



July 30th, 2021

NYAC OLYMPICS NEWS



Rowing - The Honor of a Lifetime

The USA's women's eight, with five NYAC members aboard, placed fourth in their final day on the last day of rowing competition at Tokyo's Sea Forest Waterway on Friday morning. The women's boat crewed by the NYAC's Charlotte Buck, Olivia Coffey, Meghan Musnicki, Kristine O'Brien and Katelin Guregian (cox), plus Brooke Mooney, Jessica Thoennes, Gia Doonan and Regina Salmons, posted a time of 6:02.78, 3.65 seconds behind Canada's gold medal time of 5:59.13. New Zealand took the silver medal in 6:00.04, while China won the bronze in 6:01.21. While this fourth place finish, and the same placing of the men's eight, were the best showings by Team USA at these Olympic Games, it was bittersweet in that this was the first time since 1908 that the United States has not brought home an Olympic medal in rowing. "I don't think there's anything that would have changed the effort that we put out there," stated three-time NYAC Olympian Meghan Musnicki. "All nine of us put it all out there today, and I'm very proud of that."

Canada jumped to the early lead ahead of Australia and continued to extend its advantage through the midway point. New Zealand pulled into second position during the third 500 meters, with China and the US moving past Australia. In the final quarter of the race, China clocked the fastest final 500m split to move ahead of the US and claim the bronze medal. "I am deeply, deeply proud of myself and my teammates, my coaches, the women that aren't in my boat - that are back home - and that are here at this regatta (in other boats)," Guregian said. "To get here took an inordinate amount of effort and belief in ourselves and each other. I would do the whole five years over again, even knowing what the result would be. That's how much these women mean to me; that's how much lining up at the Olympics with these eight, strong, independent, incredible women means to me. It's the honor of my lifetime, and I wouldn't give it up for anything."



Fencing

The US men's épée team, with the NYAC's Jake Hoyle, entered the Olympic Games seeded ninth behind the host nation. With Japan using a portion of its host country allocation to compete in this event, the two countries fenced off for a position in the quarter-finals. In addition to Hoyle, the team comprised, Curtis McDowald and Yeisser Ramirez. After the first two rotations,

they had built a 23-16 lead, with Ramirez leading the squad at a +5 indicator. But Japan cut away at the US lead during the final three bouts. In the seventh round, 2019 Asian champion, Masaru Yamada, edged Ramirez, 5-4. In the eighth, 2018 Asian Games champion, Satoru Uyama, defeated Hoyle, 7-3, cutting the USA's lead to just two points, 31-29. In the final bout, Koki Kano, a top-eight finisher at the 2019 Senior Worlds, scored on McDowald, moving Japan into the lead for the first time at 32-31. Then came a five-touch run to build a 41-35 Japanese lead before ending the bout at 45-39. That left the US trio in ninth position.

Track and Field

In Friday's qualifying rounds of the men's discus, Sam Mattis made it perfunctory, reaching a season's best of 63.74m/ 209' 1" and advancing to tomorrow's (Saturday's) final (6am EST). In the women's triple jump qualifiers, Nadia Eke (Ghana) and Tori Franklin both struggled, Eke failing to register a mark and Franklin reaching a non-advancing 13.68m/44' 10 3/4".

Swimming

Brett Fraser, competing for the Cayman Islands in the 50m freestyle, placed equal second in his heat on Friday. However, his time of 22.46 seconds did not see him advance to the next round.



Water Polo

The US closed out group play in women's water polo by defeating the Russian Olympic Committee 18-5 on Friday. The NYAC's Stephanie Haralabidis scored twice in the first quarter to help stake the USA to a 5-1 lead, which was expanded to 9-3 by half time. Haralabidis and her NYAC team mate, Maggie Steffens, shared scoring honors with four goals apiece. The USA completes Group B play with a 3-1 record and now awaits the results of the remainder of the competition to determine its final group standing and placement in the quarter-finals.

Upcoming Action - Highlights to Watch for in the Coming Days

With the Games of the XXXII Olympiad not even half over, there is all kinds of NYAC action still to come. Here are just a few things to watch closely. (Days are as in Japan. Tokyo is 13 hours ahead of New York).

Saturday, July 31st - The US triathlon team, with possibly three NYAC members competing, contests the inaugural mixed relay

Sunday, August 1st - Five time world wrestling champion, Adeline Gray, begins her bid for Olympic gold

Monday, August 2nd - Valarie Allman hopes to contend for a medal in the women's discus

Tuesday, August 3rd - DeAnna Price begins her bid to claim an Olympic medal in the hammer throw

Wednesday, August 4th - All being well, the US men's water polo team will be contesting the quarter-finals

Thursday, August 5th - Will Claye, hopefully, will contest the triple jump final and the US women's water polo team will compete in the semi-finals

Friday, August 6th - Sarah Hildebrandt hopes to go all the way in women's wrestling, while Katie Nageotte contests the final of the women's pole vault

Saturday, August 7th - Kara Winger, hopefully, contests the women's javelin final and, just as hopefully, the US women compete for water polo medals

Sunday, August 8th - Men's water polo medals are on the line, as are medals in women's wrestling via Sarah Hildebrandt. And, of course, there's the never to be missed Closing Ceremony

All of the above, and more, is still to come. Keep up with the action by visiting www.NYACTokyo2020.com often.



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Blogs - James O'Brien, Director of Communications is blogging from the Games. To read what he's got to say about the Tokyo Olympic experience, go to www.NYACTokyo2020.com