Fall/Winter 2026

TEAM USA IMPACT NEWSLETTER



Brad Snyder and guide Greg Billington win Paratriathlon gold, Tokyo 2020



Men's 100m Freestyle S11, London 2012



Men's 400m Freestyle S11, London 2012

A LIFE BUILT STEP BY STEP

Most mornings, Brad Snyder is training before dawn. By the time the rest of the world gets up, he's already put in the work that no one else will ever notice. That work is helping him prepare for the chance to take the world's biggest stage for his fourth Paralympic Games at Los Angeles 2028.

As a competitive swimmer and retired Naval lieutenant, Brad already knew how to maintain total focus and trust the path ahead. But these qualities became even more important in the aftermath of Sept. 7, 2011 — the day he stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED) while serving in Afghanistan and lost his sight. The road to recovery was long and challenging, but Brad took one step at a time, putting in the daily, quiet effort required to heal and come back stronger.

As a blind athlete, Brad navigates the world by clearing each step before taking the next. It's a process called "tap, advance," that became his personal philosophy and has defined every chapter of Brad's remarkable life.

One year to the day after stepping on the IED, Brad stood on the Paralympic podium in London with his first gold medal in swimming. He won a total of seven medals in swimming before deciding he needed a new challenge and switched sports to triathlon. Brad competed at Tokyo 2020 and won gold — the first gold for a U.S. man in either an Olympic or Paralympic triathlon.

cont. on inside

Inside: The Work Behind The Scenes

PLUS: Donor Profile: Peter and Marla Neeson • A Look Back at Los Angeles 1984 • Quick Facts About Los Angeles 2028

TeamUSA.com/foundation

THE WORK BEHIND THE SCENES

A LOOK INSIDE TEAM USA'S ROAD TO LOS ANGELES 2028

Team USA athletes are busy building strength, refining their nutrition and mindset and pushing toward a goal that feels closer every day.

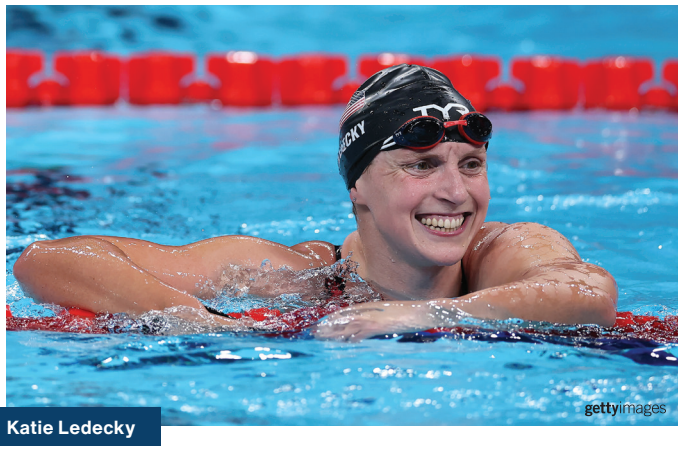
Olympic and Paralympic athletes are deep into the preparation that will determine who is ready when Los Angeles 2028 arrives. They're logging early mornings at pools, tracks and training facilities nationwide. And spending countless hours chasing fractions of a second that most fans will never notice. But **this season matters and Team USA athletes know it**.

Katie Ledecky certainly does. One of the most decorated female swimmers in history and the most decorated woman in Olympic history has made it clear she's already training hard for Los Angeles. For Katie, preparation has never been seasonal. She takes roughly two weeks off per year, telling People magazine simply: **"Training is constant."**

Olympic hurdler and sprinter, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone brings that same philosophy to the track. With four gold medals, she's built one of the most dominant careers in the history of her sport on methodical, unglamorous work. Sydney approaches each day with a clear understanding that **"every second counts."**

These long unwitnessed months represent **one of the most decisive stretches** in the Olympic and Paralympic journey. Team USA athletes training right now are driven by an opportunity not every athlete gets — the chance to compete on home soil — **and more athletes than ever before are vying to earn a place on that roster.**

As a Team USA supporter, you help make each athlete's pursuit of excellence possible. The athletes putting in the work today are doing it with the belief that people like you are in their corner. By the time we're watching the Opening Ceremonies in Los Angeles, the moments that move us will have been years in the making. **You help make those years possible.**



Katie Ledecky



Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone



Brad Snyder

A Life Built Step By Step *(cont. from cover)*

"If I look at the whole journey, I think the one thing I'm trying to do is be an inspiration for other people, to say, 'I know, I get it, I've been there,'" Brad shares. **"You tap, then you advance."**

With the countdown to Los Angeles 2028 underway, the next generation of Team USA Olympic and Paralympic athletes are already living their own versions of "tap, advance." Every rep, every setback and comeback, it's all happening right now.

Supporters like you help Team USA athletes push forward and turn daily effort into unforgettable moments.

DONOR PROFILE

A LIFETIME OF BELIEF:

For Peter and Marla Neeson, It Started Early



Peter and Marla Neeson are Team USA Giving Circle members based in Pennsylvania.

Peter and Marla talk about their family's lifelong love for the Olympic and Paralympic Movement and how they hope it inspires others to support Team USA athletes.

The Olympics weren't something Peter and Marla Neeson discovered as adults. They were both captivated as pre-teens and have been fans ever since.

Peter was eleven in 1960 when the Winter Games at Squaw Valley became the **first Olympics on television**. He was hooked, especially watching the U.S. men's hockey team win gold. Years later, he started attending Olympic fundraising breakfasts in Philadelphia and came away stunned by what he saw. The athletes were training at a high level while scrambling to find jobs flexible enough to allow it. **That stayed with him.** He eventually became vice-chair of the Eastern Pennsylvania Olympic Committee, focused largely on connecting athletes with employers who understood their unique challenges.

For Marla, it's the personal stories she connects to; getting absorbed in Biathlon or watching 44-year-old Nick Baumgartner's pure joy while competing. And like a lot of people, she still remembers standing in her living room watching Kerri Strug vault on an injured ankle in 1996.

Their families had both gravitated toward the Olympic Games long before Marla and Peter met each other. Her father once "accidentally" destroyed the family's small black and white TV the day before the Opening Ceremony and had no choice but to come home with a big new color set.

Last year they attended the Hall of Fame induction in Colorado Springs, and they left more committed than ever. As **Giving Circle members**, they continue to turn their **passion into action**, supporting the journey behind the moments we all celebrate. Now their hope is that their example encourages others to also play an active role in fueling Team USA's pursuit of excellence.

"Our involvement with the Team USA community continues to be one of the most cherished parts of our lives," Peter says.

Stories like Peter and Marla's show us how powerful a connection to Team USA can be. Athletes rely on the generosity of fans like Peter, Marla and you to help fuel their Olympic dreams. The moments that move and inspire us deserve the support that make them possible.

Visit TeamUSA.com/foundation to learn more.

Thank you for fueling the performance, wellness and recovery programs that keep Team USA strong. Your generosity supports athletes every step of the way.

Learn more by visiting TeamUSA.com/foundation

THE ROAD TO LOS ANGELES 2028 STARTS NOW

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND
50-STATE TORCH RELAY

800+ EVENTS ACROSS MORE THAN **40 SPORTS**

200 PARALYMPIC ATHLETES EXPECTED

700+ OLYMPIC ATHLETES EXPECTED

32 YEARS SINCE U.S. HOSTED SUMMER GAMES

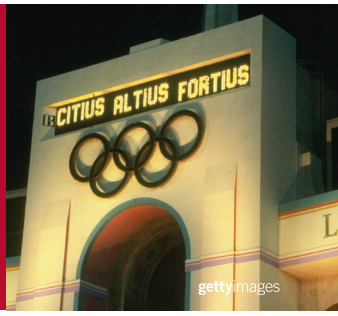
FIRST TIME HOSTING THE PARALYMPIC GAMES IN LOS ANGELES

THE OLYMPIC GAMES ARE **JULY 14-30**

THE PARALYMPIC GAMES ARE **AUGUST 15-27**

A LOOK BACK
LOS ANGELES 1984 FIRSTS

At the Olympic Games Los Angeles 1984, a series of firsts reshaped the world stage. Historic victories and the debut of new events expanded opportunities and redefined what was possible, especially for female athletes.





Mary Lou Retton Makes History

Mary Lou Retton became the first American woman to win gold in the gymnastics all-around, sealing the title with a perfect score on vault and inspiring countless female athletes across the country.



A Marathon Moment for Women

The first Olympic women's marathon debuted in 1984, with American runner Joan Benoit winning gold. Her win permanently changed perceptions of women's endurance at the highest level of competition.



A Historic Four-Gold Sweep

Carl Lewis won four gold medals, becoming the first man since Jesse Owens in 1936 to achieve the feat, securing his place among track and field's greatest athletes.



Synchronized Swimming Debuts

Synchronized swimming made its first appearance with Team USA winning two gold medals. The debut highlighted the sport's demanding blend of strength, endurance and precision.

United States Olympic & Paralympic Foundation
One Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
TeamUSA.com/Fund
888-222-2313

STAY CONNECTED @TEAMUSA

Sign up for team updates by visiting **TeamUSA.com**