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Alex Semenenko - 7th at World Junior Championships



Wednesday, October 2nd – Saturday, October 5th; Dushanbe, Tajikistan – Alex Semenenko was the NYAC's star at the [World Judo Junior Championships](#) in Tajikistan advancing as far as the +100kg repechage before meeting defeat at the hands of Georgia's Saba Kardava, giving him a seventh place finish. This championship is the highest level of international judo competition for juniors – athletes aged 21 or younger. After defeating India's Uash Vijayran in the round of 32 and Kazakhstan's Zhantilek Nurtilipuly in the round of 16, Semenenko advanced to the quarter-final. Of this match, USA Judo's Bill Kellick wrote, "*Semenenko faced a stern test against 2024 Dushanbe Grand Slam bronze medalist Denis Batchaev (IJF). The American judoka again fought toe-to-toe with his opponent. With no scoring throws registered and Semenenko receiving two shidos (penalties) in the first 90 seconds, the match was decided when both fighters were cited for stalling, giving Semenenko his third and disqualifying shido and awarding the match to Batchaev on ippon. Batchaev would go on to win the gold medal. Relegated to the repechage with a chance to advance to one of the bronze medal matches, Semenenko drew Saba Kardava (GEO). Again, the match came down to penalties with Semenenko receiving his third shido with less than 30 seconds remaining. Kardava would advance to claim one of the bronze medals alongside Ibrahim Tataroglu (TUR). The silver medal went to Kanan Nasibov (AZE).*" Notably, Semenenko is a current sophomore at Brown University where he competes on the NCAA DI men's wrestling team. Also in Dushanbe, the NYAC's **Dominic Rodriguez** (-81kg) won his match in the round of 32 by ippon, defeating Serbia's Boris Rutovic, He did not fare as well in the round of 16, losing to Tajikistan's Muhammad Yusufzoda by waza ari (half point). **Christopher Velazco** (-60kg) and **Karlee Carrouth** (-63kg) rounded out the NYAC squad in Dushanbe, but neither advanced beyond the round of 32. [Click here](#) for full results.

Rowing - Ventura Inducted Into Hall of Fame. Musnicki is Athlete of the Year

In late September, it was announced that NYAC Hall of Famer and former Rowing chair, **Vinnie Ventura**, would be inducted into the National Rowing Hall of Fame in a ceremony scheduled for Saturday, October 19th at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston. At the same time, it was announced that **Meghan Musnicki**, a four-time Olympian and two-time gold medalist, had been selected as USRowing's Female Athlete of the Year. She, too, will be honored at the Head of the Charles event.

Ventura enjoyed a stellar career in rowing, both as a competitor and coach. During his tenure as coach at Iona College (1969-1974 and 1987), his crews enjoyed unprecedented success, a trend he continued after becoming sculling coach at the NYAC in 1979 and head coach and Rowing chair in 1995, a position he held until 2013.

Remarkably, under his guidance, the NYAC produced in excess of 100 US championship-winning crews, more than 50 Canadian Henley-winning crews and more than a dozen teams that won the Head of the Charles. Ventura also coached the 1983 and 1987 Pan Am Games crews and teams for the 1980 and 1984 Olympic Games. He was inducted into the Iona College Hall of Fame in 1990 and received the prestigious USRowing Jack Kelly Award in 2009. A member of the NYAC for 54 years, he was inducted into the Club's Hall of Fame in 2011.

Musnicki, an Olympian in 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2024, secured gold medals in the women's eight in 2012 and 2016. No less notable, she is a five-time world champion in the women's eight (2010-2015). Having briefly retired following the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (which took place in 2021), Musnicki returned to competition and earned selection, at the age of 41, for the women's eight that competed in the Olympic Games in Paris. Her selection as USRowing's Athlete of the Year was made by coaches and her fellow athletes, signifying the esteem in which she is held. She was inducted into the NYAC Hall of Fame in 2022. Speaking of the honor, Musnicki

stated, "I'm truly honored and humbled to be named Athlete of the Year by my teammates. I am incredibly grateful for my time training with such a formidable group of women day in and day out throughout my tenure on the team. Without all of these women, those who made the team and those who missed out, I would not be the athlete I am today. It truly takes a village to compete at this level and I could not have done it without each and every one of you."



News

Rugby – Rule changes closer to implementation. Aimed at making the game flow more smoothly. Read about it [here](#).

Judo – Kazakhstan will host the World Judo Championships in 2027. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Olympic Games – Will Barcelona host in 2036? The Spanish city hosted a hugely successful Games in 1992. Will they do so again? Read the conjecture [here](#).

Boxing – The International Boxing Association continues its battle with the International Olympic Committee. Find out the latest [here](#).

Results

Rugby – On Saturday, October 5th, the NYAC A side was defeated by the White Plains Warpigs, 58-24, and the NYAC B side was victorious, 57-29. [Click here](#) for a schedule of upcoming NYAC rugby matches.

Upcoming Events

RUGBY: Saturday, October 12th [NYAC v. Buffalo RFC D2](#) - 2:30pm at Travers Island [More info](#)

Links

[NYAC Paris 2024 Micro Site](#), [click here](#)

[NYAC's Athletics](#), [click here](#).

[IOC](#), [click here](#).

[IOC Olympic channel](#), [click here](#).

[USOPC](#), [click here](#).

[Paris 2024](#), [click here](#).

[LA 2028 site](#), [click here](#).

[Olympic Studies and Research Center](#), [click here](#).



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Sports Information Manager, Laura Walsh, at LauraW@nyac.org

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