

US Track & Field

Gay gets chance to recapture Olympic relay medal

By **EDDIE PELLIS & PAT GRAHAM**
Associated Press

EUGENE — Consider this a second chance for Tyson Gay. Maybe his last one, too.

The 33-year-old sprinter was handed a spot on the U.S. Olympic track team as a relay runner Monday, more than two years after his doping positive cost the Americans their silver medal from the 2012 Games.

Gay dominated the sprints for a time before Usain Bolt burst onto the scene in 2008. The American is still ranked second all-time behind Bolt with a time of 9.69 seconds in the 100.

But the last several years have been a struggle, filled with injuries and setbacks — none bigger than a positive doping test in 2013 that cost him one year out of the sport and forced the relay team to surrender its medal.

Gay finished fifth in the 100 and sixth in the 200 at the recently completed Olympic trials, but coaches stuck to the order of finish for the 100 meters, taking Gay and sixth-place finisher Christian Coleman, along with Mike Rodgers, whose spot was locked in thanks to his fourth-place finish.

In Gay, the U.S. gets a two-time Olympian and 2007 world champion at both 100 and 200 meters — choosing him over high-schoolers Noah Lyles and Michael Norman, who finished 4-5 in the 200 at trials.

Asked before the trials what it would mean to make the team, Gay said: “A hell of a lot. I’m considered the old one of the bunch now. It definitely means a lot to me to still keep up with these young guys here, use some of my veteran skills to my advantage.”



LaShawn Merritt, right, and third place Tyson Gay finish during the semifinals in the men's 200-meter run at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials, Friday, July 8, 2016, in Eugene Ore.

AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

Also added for relays on the 127-person team, which includes 84 first-time Olympians, were Arman Hall, Tony McQuay and Kyle Clemons (men's 4x400), Ariana Washington (women's 4x100) and Francena McCorory and Courtney Okolo (women's 4x400).

Some other things to know about the U.S. track and field team:

LIKE A FINE WINE: At 41, Bernard Lagat is still going strong — making his fifth Olympic team. The ageless 5,000-meter runner showed just about everyone that age is merely a number. “I don't believe I'm old,” Lagat said. “If you believe you're old — I'm going to run like an old man.”

JUST A KID: For a few days, 18-year-old high jumper Vashti Cunningham was set to be the youngest to compete for the U.S. Olympic track team in four decades. That lasted until 16-year-old Sydney McLaughlin came along and made the team in the 400-meter hurdles and took that distinction. To think, she had a little case of stage fright to begin the trials. It

hardly showed as she set the world junior record to finish third and earn her place in Rio. “This has to be the icing on the cake,” the prep star from New Jersey said. “Regardless of what happens in Rio, I made it here and I'm just so thankful for all of that.”

FEEL-GOOD STORY ENDS WELL: 800-meter runner Boris Berian made the team despite an uphill climb — working at McDonald's after dropping out of college to earn extra money to train and recently winning a lawsuit over Nike over what gear he could wear that nearly kept him off the starting line.

FEEL-GOOD STORY ENDS NOT AS WELL: 110-meter hurdler and defending Olympic champion Aries Merritt finished fourth — missing the team by one spot less than a year after returning from a kidney transplant. He had a positive outlook, though. “For me to be where I am is a miracle,” said Merritt, who operated at 10 percent kidney function when he captured a bronze medal at the 2015 world championships last summer.

US Gymnastics

Raisman earns her spot

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — As the red, white and blue confetti fell inside the SAP Center on Sunday night, Aly Raisman reached out her right hand and called for her fellow new U.S. Olympians to join in on a quick team cheer.

At 22, they call Raisman “Grandma.” And this determined, ultra-focused grandmother gymnast will be leading the Americans into another Olympics with all the kids, even if she wasn't so sure as she waited for the official announcement.

“We were joking, I was like, ‘I really am going to live up to my grandma name because I'm going to have a heart attack before they announce the names,’” Raisman said of the excruciating minutes before the five gymnasts got final word.

Teammate and three-time world champion Simone Biles wasted no time with a witty response: “We're too young to die. So no heart attacks will take place in this arena tonight.”

On balance beam, her third rotation of the night Sunday, Raisman shined and looked nothing short of superbly confident. She let out a tiny breath before her dismount on a spectacular routine that scored a 15.250 — much stronger than her 14.8 in Friday's opening night of the Olympic Trials. She wound up in third place with a 119.750 over the two-day, eight-rotation



Raisman

competition. The unflappable Raisman secured her hard-earned spot from national team coordinator Martha Karolyi with a strong showing over the past six weeks, which included an all-around victory in last month's Hartford tune-up meet.

Karolyi wanted to see strides from Raisman on floor exercise, beam and vault — and was clearly convinced the 2012 U.S. captain at the London Games and defending Olympic champion on floor is poised for a strong run in Rio. She is joined on the team by Biles, reigning Olympic all-around champion Gabby Douglas, Laurie Hernandez and Madison Kocian.

Soccer



Portland Timbers' forward Fanendo Adi, center, fights for the ball against New York Red Bulls' defender Ronald Zubar, left, during the second half of an MLS soccer match, Sunday in Harrison, N.J.

AP Photo/Steve Luciano

Gleeson, Timbers escape with scoreless draw

Associated Press

HARRISON, N.J. — Jake Gleeson had four saves, including a deflection in stoppage time, to help the Portland Timbers hold on for a 0-0 tie with the New York Red Bulls on Sunday night and extend their unbeaten streak to seven games.

It was Gleeson's second consecutive shutout and Portland (6-6-7) hasn't lost since May 15.

Early in injury time, New York's Bradley Wright-Phillips dropped a pass at the top of the box to Felipe Martins who blasted a right footer, but Gleeson got just enough to roll the ball over the crossbar

and preserve the clean sheet.

The Red Bulls (7-9-3) had chances, particularly in the second half, that were either thwarted by Gleeson or simply missed. Gleeson stopped a header by Sacha Kljestan in the 43rd minute, and had a sliding save on a point-blank shot by Felipe at about the 77th minute.

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