

NIA ALI HALEY ANDERSON MCQUIN BARON AARON BROWN HANNAH BUCKLING DYLAN CARTER VICTORIA CHAMORRO TIFFANY CHAN MICAH CHRISTENSON
ALLYSON FELIX LAUREN FENDRICK TYNIA GAITHER STINA GARDELL KOSTAS GENIDOUNIAS KALEIGH GILCHRIST LOUISE HANSSON REBECCA HEYLIGER KAT
MOROZOV DALILAH MUHAMMAD USC AT THE 2016 OLYMPICS • 9 GOLD 5 SILVER 7 BRONZE CRISTIAN QUINTERO APRIL ROSS DEBORA SEILHAMER MURPHY TROY

2016



SANTO CONDORELLI KAMI CRAIG ANDRE DE GRASSE JOEL DENNERLEY DEMAR DEROZAN THOMAS DUNSTAN ZSOFIA ERDELYI ANNI ESPAR ROBERT FARAH NKA HOSSZU AMALIE IUEL STEVE JOHNSON CANDIE KUNG DWIGHT LEWIS VICTORIA ALIMONDA LOVELADY CONOR McCULLOUGH OUS MELLOULI VLADIMIR AMANDA WEIR ANNA WIERZBOWSKA KATARZYNA (KASIA) WILK TIM WYNTER NIA ALI HALEY ANDERSON McQUIN BARON AARON BROWN HANNAH BUCKLING

Allyson Felix '08 led the U.S. 4x400-meter women's relay team to a convincing victory in Rio, giving her a second gold medal in the Games.



In more than a century of major sports competitions, South American countries organized six Pan American Games and five FIFA World Cups. But it wasn't until 2016 that the region hosted the Summer Olympics. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was burgeoning economically in 2009 when its Olympic bid was selected. But leading up to the Games, questions about Brazil's readiness abounded; lagging infrastructure projects and fears about the Zika virus, crime and terrorism dominated Rio-related headlines. In the end, the city and its Games defied early critics, proving a homegrown success. While more than 100 Russian athletes were banned from the events because of allegations of state-sponsored doping, more than 11,000 other men and women competed. And 19 world records fell, most of them in swimming. And in Rio, USC athletes once again took their place on the podium. Leaving the Games with 21 medals — nine gold, five silver and seven bronze — they maintained USC's historic lead among U.S. universities for most Olympic medalists and most gold medals. Rio also marked the third Summer Olympics in a row in which USC-affiliated athletes won at least 20 medals. In all, 44 athletes with Trojan ties competed in Rio, 25 of them women. Nine USC athletes were current or incoming students. The USC competitors represented 21 countries and nine sports. One of the most successful USC athletes was swimmer and four-time Olympian Katinka Hosszu. She broke one world record and won four medals for Hungary, setting a new USC record for most individual event medals in a single Olympics. USC athletes also collected medals in water polo, basketball, tennis, volleyball and beach volleyball. But nowhere were Trojans more decorated than in track and field. In her fourth Olympic Games, U.S. sprinter Allyson Felix added three medals to her previous six. Canada's Andre De Grasse, a first-time Olympian sprinter, also went home with three medals. Overall, USC's track and field athletes collected nine medals in Rio, making 2016 their most successful Olympic year ever.

RIO DE JANEIRO

KATINKA HOSSZU

Katinka Hosszu '12 was already a two-time Olympian swimmer when she enrolled at USC. She had represented Hungary in Athens in 2004 and in Beijing in 2008, but she left both competitions empty-handed. She fared no better in London in 2012. But by the 2016 Rio Games, Hosszu had changed her mindset and training. She tore through the water in the Rio pool, winning four medals — more than any other Trojan athlete.

Hosszu had shown signs of that promise back in her USC years: She was a force on the Trojan swim team and one of the top collegiate swimmers in the country. Competing for her home country in the 2009 World Championships, she won a gold medal in the 400-meter individual medley and bronze medals in the 200-meter individual medley and the 200-meter fly. She was named Hungary's 2009 Female Athlete of the Year. In 2011, she captured three NCAA and conference titles, as well as the 2011 Honda Award for top collegiate female swimmer in the U.S. She graduated from USC as a five-time NCAA champion.

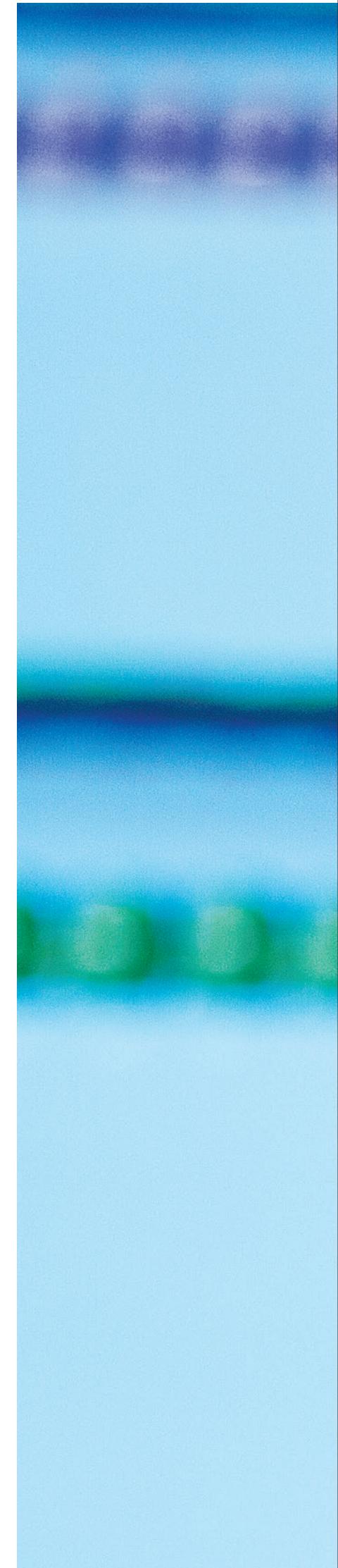
When Hosszu arrived at the 2012 Games in London, she had high hopes for an Olympic medal and was widely expected to win the 400-meter individual medley. But after she finished fourth in that event, she admitted that she had put too much pressure on herself to make the podium.

Only a few months later, at a World Cup stop in November 2012 in Beijing, a new Katinka

Hosszu entered the pool. Competing in eight grueling swim events over the course of the two-day meet, she walked away with five medals — and a Chinese media-generated nickname: the Iron Lady. The moniker stuck. It eventually became her personal brand and the name of a merchandise company that she and her husband-coach, former USC swimmer Shane Tusup '11, would begin together.

In the years leading up to the 2016 Olympics, Hosszu kept up a rigorous competition schedule. Swimming more than 100 races a year, she became an 11-time world champion and set a world record in 2015 in the 200-meter individual medley. She was named FINA Swimmer of the Year twice, in 2014 and 2015.

Then came Rio. Hosszu competed in five events in one week. In the first four days, she took the top spot on the podium three times: She won her first gold in the 400-meter individual medley, where she shattered the world record; another gold in the 100-meter backstroke, where she came from behind over the last 50 meters; and a third one in the 200-meter individual medley, where she posted an Olympic record. On the fifth day, she swam on Hungary's 4x200-meter freestyle relay, finishing sixth with the team. And on the seventh day, she won the silver medal in the 200-meter backstroke, missing gold by .06 seconds. Her performance in Rio left no doubt: She was the Iron Lady.







ANDRE DE GRASSE

As a teenager, Andre De Grasse '16 dreamed of a career on the court. "A basketball scholarship would've been cool," he said. "But apparently I'm too little. A 5-foot-10-inch point guard is very rare at the highest level." But he was tall enough to run, and run he did.

Discovered as a sprinter during his senior year in high school in Markham, Ontario, De Grasse quickly made it to the elite level. He ran in 2013 and 2014 at Coffeyville Community College in Kansas, winning five junior college national track titles and a silver medal at the 2014 Canadian Championships before transferring to USC for his junior year. It became his breakout season.

At the Pac-12 Championships in May 2015, De Grasse set a Canadian record in the 200 meters and a USC record in the 100 meters. At the 2015 NCAA Championships in June, he made college sports history when he won the sprint double over 100 meters and 200 meters within a span of 50 minutes. He was the first Trojan in 37 years to double in those races.

De Grasse followed his 2015 collegiate successes by shining in two international competitions that year: In July, he collected two gold medals at the Pan American Games in Toronto, one each in the 100- and 200-meter events. He set the USC record in the 200 meters at the competition. In August, at the World Championship in Beijing, he tied for third place in the 100 meters and won a bronze medal in the 4x100-meter relay. Within months he turned pro.

The achievements of 2015 set the stage for the Olympics in Rio, where De Grasse raced in the same three events as legendary sprinter Usain Bolt. He made the podium three times. With a bronze medal in the 100 meters, he was the first Trojan to win an Olympic medal in that distance since Donald Quarrie '74 placed second in 1976. Anchoring Canada's 4x100-meter relay team, De Grasse also captured the bronze medal with a national record. And he took silver in the 200 meters. De Grasse became USC's fifth medalist ever in that event, and the first USC 200-meter medalist since Quarrie won bronze in Moscow in 1980.

After Bolt announced that Rio would be his last Olympics, De Grasse was hailed by many as the Jamaican sprinter's heir apparent. A scene from one of the Rio races confirmed the special relationship between the USC Olympian and the fastest human ever timed: In the 200-meter semifinals, Bolt seemed to be coasting to victory when De Grasse unexpectedly cranked up the speed and almost caught him. At the finish line, .02 seconds separated the athletes. The playful smiles that flashed between them on the track spoke of a bond — their shared quest to finish first and ever faster.



CONTINENTAL SHIFT

THESE WERE THE FIRST OLYMPICS EVER HELD IN SOUTH AMERICA. EUROPE HOLDS THE LEAD FOR SUMMER GAMES SITES, WITH ITS COUNTRIES HOSTING 16 OF THEM.

NIA ALI '11

Nia Ali placed second in the women's 100-meter hurdles, earning a silver medal as part of a Team USA sweep — the first ever by one country in this event. Originally from Philadelphia, Ali majored in psychology at USC.



STEVE JOHNSON '12

Making his Olympic debut in Rio, Steve Johnson claimed a bronze medal in doubles tennis. Johnson is the second Trojan to win an Olympic medal in men's tennis. The first was Rafael Osuna, who earned doubles gold in the 1968 Mexico City Games.

TEAM REFUGEE

IN A HISTORIC FIRST, 10 DISPLACED ATHLETES — INCLUDING TWO SYRIAN SWIMMERS — MARCHED UNDER THE OLYMPIC FLAG IN THE OPENING CEREMONY. THEY COMPETED AS THE REFUGEE OLYMPIC TEAM.



AMANDA WEIR

Amanda Weir captured a silver medal in the 400-meter freestyle relay. It was Weir's fourth career Olympic medal, after earning a pair of silvers in the 2004 Athens Games and a bronze in the 2012 London Games.



ANDRE DE GRASSE '16

The Rio Games were special for USC sprinter Andre De Grasse. He finished second in the 200 meters only to the world's fastest man, Usain Bolt. Many expect De Grasse to follow in the speedy footsteps of Bolt (center), pictured here at USC with De Grasse and fellow Trojan Adoreé Jackson.

KAMI CRAIG '10 & KALEIGH GILCHRIST '14

Trojans Kami Craig and Kaleigh Gilchrist helped the U.S. become the first country to repeat as gold medalist in women's water polo. It was Craig's third Olympic medal. She won a silver in 2008 and gold in 2012.

ALLYSON FELIX '08

Sprinter Allyson Felix secured her spot in Olympic history with two golds and a silver in Rio. That brings her total medal count to nine, making the Los Angeles native the United States' most decorated female track and field Olympian.

“Viva sua paixão”

THAT'S "LIVE YOUR PASSION" IN PORTUGUESE.
IT WAS THE SLOGAN OF THE 2016 RIO GAMES.



DALILAH MUHAMMAD '11

Dalilah Muhammad became the first American woman to ever win Olympic gold in the 400-meter hurdles. The daughter of an imam from Queens, N.Y., Muhammad is an observant Muslim but does not wear hijab.

TROJAN VICTORIES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016 RIO DE JANEIRO GAMES

USC OLYMPIANS: 44 GOLD: 9 SILVER: 5 BRONZE: 7



NEW SPORTS

GOLF RETURNED
TO THE OLYMPICS
AFTER A 112-YEAR ABSENCE.
ALSO BACK, AFTER A 92-YEAR
HIATUS, WAS RUGBY.



DEMAR DEROZAN

DeMar DeRozan helped Team USA pick up its third consecutive gold medal in men's basketball. Originally from Compton, Calif., the two-time NBA All-Star has been a shooting guard with the Toronto Raptors since 2009.



OUS MELLOULI '07

In his fifth Olympics, Ous Mellouli was honored by his native Tunisia: The open-water and long-distance swimmer carried the flag of his country in the Opening Ceremony.