

August 10, 2021

### **TSC Post Olympic Games News**

While the golden glow of the Tokyo Games lingers, we thought it appropriate to provide a "hardware recap" for our North Carolina-connected Olympic medalists during the Games of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad. In our recent Olympic Games & Sports News (July 14, 2021 Newsletter) we provided the list of the more than 240 NC-connected participants in the US Olympic Trials and other Olympic team selection processes. We have also included the most comprehensive list anywhere – comprising more than 104 athletes and coaches – of North Carolina-connected participants in this year's Summer Olympic Games. To access the list, click HERE.

There were a total of 34 NC-connected Olympians who medaled at the Tokyo Games, with 29 of those representing Team USA and the remaining 5 competing for Canada, Switzerland, and Venezuela. If NC-connected Olympians were a country, they would have finished eighth (tied with Germany at 37) in the overall medal count!

## Olympic Gold Medalists for Team USA and Their NC Connection

- Bam Adebayo [pictured at right] --Men's Basketball (High Point Christian Academy alum)
- Alisha Gray Women's 3v3 Basketball (UNC alum)
- Chelsea Gray Women's Basketball (Duke alum)
- Kara Lawson Coach, Women's 3v3
  Basketball (Duke Women's Basketball Coach)
- Randolph Ross Men's Track & Field (NC A&T)
- Luka Slabe Coach, Women's Volleyball (NCSU Women's Volleyball Coach)
- Trevor Stewart Men's Track & Field (NC A&T)
- Jason Tatum Men's Basketball (Duke alum)

Two additional NC-connected Gold Medalists are Stephanie Labbe (NC Courage alum) and Quinn (Duke alum) who both won gold on Team Canada in Women's Soccer.



There were 14 U.S. Silver Medal winners in 8 different sports, ranging from Baseball to Triathlon.

- Shane Baz Men's Baseball (Durham Bulls)
- Erika Brown Women's Swimming (Hough High School, Charlotte)
- Andrew Capobianco Men's Diving (Holly Springs High School alum)
- Claire Curzon Women's Swimming (Cardinal Gibbons High School)
- Tim Federowicz Men's Baseball (Apex, UNC alum)
- Keni Harrison [photo above] Women's Track & Field (Clayton)
- Drew Johansen Coach, Men's Diving (Duke Diving Coach alum)
- Lucas Kozeniesky Men's Shooting (NCSU alum)
- Hannah Roberts Women's BMX (Jacksonville)
- Joe Ryan Men's Baseball (Durham Bulls alum)
- Ryder Ryan Men's Baseball (Huntersville, UNC alum)
- Mary Tucker Women's Shooting (Pineville)
- Ernie Young Coach, Men's Baseball (Kannapolis Intimidators alum)
- Katie Zaferes Women's Triathlon (Cary)

Daniel Dhers, Men's BMX, of Holly Springs also captured Silver for his home country of Venezuela.

#### **Bronze Medalists**

The Bronze Medalists are led by Paul Chelimo, who followed his silver medal-winning performance in the Rio 2016 Games, with another medal (bronze) in the 5,000 meter run in Tokyo.

- Paul Chelimo Men's Track & Field (UNCG alum)
- Abby Dahlkemper Women's Soccer (NC Courage alum)
- Nikita Ducarroz BMX (Holly Springs)
- Tobin Heath Women's Soccer (UNC alum)
- Sam Mewis Women's Soccer (NC Courage)
- Lynn Williams Women's Soccer (NC Courage)

Erika Brown (Swimming), Trevor Stewart (Track & Field), and Katie Zaferes [photo above] (Triathlon) all captured Bronze Medals in addition to their Silver Medals. In addition, Noe Ponti (NC State) won Bronze in Men's Swimming competing for Switzerland.

# Team USA Brings Home Silver in Baseball

For the first time since the



Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, Baseball was back in the Games. Our Olympic Baseball Team not only trained and competed in exhibition games in the Triangle before heading to



Japan, but our region was well represented on the team with five of the 30-member player and coach roster being from the Triangle or having North Carolina connections. Catcher Tim Federowicz and Pitcher Ryder Ryan are UNC alums, while both Shane Baz and Joe Ryan pitched for the Durham Bulls. First Base & Hitting Coach Ernie Young was previously Manager for the Kannapolis Intimidators.

Team USA opened play in the Olympic Tournament on Friday, July 30, against Israel, and with starting pitcher Joe Ryan helping lead the way, the U.S. took the game 8-1. The next day, pitching highlighted Game 2 against South Korea where U.S. pitchers set a new U.S. Olympic record with 15 strikeouts, and won the game with a score of 4-2. On Monday, August 2, the U.S. took on the powerhouse Japan team, and while Team USA took Japan into extra innings, Japan prevailed 7-6. Later that same day, the U.S. battled back against the Dominican Republic and won that game 3-1, which propelled the U.S. into the semi-finals. On Wednesday, August 4, in a rematch with South Korea, the U.S. won decisively 7-2 to make it to the Gold Medal Game against Japan. On Saturday, August 7, the U.S. and Japan played a hard-fought finale, but the home country team came out on top by a score of 2-0.

It was great to have Baseball back in the Games and Team USA did themselves and the country proud. Head Coach Mike Scioscia said every game felt like a World Series Game 7. Infielder Eddy Alvarez perhaps best epitomized the versatility and stick-to-itiveness of the team as the former Winter Olympic Speedskating medalist became only the third U.S. Olympian of all time to win medals in both the Winter and Summer Olympic Games!

#### North Carolina's Quest for the Games

Don't forget that you can keep abreast of North Carolina and the Triangle's bid to bring the world's second largest Olympic sports event to the area, the 2027 Summer World University Games, by subscribing to the monthly news updates on the bid process and progress. To get on the list, simply click <u>here</u>.



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