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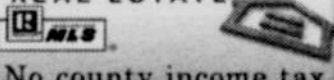

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Go for the Gold

Athletes from Team Oregon prepare to wow the crowds at the Gay Games in Chicago and the Outgames in Montreal
 by Jodi Helmer • Photos by Xilia Faye

The athletic landscape in Oregon is starting to change: There are more runners breaking a sweat on the treadmill, more swimmers gliding through the water in local pools and more bicyclists careening through the streets.

The reason? The Gay Games and the Outgames are just around the corner, and members of Team Oregon are eager to strut their stuff in front of athletes from around the world—and plan to win a few medals and have a ton of fun in the process.

Team Oregon, an organization promoting queer participation in athletics, has members from across the state who will be attending the Gay Games or the Outgames later this year.

The athletes have different experience levels and different goals, but their participation in sports ranging from triathlon and basketball to golf and bowling is centered on a singular purpose: to be part of the largest queer athletic events in the world.

Meet a few of the athletes representing Oregon at the Games.

Dabney Tompkins

Despite the fact that he has participated in six triathlons during the past year and spends upward of 20 hours a week training for his next race, Dabney Tompkins does not think of himself as an athlete.

"I have never been athletic in my life," he says. "It is not my nature."

But the personal trainer Tompkins had been working with for several years led him to take another look at the role athletics had in his life. During a session, the trainer told him that it was time to move his workouts outside the gym.

"Our trainer told us that we had to step away from being show horses and get into the race—that we had to be competitive and take it seriously instead of just showing up and being pretty," recalls his partner, Allan Colley. "Mr. Tompkins took it to heart."



Dabney Tompkins, who sustained serious injuries after being hit by a car during a training ride, is now in the best shape of his life.