



May 20th, 2021

# NYAC ATHLETICS NEWS

## Meet the Tokyo Team...So Far

As of today, the NYAC has 17 athletes who have been selected to compete in the Tokyo Olympic Games. With many sports still to announce their teams, we may anticipate many more to come before the Games open on July 23rd. Here is Team NYAC, so far. Click on each name to see their bios.

**Track and Field** - [Nadia Eke](#) (triple jump, Ghana), [Priscilla Frederick-Loomis](#) (high jump, Antigua and Barbuda),

[Tatyana McFadden](#) (Paralympic Games marathon)

**Fencing** - [Jake Hoyle](#) (épée), [Courtney Hurley](#) (épée),

[Kelley Hurley](#) (épée), [Kat Holmes](#) (épée), [Nicole Ross](#) (foil)

**Modern Pentathlon** - [Amro Elgeziry](#), [Samantha Achterberg](#)

**Triathlon** - [Summer Rappaport](#), [Taylor Knibb](#), [Morgan Pearson](#), [Vincent Luis](#) (France)

**Wrestling** - [Adeline Gray](#) (76kg FS), [Sarah Hildebrandt](#) (53kg FS), [Bekzod Abdurakhmonov](#) (74kg FS, Uzbekistan)



## TRIATHLON - Knibb and Pearson Earn Selection

The World Triathlon Series Yokohama on May 15th, a qualifying event for the US Olympic team, saw Taylor Knibb and Morgan Pearson earn selection for the Games. Knibb, who graduated from Cornell last spring and who has been training full-time only since last fall, won the women's race and booked her ticket to Tokyo. Summer Rappaport, who has already been selected, placed second, and Taylor Spivey placed fourth. Katie Zaferes had a very off day and was 22nd. Zaferes, the 2019 world champion, may get the discretionary third Olympic spot, although the NYAC's Taylor Spivey also is a strong contender. Among the men, Morgan Pearson had a massive run to place third and earn Olympic selection. Vincent Luis, who already has qualified for France, placed sixth. After Pearson's selection, two discretionary men's spots remain on Team USA. Matt McElroy, 24th in Yokohama, and Ben Kanute, 37th, are in the mix. In Rio in 2016, all six US team members were NYAC athletes. To replicate that accomplishment would be unprecedented. Yokohama results are [here](#). Video highlights of the men's race are [here](#) and of the women's race are [here](#). To read all that Morgan Pearson has to say, click [here](#).



## Water Polo - USA (and NYAC) Dominates Canada

The USA women's team returned to international competition for the first time in over a year, hosting Team Canada in a three-game series in California from May 17th-May 21st. The signs were all good. In the first game, the US women dominated Canada, 13-8. Game two also saw no mercy, with the US prevailing, 17-5. Game #3 will be played tomorrow, Friday, May 21st, at 9pm EST. You can watch the live stream [here](#). For stats and results, click [here](#). Among the NYAC stars on Team USA are Ashleigh Johnson, Melissa Seidemann, Kaleigh Gilchrist and Maggie Steffens. The US team for the Tokyo Olympics will be officially named on June 3rd; the

NYAC will be powerfully represented. Team USA's first match at the Games will be on July 24th versus the host nation, Japan.

## Track and Field - World Champion Joe Kovacs is aiming for Olympic Gold

In Doha, Qatar in 2019, the NYAC's Joe Kovacs prevailed in what has been hailed as the greatest shot put competition of all time. In Tokyo at the Olympic Games, all the signs are that the competition will be just as intense. But Kovacs knows exactly what needs to be done and how he aims to do it. To learn what he's got in mind, click [here](#). Among Kovacs' strategies is to lift weight that almost defies belief. Click [here](#) to see it happen. The NYAC's Rudy Winkler is not to be out-done. He won the USATF Open hammer throw in Fort Worth, TX on Tuesday, May 18th, with a monster throw of 79.69m/261' 5", the second-farthest throw in the world this year. Only Winkler himself has thrown farther this year, reaching 81.98m/268' 11" last month. All the results are [here](#). High jumper Priscilla Frederick-Loomis won her event at the Westminster PAC Last Chance Meet (May 12th-13th) in Wilmington, PA, reaching 1.80m/5'10 3/4". Results are [here](#). At the Sound Running Track Meet in Irvine, CA last weekend, Aisha Praught-Leer finished 10th in the 1500m with a time of 4:11.62. Results are [here](#).



## Swimming - TYR Before the Trials

The NYAC's swimming squad secured six top-three finishes at the TYR Pro Swim Series Indianapolis, held from May 12th-15th. Emily Escobedo placed second in both the 100m breaststroke (1:07.66) and the 200m breaststroke (2:22.81). This was the final major US meet before the Olympic Trials begin in Omaha, NE on June 13th. Full results are [here](#). You can watch Escobedo's races [here](#) and [here](#).

## Judo - Yonezuka Takes Two

The NYAC's Nicolas Yonezuka (81kg) was victorious in both the senior and junior divisions at the USA Judo Senior National Championships, held May 15th-16th in Reno, NV. Agon Kullashi (+100kg) finished fifth in the senior division. All the results are [here](#). Yonezuka, along with his brother Jack (-66kg) and Katelyn Jarrell (-52kg), will contest the Pan Am Open in Guayaquil, Ecuador this weekend (May 22nd-23rd). For post-competition results, go [here](#).



## Rowing - DiSanto Third in Lausanne

The NYAC's Mike DiSanto (with partner Tom Peszek) contested the World Rowing Final Olympic Qualification Regatta in Lucerne, Switzerland last weekend (May 15th-17th). They gave it a valiant try, but a third place finish (6.40.77), left them over two seconds shy of the winning Dutch boat and second placed Denmark, ending their hopes of competing in Tokyo. All the results are [here](#).

## News

**Olympics** - IOC chief bids to calm the nerves of Japanese public. The story is [here](#).

**Olympics** - Sebastian Coe confident that the Games will be safe. Read the story [here](#).

## Links

To see the NYAC's athletics pages, [click here](#).

For all the news from the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee, [click here](#).

For all the news from the International Olympic Committee, [click here](#).

To see the IOC's Olympic channel, [click here](#).

