Congratulations Singapore!

With the conclusion of the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games Thursday, the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) extends its congratulations to all Youth Olympic athletes from around the world for participating in and contributing to the successful inaugural staging of the event. The USOC also applauds the International Olympic Committee (IOC), whose vision and commitment to youth have sparked a new generation to live the Olympic spirit, and to the Singapore Organizing Committee, for demonstrating its passion for sport and excellence in staging an event of this magnitude.

The Youth Olympic Games took place in Singapore from Aug. 14-26, welcoming 3,600 young athletes ages 14-18 from 204 National Olympic Committees. The event featured competition in 26 sports and, for the first time, a Culture and Education Program (CEP). The Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games aimed to inspire youth to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect.

The USOC congratulates all 82 members of Team USA for their hard-fought performances in Singapore, and more importantly, for being excellent ambassadors for the United States. The team also came away with invaluable international experience, personal growth, and significant cultural and educational opportunities.

“There’s a lot to take away from this experience,” said archer Miranda Leek (Des Moines, Iowa). “It’s not just one thing. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It really opens your eyes to a lot – the high level competition, different cultures, all of the CEP activities – it’s all been really fun. And this was my first time in a big-time venue with crowds, cameras, jumbotrons and everything. It definitely went by so fast, and I’m so glad I was able to participate.”

Team USA saw break-out performances in sports including judo, where Max Schneider (Chicago, Ill.) and Katelyn Bouyssou (Hope, R.I.) each captured gold. In fencing, Celina Merza (Wayne, N.J.) won silver in sabre, Alexander Massialas (San Francisco, Calif.) won silver in foil, and the Americas 1 team captured bronze in the team event. In triathlon, Kelly Whitley (Geneva, Ill.) and Kevin McDowell (Geneva, Ill.) together won three medals: silver in boys, bronze in girls and bronze in the mixed team relay. U.S. athletes won eight medals on the track and on the field, with golds in the girls’ 400 meters (Robin Reynolds, Miami, Fla.), and gold in both mixed team medley relays.

“These Games have been a really cool experience,” said Massialas. “It’s really unique and not a lot of people get to do this – we’re the first at the Youth Olympic Games. Obviously competing was really cool, and so has being in Singapore. There’s been so much for us to do throughout the Games. Some of the ath-

Thursday, August 26, 2010

MEDAL COUNT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
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TEAM USA MEDALISTS

- Katelyn Bouyssou  Gold
  Judo, 52 kg
- Kaitlyn Jones  Gold
  Swimming, 200m IM
- Robin Reynolds  Gold
  Athletics, 400m
- Max Schneider  Gold
  Judo, 66 kg
- Mixed Relay - Girls  Gold
  Myasia Jacobs, Robin Reynolds
- Mixed Relay - Boys  Gold
  Najee Glass
- Devin Bogert  Silver
  Athletics, Javelin
- Myasia Jacobs  Silver
  Athletics, 100m
- Kiera Janzen  Silver
  Swimming, 400m Free
- Kaitlyn Jones  Silver
  Swimming, 200m Back
- Kevin McDowell  Silver
  Triathlon
- Alexander Massialas  Silver
  Fencing, Foil
- Celina Merza  Silver
  Fencing, Sabre
- Jordan Rogers  Silver
  Wrestling, 76 kg
- Jessie Bates  Bronze
  Taekwondo, 49 kg
- Hannah Carson  Bronze
  Athletics, Javelin
- Olivia Ekpone  Bronze
  Athletics, 200m
- Gregory English  Bronze
  Taekwondo, 48 kg
- Michael Hixon  Bronze
  Diving, 3m
- Le’Tristan Pledger  Bronze
  Athletics, Long Jump
- Kelly Whitley  Bronze
  Triathlon
- Fencing America 1 Team  Bronze
  Will Spear, Katherine Holmes, Alexander Massialas, Celina Merza
- Triathlon Americas 1 Team  Bronze
  Kelly Whitley, Kevin McDowell
- Girls Basketball  Bronze
  Briyna Canty, Andraya Carter, Amber Henson, Kiah Stokes

1 • youtholympicgames.teamusa.org
Youth Olympic Games

Thursday, August 26, 2010

letes we knew of before, but this was the first time we got to meet them and talk to them.”

To finish out the last day of competition, the U.S. Girls’ Youth Olympic Volleyball Team plays Belgium for the gold medal. Overall, Team USA won medals in 10 sports: basketball, diving, fencing, judo, swimming, taekwondo, track & field, triathlon, volleyball and wrestling.

“We could not be more proud of our athletes for all that they accomplished at the first Youth Olympic Games, both on and off the field of play,” said USOC CEO Scott Blackmun. “They represented our country with enthusiasm and integrity. They demonstrated the very best of the Olympic Ideals, building friendships with young athletes from around the world while competing to the very best of their ability. That is the essence of Olympism, and we know we will see many great things from these athletes in the years to come.”

Games a confidence boost for Kozitskiy

Polina Kozitskiy (Fountainville, Pa.) finished seventh in the rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around finals at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games.

Kozitskiy, who attends Penn Ridge North Middle School, had her best rotation in ball, where she placed sixth with 23.100. She also finished seventh in hoop (23.050), eighth in rope (22.900) and eighth in clubs (23.075).

Kozitskiy qualified for the finals by placing eighth in Tuesday’s preliminary round.

“I think I did much better than what I did yesterday,” Kozitskiy said. “I had a few little mistakes, but nothing too big. So I think I did much better today.”

At just 14, Kozitskiy had already competed in Cuba, France and Russia before coming to Singapore. She said that the Youth Olympic Games have added a multi-sport element that will benefit her in the years to come.

“It made a big difference knowing that they chose me to represent the USA in the Youth Olympics,” Kozitskiy said. “It’s a pretty big deal. It also gives me a lot more confidence because you’re competing in a big arena with a lot of people. Performing in front of a big audience, it helps you when you’re more nervous at smaller competitions.”

After 11 races, competition concludes for U.S. sailors

U.S. windsurfers Margot Samson (Belleaire, Fla.) and Ian Stokes (Norfolk, Va.) wrapped up competition on Wednesday. After 11 races in the Techno 293 class, Samson finished in 16th place, and Stokes ended 20th.

“I thought they learned a lot, and they made improvements,” coach Britt Viehman said. “It’s pretty tough competition, so we’ll do better next time.

“The event was awesome,” Viehman continued. “They did a stellar job with race management, the whole feeling of the Olympics was awesome for the kids – they really got to see what it is like.”

Samson raced consistently, posting her best finish on Friday, Aug. 20, with a 10th-place performance. She also concluded the regatta with a strong final race on Wednesday, ending in 14th among the 18 sailors.

“Everything was so great from the Village and the dining hall to all the people,” Samson said of attending the Youth Olympic Games. “We really had a lot of fun getting to know all of the other athletes, and it was great competition. I’m really happy to have been a part of it.”

Stokes recorded a strong few races in the middle of competition, including a 12th-place finish among the fleet of 21 in his fourth race on Wednesday, Aug. 18.

“It was sweet. It was such a great experience – Singapore did a great job,” Stokes said of his
overall Games experience. “There were just a lot of things to do and I met a lot of people.”

Overall, 11 different countries won medals in the two boys and girls sailing events at the Youth Olympic Games, as racing was also held in the Byte CII class.

From Facebook friends to real-life pals
By Olympic News Service

Archers Alice Inglely’s (AUS) and Miranda Leek’s (USA) accents are poles apart and they use different words to describe the same thing, but they have one thing in common that has helped seal their intercontinental friendship: the social networking website Facebook.

The 17-year-olds met at the World Youth Archery Championships held in the U.S. in July 2009.

When they added each other as friends on Facebook they realized they would be reunited at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games in the women’s individual archery competition.

Leek said her Games highlight had been a day she spent with Inglely.

“My favorite day was Tuesday when I hung out with Alice at Chinatown and then we partied all night at the Youth Village evening event. We had a lot of fun on the dance floor,” Leek said.

“The funniest thing about us is how Australians and Americans call some things different names — it’s really fun to learn all the differences between our countries.”

Inglely said it was not just each other’s cultures they had enjoyed learning about, but also those of other athletes from all over the world.

“It’s very interesting to see how the different cultures are during competition. When the Egyptian archer won his singles division he got down on the ground and began praying; whereas some of the Asian archers would bow. It’s just different to what we do and it’s great,” said Inglely.

Inglely and Leek expect to meet up again next year in Poland for the World Archery Youth Championships, and in the meantime say they will keep in touch via Facebook.

“We’ll definitely keep in touch and see each other in just under a year,” Leek said. “We’ll just keep meeting up all over the world.”
### 2010 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Girls Gold Medal Match: USA vs. Belgium</td>
<td>Toa Payoh Sports Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Samantha Cash (San Diego, Calif.), Crystal Graff (Madison, Wis.),</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Micha Hancock (Edmond, Okla.), Jade Hayes (Springfield, Mo.),</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christina Higgins (Los Angeles, Calif.), Madison Kamp (Orland Park,</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ill.), Madison Mahaffey (Vestavia Hills, Ala.), Liz McMahon (Liberty</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Township, Ohio), Katie Mitchell (The Woodlands, Texas), Tiffany</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Morales (Redondo Beach, Calif.), Olivia Okoro (Carrollton, Texas),</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Taylor Simpson (Colorado Springs, Colo.), Laruen Teknipp (McDough, Ga.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USA events only; <strong>bold</strong> denotes medal round</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
<td>Float @ Marina Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ceremony</td>
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The U.S. track & field team collected eight medals - three gold, two silver and three bronze - at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore.

### BIRTHDAY WISHES!

**August 27**

L’Tristan Pledger, track & field  

### Wednesday, Aug. 25

**Team USA Results**

**FINALS**

**Gymnastics, Rhythmic Individual All-Around**

1. Alexandra Merkulova (RUS) 103.500  
2. Arina Charopa (BLR) 100.400  
3. Jana Berezko-Marggrander (GER) 98.875  
7. Polina Kozitskiy (USA) 92.125

**Sailing, Girls Windsurfer**

1. Shiripon Kaewduang-Ngam (THA)  
2. Veronica Fanciulli (ITA)  
3. Audrey Pei Lin Yong (SIN)  
16. Margot Samson (USA)

**Sailing, Boys Windsurfer**

1. Mayan Rific (ISR)  
2. Chun Leung Michael Cheng (HKG)  
3. Kieran Martin (GBR)  
20. Ian Stokes (USA)