

TRACK & FIELD



Usain Bolt

Bolt remains man to beat

One of the prime sporting events of the Summer Olympic games is surely track and field. All eyes will be on Jamaica's Usain Bolt as he competes in what he says will be his final Olympics. The track and field competition still has it all: hurdles, sprints, marathons, relays and multi-events such as decathlon and heptathlon. There is also the throwing events such as shot put, discus, hammer and javelin, which showcase the Olympic competition in its purist form.

But when runners such as Bolt and American medalist Justin Gatlin (who could be Bolt's toughest competition) hit the running track, these events come to the Olympic forefront. The U.S. team usually does well in track and field, winning 28 medals, including nine gold, in 2012. Russia, too, is usually strong here, taking home 17 medals, including eight gold from London, while Jamaica, thanks (in part) to Bolt, won 12 medals including four gold.

Other American athletes to keep an eye on include California's Whitney Ashley, a former NCAA discus throwing champion at San Diego State, and discus and javelin thrower Brittany Borman.

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interesting FACTS



- Table tennis balls are hollow and weigh approximately 2.7 grams.
- No women were allowed to compete at the 1896 Summer Olympics in Athens.
- The five interlocking rings of the Olympic logo represent the five inhabited continents of the world (with North and South America counting as one continent).
- Badminton is the only Summer Olympic sport in which the United States has never won a medal.
- The average gold medal is 93 percent silver, 6 percent copper and 6 grams of gold. Olympic champions last received solid gold medals in 1912.
- World war caused the Olympics to be canceled in 1916, 1940 and 1944.
- Athletes in the ancient Olympic games competed in the nude.

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