matter his race result, he would take time at every finish dock to high-five fans, sign autographs and make sure he did everything in his power to grow the sport’s following.

Steven was also a fighter. He overcame the degenerative eye disease keratoconus – which nearly blinded him and forced him into retirement before the 2009 World Championships in Lake Placid; he went on to win his first World Championship gold medal and become an inspiration for others affected by the disease. He fought on a race-to-race basis too, you could never count Steven out of a race. His times would defy physics as he expertly guided his sled through lines no other pilot could find, stunning his competition and more often than not, resulting in a podium finish.

Beyond bobsled, Steven was working toward his degree in Computer Science from DeVry University and found a job repairing computers for the United States Olympic Committee. His passion for computer science fed into his love for video games, particularly the Xbox, which he was known for at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, his home for 18 years.

Steven was taken too soon, and his legacy will live on in his family, friends and teammates. His loss will be felt for years to come in not only the bobsled and skiing worlds, but also in each community that was lucky enough to get to know him.

Steven is survived by his mother Jean Anne; father Steve; sisters Stephanie and Megan; niece and nephews Sten, Aidan, Fritz, Raife, Annabelle, Xander and MaxJack; grandfather Granjack; aunts and uncles Jill, Jackie, John, Lisa and Kathy; eight cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to USA Bobsled & Skeleton. The funds will be distributed to keratoconus patients and elite athletes in need of financial support.

William “Bill” Hougland
(Basketball, 1952, 1956)

William Hougland passed away on March 6, 2017 at age 86.

As a teenager, Bill worked on a farm outside of town bailing hay, harvesting crops and driving tractors. This blue-collar work ethic stayed with him throughout his life, from athletics to business endeavors to stories he told his grandchildren.

At Beloit High School, Bill excelled in sports and was state champion in the high jump. He led his basketball team to the Class A championship game in 1948 and earned all-state honors. After being recruited by several schools to play basketball, Bill chose to stay in his native Kansas to play for Coach Forrest “Phog” Allen. What impressed Bill more than Allen’s coaching pedigree was the way he cared for his players and their families. After his first season when freshmen were not allowed to play, Bill became the starting point guard on a team that eventually went on to win the 1952 NCAA national championship. Bill and a handful of his teammates were selected to represent the United States.
in the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland. The team brought home a gold medal after defeating the Soviets in the championship game.

Upon returning from the Olympics, Bill served his country in the Korean War. While stationed in Japan he was also asked to compete on a basketball team at his Air Force base. He saw it as a great way to build relationships with his fellow soldiers overseas, and he took pride in his service to our country.

Bill began his professional career with Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville, OK after returning from the Air Force. As part of his employment, he played for the National Industrial Basketball League’s Phillips 66ers. He returned to the 1956 Olympic Games as team captain and won a second gold medal. Bill spent the rest of his career in Wichita. He became vice president for Koch Industries and president of Koch Oil before retiring in 1991.

Bill and Carolie retired to Lawrence where he enjoyed golfing, hunting and fly fishing trips with his children and grandchildren. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church and active in service to the University of Kansas. After a 1998 board meeting of the Kansas Hall of Fame in Abilene, Bill came home and said, “KU needs its own hall of fame.” The next day he called university architect Warren Corman to discuss his idea. That set into motion a project that today allows Allen Fieldhouse visitors to experience the history of KU athletics. Bill was a proud Jayhawk and a proud Kansan. He was especially delighted that all five of his children and several of his grandchildren graduated from KU.

He was too humble to talk about his accomplishments but when pressed by his grandchildren he would delight them with stories of his work on the farm or his time in the service. He was kind to all and smiled with a twinkle in his eye. Bill came from a small town, humble, hard-working roots and carried those values throughout his life.

Despite the various athletic, professional and philanthropic accolades he has received over the years, Bill’s legacy and what he cherished most is his family and the relationships he built along the way.

Survivors include Bill’s wife of 65 years, Carolie (Miller); their children, Nancy Simpson and husband, Ward of Phoenix, AZ, Jan Hartzier and husband, Jeff of Shawnee, KS, Diane Ruder and husband, Greg of Lawrence, KS, Bill Houglanld and wife, Sue of Parker, CO, Sam Houglanld and wife, Stacy of Parker, CO, and Calvin and Linda Smith; grandchildren, Carrie (Josh) Fancher, Joshua (Cara) Simpson, Andrew (Brenna) Simpson, Jennifer (Zach) Allee, Julie (Alan) Heide, Arika (Chris) Sprecker, Mark (Katie) Ruder, Mikel Ruder, Matthew Ruder, Wills, Tom, Jimmy and Ryan Houglanld, and Samantha Houglanld and Chase Houglanld; great-grandchildren, Maxwell, Amelia, Stella, Avery, Kenley, Brody, Keaton, Cooper, Jaxson, Jacen, Nick, Nate, Libby, Ella, Hank and Ben.
the U.S. Sailing Association and served as President of The Olympic Sailing Association of New Orleans. His passion for sailing and reliving the races knew no bounds.

Danny was predeceased by his son, Nalty Killeen and brother, Thomas Killeen, Jr. Danny is survived by family, Karen Daly (John), Daniel, Jr., John, Diane, Robert (Betty), Sheryl Baltar and grandchildren Caroline, Jack, Meg, Kyle, Andrew, Thomas and Isabel.

Adolph Gustav Kiefer (Swimming, 1936)

Adolph Gustave Kiefer passed away on May 5, 2017 at age 98.

Adolph was an American hero who embodied an indomitable spirit of creativity and passion for all things aquatic. Over the past 20 years he suffered from peripheral neuropathy, and he always said that daily swimming in his home pool was the only thing that kept him alive -- and so it was.

Adolph had two great loves in his life: swimming and his wife of 73 years, Joyce Kainer Kiefer, who predeceased him two years ago. Their household revolved around swimming, humor and adventure. Adolph's love of swimming was not solely based upon his extraordinary abilities. The sport was a symbol of something greater to him and he cherished the opportunities it offered: the friendships, the international travel, and the constant challenge of finding new and better swimming products.

Adolph was famed for his athleticism but he was also, at his core, a showman both in and out of the pool, and he relished a good audience. His humble origins gave him an everyman quality and he welcomed interaction with people of all walks of life, if they were good listeners and open to the next joke. He was a wondrous public speaker and an inspiration to all who knew him.

He is survived by four children, Dale, Jack, Kathy, and Gail, as well as 14 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Adolph recently initiated the establishment of a fund to be administered by THE YMCA of the USA, to support the teaching of swimming and water safety, and scholarships for competitive swimmers of limited means. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to THE YMCA of the USA, for the Adolph Kiefer Fund at: 101 Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL 60606, ATTN: Jonathan Lever.

Adolph Gustav Kiefer


Robert Mimm passed away on May 7, 2017 at age 92.

Bob had been a track athlete at Millersville University in Pennsylvania but found his true mission in the sport perhaps a decade later. When he switched from running to race-walking, it was the discovery that would send him to the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome where he placed 23rd.

While many of those in that Rome 20K race would disappear from the competitive scene, Bob’s career as an international athlete was just beginning, at age 35. The coming of the World Masters Championships – first held in 1975 in Toronto – was just the spur he needed. From then on he traveled to each of the biennial World Masters Championships if his energy supply held out. Invariably, he returned with a bag of medals, often gold. Once he became of age as a Master (age 40 and up), he beat many of the same athletes who out walked him at the 1960 Games.

In addition to being a dominate force...
on the World Masters scene, he totally dominated Masters action within the U.S. as well.

In his earlier days, he represented the Philadelphia Athletic Club and Penn Athletic Club; once he moved to New Jersey, he signed up with the Shore Athletic Club. Bob was an early inductee into the National Masters Hall of Fame and the Shore AC Hall of Fame. Over the years, he medaled at race-walks as short as one mile and as long as 50 kilometers (31.1 miles). When gaps appeared on the World Masters schedule, he kept right on traveling. A legendary globe-trekker, he made it to all seven continents over the years, usually returning with arrays of color slides to show his friends. He had careers in teaching, the U.S. Postal Service, the military and the federal government. With all that he saw of this planet, the Pike’s Peak area of Colorado was always a top favorite.

Bob is survived by sons Randy, Colorado Springs, CO; Cliff, Riverside, NJ, and Doug, of Burlington, NJ; daughters Roberta Parseghian, King Ferry, NY, and Noreen Boranian, Pennington, NJ.

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**Brian R. Oldfield**
(Track & Field, 1972)

Brian R. Oldfield passed away on March 26, 2017 at age 71.

Brian’s life passion was the shot put. In 1963, while a student at Elgin High School, he began his career with becoming the Illinois State Champion. One of the highlights of his sports career include the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. In 1975, he set a world record shot put throw of 75 ft. He was a world-class athlete.

Later in his life, Brian touched the lives of thousands through coaching. Throwing camps at Denison University in Ohio and coaching in Garden Plain, Kansas are among many of his commitments.

The Oldfield Spin is his legacy, a rotational technique for throwing the shot put.

Survivors include: his wife Tetyana Chopovenko; sisters Joan Lacey (Dennis) Junod, Ray Ann (Robert) Lacey Cecrle, Lori Oldfield Grimes; seven nieces and nephews; many great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in his name to the Special Olympics, Attn: Web Gifts, 1133 19th St. NW, 12 Floor, Washington, DC 20036-3604.

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**Brian K. Roney**
(Swimming, 1980)

Brian K. Roney passed away on March 7, 2017 at age 56.


After his competitive days in swimming ended, Brian gave back by serving as an Athlete Representative for U.S. Swimming, and eventually served as Chairman of the U.S. Swimming
Athletes’ Committee.

Brian leaves a wonderful legacy of incredible races, friendships, team and family orientation. He fought adversity early in his career when he fought back against a bone disease and reached a pinnacle that most can only dream of; a spot on the U.S. Olympic Swim Team.

Survivors include: his wife Jenny; daughter Heather; and son Spencer.

Jason Turcotte
(Olympic & Paralympic Swim Coach, 2016)

Jason Turcotte passed away on May 6, 2017 at age 51.

Jason was most recently the CEO and head coach of Dynamo Swim Club, a position he held since 2006. During his tenure at Dynamo, he led the club with unselfish dedication to both the athletes and to the sport of swimming. His many achievements include multiple Junior and Senior National championships and placing swimmers on both the Olympic and Paralympic teams. He was known as one of the brightest young club coaches in the nation.

Turcotte was most recently selected as the head coach of Team USA’s boys for the Junior World Championships.

Respected throughout the entire swimming community, Jason served as a frequent speaker and training coach at USA Swimming camps and events.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Jason’s love of swimming began as a competitor for Lake Erie Silver Dolphins. Jason then went on to coaching positions for the Silver Dolphins, Stanford University, Naperville Riptide and Dynamo Swim Club.

He leaves behind his wife, Heidi and children Jack, Kaela, and Olivia.

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11.

Charles “Chuck” Wielgus
(Swimming CEO)

Chuck Wielgus passed away on April 23, 2017 at age 67.

Chuck spent 45 years working in sports administration, and for the past 20 years, was the Executive Director of USA Swimming in Colorado Springs, leading the organization to unparalleled growth and success.

Chuck attended the Virginia Military Institute and then Providence College in Rhode Island, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 1972. He spent one year as the assistant athletic director for the Westchester County (N.Y.) Department of Parks & Recreation, before going back to Springfield College (Massachusetts) to earn his Master’s degree in Education. While in graduate school, he worked at the National Basketball Hall of Fame.

After he graduated from Springfield, he became a coach and Recreation Director for the Township of Woodstock (Vermont) from 1974 to 1983. While there, he served as the director of the...
1982 U.S. National Snowboarding Championships and served two terms as the President of the Vermont Parks & Recreation Association.

In 1983, Chuck moved to Hilton Head, SC and for six years was the Executive Director of the Hilton Head Island Recreation Association. He was the race director for the Bud Light U.S. Triathlon Series National Championships from 1985-87, and was the coordinator for the USA Basketball Women’s World Championship Team training camp in 1986.

Chuck moved to Indianapolis, Ind. in 1989 to become the Executive Director for the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team. He oversaw the entire organization and established an international event series to help promote the sport.

From 1996-1997, Chuck served at the Executive Director of the Senior PGA TOUR Tournament Association (now the PGA Tour Champions) in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and was the primary communication liaison between the Senior PGA Tour and the PGA Tour headquarters staff.

He ultimately came to Colorado Springs in 1997 to lead USA Swimming. The organization won 156 medals at the Olympic Games between 2000 and 2016, the most by any sport from any nation. He was the longest tenured executive director of any U.S. Olympic sport, he also served as the Chief Executive Officer of the USA Swimming Foundation since 2004.

In addition to his stellar career in sports administration, Chuck was also a published author of three books on basketball, including The In-Your-Face Basketball Book, co-authoring the books with Alex Wolff and Steve Rushin, both senior writers at Sports Illustrated. In 1981, Chuck and Alex appeared on The Today Show, interviewed by Bryant Gumbel.

He received numerous accolades throughout his career including: Man of the Year honors in 1989 by the Chamber of Commerce in Hilton Head Island; the Paragon Award in 2007 from the International Swimming Hall of Fame for contributions to competitive swimming; and the inaugural ACES Leadership Award in 2015 from the Association of Chief Executives in Sport. In November 2016, he was bestowed with an Honorary Doctorate from the U.S. Sports Academy in Daphne, Ala.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Nancy; sons Chip (Kim) of Haverford, PA, and Tommy (Sarah Maguire) of Hatfield, PA; daughters Savannah and Shelby of Colorado Springs; mother, Irene, of Larchmont, NY, brother, Paul (Cindy) of Swansea, MA; sister, Martie Negri (Art Nazzaro) of Mamaroneck, NY, and four grandchildren.
BOOK REVIEWS

The Absence of Strangers
(Goose River Press, 2017)

I: The Grammar of Absence
II. Signs of Affection
III. A Fellowship of Strangers

These poems go looking for the stranger in ourselves, the one with whom we would like to dance gracefully over the earth, then follow inside to our interior selves. It is there we ponder life's solitude, its various rejections, exult in our successes, even while we remain wary of their duration. There too imagination sparks our love for the puzzling beauty in ourselves and others. We discover as well that a true self must be given boldly to a fearful beauty in the world we cannot escape. So it is that our joys reveal themselves as both profound and tenuous, and without end.

Richard Taylor
U.S. Olympic Nordic Team 1964
rw.taylorxc@yahoo.com

Running on Purpose,
Winning Olympic Gold,
Advancing Corporate Leadership and Creating Sustainable Value
By: Charles Moore (track & field, 1952)

“Charlie Moore never broke his stride after winning an Olympic gold medal in Helsinki in 1952. His professional life achievements feature notable accomplishments in business as well as successful leadership roles in college athletics, the arts, and, ultimately, in corporate philanthropy.

This is the remarkable first-person story of the action, tenacity, creativity, celebration, and principles that carried Moore from one success to another-- and ultimately, led to his most important legacy: providing insights for guiding twenty-first-century American business.”

Running on Purpose has just been posted on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc. sites and can be purchased at $29.95 (hardcover), $22.95 (paperback) and $12.99 (ebook).

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Jason Morris Honored at NY Open

New York, NY - A USA Judo and New York Athletic Club (NYAC) legend, Jason Morris received the prestigious “Lifetime Achievement Award” on March 26, 2017 at the historic NYAC. Morris was on hand at the historic club to coach the USA Men’s team at the 34th NY Open when, during a break in the action, he was surprised with the ceremony to celebrate his phenomenal achievements in the sport of judo. 2017 also represents the 25th anniversary of Morris’ Olympic glory in Barcelona as well as his father’s Bernie’s untimely death, 9 days following Jason’s victory. Morris enjoyed one of the all-time great careers for USA Judo, which included winning a silver medal at the Olympics, being a 4x Olympian (1988, 1992, 1996 & 2000), winning a bronze medal at the world championships along with being the head coach of the Olympic Judo team in 2008. His NYAC accolades already included becoming the first judoka inducted in its Hall of Fame, being named as its best overall athlete in 1993 and winning the NYAC’s first Olympic judo medal in 1992.

Morris’ success was an integral part of raising the NYAC judo budget, so future stars could receive more funding, including Olympic medalists Kayla Harrison (Gold, 2012 & 2016), Marti Malloy (Bronze, 2012), Jimmy Pedro (Bronze, 1996 & 2004), Ronda Rousey (Bronze, 2008) and Travis Stevens (Silver, 2016).

Morris also founded the Jason Morris Judo Center (JMJC) in Glenville, NY, which has become one of the top programs in the country. In fact, JMJC developed Stevens for his first Olympic appearance in 2008, as well as Rousey in her early years, long before she found fame in MMA.

The JMJC boasts more good news on the day with the results of the USA men’s and women’s teams, as they both took silver medals, including terrific performances from JMJC/NYAC athletes Brad Bolen, Quentin Cook and Hannah Martin, as well as former JMJC prodigy Jack Hatton. The men reached the final for the first time since the NY Open became a team event seven years ago.

“I am extremely honored and proud to receive this award from this institution (NYAC) which I hold in such high regard,” Morris said after the ceremony. “It was an extra bonus that my wife, Teri, my twins, Randi & Dani and my mother (Chris) could be here to share this with me, as well as so many current and former JMJC athletes.”

One of the highlights of the event was a demo put on by Japanese judo players who work for a sake company and call themselves the sakemen. They included the cute 7-year-old Morris twins in their demonstration, to the delight of the sellout crowd. Photos by Lou Digesare/realjudo.net

Jason receives the award from long time NYAC Judo Chairman, Kevin Earls along with his wife Teri and twins, Dani (left) and Randi.
1. Dozens of USA Bobsled and Skeleton Athlete, Coaching, and Administrative Alumni reunite at the Lake Placid Convention Center to pay homage to Steven Holcomb on May 11, 2017.

2. Lindsay Grogan (Paralympic swimming, 2016) speaks to children at the Olympic Day celebration in Round Rock, Texas.

OLYMPIAN & PARALYMPIAN (continued)

PHOTO Highlights

4. Olympian Jack Elder recipient of the Onchi Spirit Award at the 61st Annual Obukan Judo Tournament! Photo courtesy of Jeff Rooney

5. Super-sized medals! 1984 and 2012 medals!

6. Olympians and Paralympians at the Girl Scouts of Western NY Leadership Luncheon

L to R: Meghan Musnicki (rowing, 2012, 2016) two time gold medalist, Miranda Melville (track & field, 2016), Anja Pierce (ParaCanoe World Champion and 2016 Paralympic hopeful for ParaKayak...she is going for another team), Iris Zimmermann (fencing, 2000)

7. Tina Noyes (figure skating, 1964, 1968) celebrates the news that she is this year's Dorothy Franey Langkop Ambassador Award honoree. Congratulations and well deserved!

8. The International Medalist Association (I.M.A.) led by United States Olympian, Ronald “Ron” Freeman (track & field, 1968), Secretary General, gave over 400 students from regions of Guinea, an introduction to double dutch/jump roping by Maona Turey, the I.M.A. Sports Coordinator. To learn more and help Ron continue this great program, go to: www.internationalmedalist.org
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