

Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay Plans Announced; San Francisco Set To host Olympic Flame on April 9

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay will traverse the longest distance, cover the greatest area and include the largest number of people, according to plans released Thursday in Beijing by BOCOG, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of XXIX Olympiad.

The planned route would last 130 days and travel 137,000 kilometers.

"As the prelude to the Beijing Olympic Games, the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay is one of the most important ceremonies and a major means to spread and promote the Olympic spirit," said BOCOG President Liu Qi. "As one of the grand ceremonies for the Beijing Olympic Games, the Torch Relay of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games has set its theme as the 'Journey of Harmony' and the slogan 'Light the Passion, Share the Dream'."

The Olympic Flame will be lit in Olympia, Greece according to tradition on March 25, 2008. From March 25 - 30, the Torch Relay will travel across Greece, ending at the Panathinaiko Stadium, the site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. After the handover ceremony in the stadium, the Olympic Flame will arrive in Beijing on March 31, 2008. (cont. on Pg. 2)



The design of the Torch takes advantage of Chinese artistic heritage and technological expertise. The design of the aluminum torch features traditional scrolls and "Lucky Cloud". It stands 72 centimeters high and weighs 985 grams. The Torch incorporates technological innovations to be able to remain lit in winds of up to 65 kilometers-an-hour and lit in rain of up to 50 millimeters-an-hour. And the torch can keep burning for 15 minutes. Other technological advancements prevent color discoloration and corrosion around the cone from which the Flame burns.



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Olympic Torch Relay (cont.)

In Beijing, a ceremony will be held for the arrival of the flame into China and the Beijing 2008 Olympic torch relay will commence.

San Francisco is the lone U.S. city that will host the Olympic Flame during its 130-day journey. The torch relay will pass through San Francisco on April 9, 2008. For a list of cities along the route, check out the following link: <http://torchrelay.beijing2008.cn/en/http://torchrelay.beijing2008.cn/en/>.

One of the highlights of this leg will be the attempt to bring the Olympic Flame to the highest peak in the world Mt. Everest. During the arrival ceremony for the flame into China on March 31, 2008, one of the lanterns with the Olympic Flame will be kept aside. The torchbearer team will then attempt to take the Flame to the highest peak on a day in May that presents the best climatic conditions for the ascent.

"The torch and the Olympic Flame are symbols which embody the Olympic Values of excellence, respect and friendship. They inspire us to be the best we can be in all that we do," added IOC President Jacques Rogge. "The magnificent design of the torch for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay will also add a very unique Chinese flavor to the relay, as the 'Clouds of Promise' carry the Beijing Games' message to the world."

The Beijing Buzz

Beijing Games Preparation Earns Positive Review

Concluding three days of crucial meetings and site visits in Beijing on Thursday, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Coordination Commission gave the state of preparations for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games a positive review.

With only 477 days left until the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, IOC Coordination Commission Chairman Hein Verbruggen underlined that time is of the essence as anticipation grows and the eyes of the world increasingly focus on Beijing. The Coordination Commission, which has assisted BOCOG in over six years of preparations, is due to visit Beijing twice more before the Games begin.

"The world is watching and waiting, eager to see what Beijing and China have to offer and anticipating what can be achieved through hosting the Olympic Games," Chairman Verbruggen said. "This puts a great responsibility on their shoulders, but I believe in them and their ability to show the world the potential of their country and their people in the 21st century."

On the first day of its visit, the Commission viewed progress made at Olympic venues in Beijing. Among sites visited were the National Stadium, the National Aquatics Centre, the Olympic Village, the National

Indoor Stadium, the Main Press Centre, the fencing hall, the International Broadcast Centre and a media village. Commission members reported witnessing a true sense of the enormous efforts and ambition in work completed since their previous visit, and also an early hint of the emotion that will bring venues alive when the Games begin.

Verbruggen said, "The venues that we have just seen will be truly magnificent for the athletes to compete and live in, and for the media to live and work in at Games time. We can see now, as they near completion, just how impressive they are going to be. Personally, I found the visit to the National Stadium a particularly emotional experience because I can now see that the Opening Ceremony is nearly upon us, and also just how far we have come together over these past six years."

During review meetings held by the Coordination Commission, operational issues such as technology, medical services, transport, accommodation, human resources and the environment were addressed.

In the environment meeting, Commission members were briefed on current programs in Beijing to host environmentally sustainable Games and on contingency plans being drawn up to ensure optimal air quality in August 2008. Chairman Verbruggen remarked that numerous completed initiatives are serving as best practices for Beijing residents.

"No-one can deny that the backdrop of such a rapidly developing economy has brought challenges which may need contingency plans so that top level athletic competition is not adversely affected," Verbruggen said. "We are encouraged, therefore, to see the appropriate plans being drawn up to tackle this. It won't be the first time such measures have been used during Olympic Games – Los Angeles and Seoul are two examples where air quality measures were successfully adopted."

In addition to permanent benefits through the creation of green areas, such as the 680-hectare forestry project near the airport and Olympic venues, and strict reductions in industrial pollution emissions, Beijing government officials have also reported an initiative to reduce traffic circulation during the Games. Many of the initiatives are part of comprehensive Games bid objectives established by BOCOG and local authorities in 2001 to ensure that athletes of the world are able to compete in the best possible conditions.





Beijing Buzz (cont.)

2nd World Press Briefing

The 2nd World Press Briefing for the 2008 Olympic Games will be held in Beijing, Oct. 10-12, 2007, BOCOG announced recently.

The 2nd World Press Briefing will provide international news organizations the ability to review first hand the preparations for the upcoming Games. The three-day seminar will include venue tours, inspections of accommodation facilities and a two-day briefing, which will include reports from BOCOG departments on the facilities and services planned for the media at the competition venues and Main Press Center, as well as services such as Olympic news service, photo services, rate card, accommodation, transport and technical support.

The agenda and accreditation information of the 2nd World Press Briefing will be published on BOCOG's website soon.

Olympic Test Events

Thirty-four Olympic competition venues and 46 training venues will be put into operation during the "Good Luck Beijing" events, which is the name BOCOG has chosen to describe their Olympic Test events.

The series will include 42 events: 28 Olympic sports and two Paralympic sports. The 26 events to be held this year will include the international sports federations (IFs) calendar events and invitational and open events. The IFs calendar events are the World Junior Championships (rowing), the FIVB Women's Challenger, the World Junior Championships (wrestling), the World Cup Final (modern pentathlon), the 2007 Beijing Triathlon World Cup (triathlon), the ITF Circuit (tennis) and the ITTF Pro-TOUR Grand Finals (table tennis).

According to the organizers, around 10,049 athletes, 400 IFs officials, as well as 700 international technical officials and 1,500 domestic technical officials, are expected to take part.

For more information of the events, please visit the official website of the "Good Luck Beijing" events <http://www.goodluckbeijing.com.cn>. You can also see the calendar of test events, by clicking here: [Good Luck Beijing Test Events](#).

Olympic Medals Unveiled

On the occasion of the 500-day countdown to the opening of the Beijing Olympic Games, the Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) unveiled the Games' medals.



The medals are designed with inspiration from "bi", China's ancient jade piece inscribed with dragon pattern and are 70mm in diameter and 6mm in thickness. One side of the medals includes a drawing that represents the winged goddess of victory Nike and Panathinaikos Arena, while on their reverse side, the medals are inlaid with jade with the Beijing Games emblem engraved in the metal centerpiece.



Olympic Press Kits Distributed

Media Guide Kits for accredited media organizations for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games have been distributed by the U.S. Olympic Committee. If you are an accredited media organization for the 2008 Olympic Games and have not received your kit by now, please contact Peggy Manter by e-mail at peggy.manter@usoc.org.

The kits include the Press by Number Accreditation Guide, Press Accommodation Guide, Press Rate Card, Media Freight and Shipping Guide, and Media Information II, a publication with up-to-date information on the preparations for media services at the 2008 Games.

The NOCs and media organizations are requested to return the listed forms and information to BOCOG by the following deadlines: May 31, 2007 for **"Intent to Rent"** for ordering private office space in the Main Press Center and Venue Media Centers; June 15, 2007 for completed **Press by Number Accreditation Application Forms** (by NOCs) and for guaranteed accommodation reservations; December 31, 2007 for **Press Rate Card** normal orders; and April 1, 2008 for **press accommodation** payments.

Also, non-rights holder (ENR) accreditation requests are currently being taken by the IOC through June 2007. If you'd like additional information or an application, click on this link: [ENR Accreditation Requests](#).



In China's traditional culture and art, the fish and water designs are symbols of prosperity and harvest. And so Beibei carries the blessing of prosperity. A fish is also a symbol of surplus in Chinese culture, another measure of a good year and a good life. The ornamental lines of the water-wave designs are taken from well-known Chinese paintings of the past. Among Fuwa, Beibei is known to be gentle and pure. Strong in water sports, she reflects the blue Olympic ring.



Sports Flash

A quick look at the major developments and results from U.S. athletes and sports on the Road to Beijing.

Archery

The team trials for USA Archery wrapped up at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif. on April 24. Those selected will compete at the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the 2007 Archery World Championships in Leipzig, Germany. Athletes making the team include **Karen Scavotto** (Enfield, Conn.), **Jennifer Nichols** (Cheyenne, Wyo.) and **Lindsay Pian** (Scottsdale, Ariz.). On the men's side are **Vic Wunderle** (Mason City, Ill.), **Butch Johnson** (Woodstock, Conn.) and **Brady Ellison** (Glendale, Ariz.).

Canoe/Kayak

The team trials for USA Canoe/Kayak were held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif. on April 24. The team will compete at a series of European competitions in May and June before heading to the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the 2007 ICF Canoe/Kayak World Championships in Duisburg, Germany. Team members include **Carrie Johnson** (San Diego, Calif.), who took first place with **Maggie Hogan** (San Diego, Calif.) in the Women's K-1 500m, K-1 1000m, **Rami Zur** (Newport Beach, Calif.) with **Brandon Woods** in the Men's K-1 500m and K-2 500m, and **Morgan House** (Gainesville, Ga.) with **Taran Stucchio** (Mt. Vernon, N.Y.) in the Men's K-1 1000m and K-2 500m).

Cycling

Sarah Hammer (Temecula, Calif.) successfully defended her world title in the women's three-kilometer individual pursuit at the 2007 UCI Track World Championships on March 30.

Brad Huff (Fair Grove, Mo.) won a bronze medal in the inaugural omnium event at the 2007 UCI Track World Championships March 29 to become the first American male to medal at an elite track world championships in 11 years.

The United States Mountain Bike Team swept the elite women's podium and collected a total of eight medals – two of them gold – at the Continental Mountain Bike Championships in Nequen, Argentina on March 11.

In a major step towards securing the maximum number of start positions at the 2008 Olympic Games for the U.S., **Georgia Gould** (Ketchum, Idaho) led the elite women's contingent with a win in the 24-kilometer race ahead of silver medalist **Mary McConneloug** (Chilmark, Mass.) and bronze medalist **Willow Koerber** (Horseshoe, N.C.).

Diving

Team USA wrapped up the 12th FINA World Championships on March 26 with its best performance of the weeklong competition – a bronze medal in the men's 10-meter synchronized diving event. **David Boudia** (Noblesville, Ind.) and **Thomas Finchum** (Indianapolis, Ind.) scored 463.56 points to place third behind China's Huo Liang and Lin Yue (489.48) and Russia's Dmitriy Dobroskok and Gleb Galperin

(467.16) in the final event of the meet. It was the U.S.'s only medal of the Championships after taking fourth in three other events.

Judo

U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Judo will be held simultaneously with the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Wrestling, June 15-16, 2008 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Modern Pentathlon

Sheila Taormina (Livonia, Mich./Colorado Springs, Colo.) turned in the best performance of her modern pentathlon career March 24, winning the silver medal in the second World Cup stop of the season in Cairo, Egypt. Taormina posted a total of 5,512 total modern pentathlon points to reach the podium in a loaded competitive field that included the 2006 World Champion, the 2006 World Cup Finals Champion and the 2004 Olympic gold medalist. Each of the World Cup winners in 2006 also competed.



Shooting

Multiple U.S. Olympic medalist Kim Rhode, now holds the title of World Cup Champion for 2007. Shooting at the first ISSF World Cup of the season in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on March 22, Rhode set a world record with her combined women's skeet score of 98, including a 73 in qualification and perfect 25 in the finals. Following closely behind was 2005 World Cup Finals champion Haley Dunn, who shot a 94 overall to take the silver in women's skeet.

Swimming

U.S. swimmers claimed 36 medals at the 12th FINA World Championships in Melbourne, Australia. Both the total medal and gold medal counts (20) tied the 1978 world championship team. **Michael Phelps** (Baltimore, Md.) re-wrote the record books with his performance, shattering four individual world records in his five events in addition to one relay world record.



Synchronized Swimming

The U.S. Synchronized swim team won one bronze medal during the recent 12th FINA World Championships in Melbourne, Australia. The U.S. team earned bronze in the free combination event and scored one fourth and four fifth-place finishes as well.



2007 Major Events Calendar

Sports Flash (cont.)

Track & Field

University of Texas men's head coach **Bubba Thornton** and UCLA women's head coach **Jeanette Bolden** have been nominated to serve as the men's and women's head coaches, respectively, for Team USA's track and field squads for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Water Polo

The USA Women brought home a gold medal from the FINA World Championships. It was the third consecutive medal in world championship competition for the U.S. Women's Team. The U.S. Men's Team finished ninth at the event.

Wrestling

The U.S. Men's Greco-Roman Wrestling team placed second at the 2007 Greco-Roman World Cup, held in Antalya, Turkey, Feb. 24-25. It was the highest placement ever for the United States in this event, which is the international dual-meet championships each year.

The U.S. opened the tournament with a historic win over world powerhouse Russia, 5-2. It was the first time the USA had defeated Russia in a World Cup dual meet. Three U.S. wrestlers won all three of their bouts including **Joe Warren** (60 kg), **Jake Clark** (84 kg) and **Dremiel Byers** (120 kg).

- 5/18-22 Taekwondo: World Championships, Beijing, China
- 5/21-27 Table Tennis: World Championships, Zagreb, Croatia
- 6/8-10 Wrestling: World Team Trials, Las Vegas, Nev.
- 6/10 Track & Field: Nike Prefontaine Classic, Eugene, Ore.
- 6/20-24 Track & Field: USA Outdoor Championships, Indianapolis, Ind.
- 6/22-24 Fencing: World Cup Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nev.
- 7/9 - 16 Softball: Women's USA World Cup III, Oklahoma City, Okla.
- 7/13-29 Pan American Games, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 7/24-28 Volleyball: FIVB World Championships, Gstaad, Switzerland
- 8/8-18 Summer World University Games, Bangkok, Thailand
- 8/12-18 Parapan American Games, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 8/13-19 Badminton: World Championships, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 8/22-9/2 Basketball: Men's FIBA America's Olympic Qualifying Tournament, Las Vegas, Nev.
- 8/25-9/2 Track & Field: World Championships, Osaka, Japan
- 9/1-9 Gymnastics: Artistic World Championships, Stuttgart, Germany
- 9/1-10 Shooting: Shotgun World Championships, Nicosia, Turkey
- 9/10-30 Soccer: Women's WorldCup, China
- 9/13-16 Judo: World Championships, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 9/17-23 Wrestling: World Championships, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 10/3-14 Sailing: U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Team Trials, Newport, R.I.

U.S. Olympic Team Trials Schedule

*Below are the confirmed dates and locations for the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials as it presently stands. *Subject to change.*

Sailing	Oct. 3-14, '07	Newark, R.I. (Laser, Laser Radial)
	Oct. 3-14, '07	Newport Beach, CA (Finn)
	Oct. 3-14, '07	Long Beach, CA (RS:X, 470)
	Oct. 3-14, '07	Marina Del Rey, CA (Star)
	Oct. 3-14, '07	San Diego, CA (49er, Tornado)
Marathon (Men)	Nov. 2, '07	New York, N.Y.
Marathon (Women)	April 20, '08	Boston, Mass.
Wrestling/Judo	June 13-16, '08	Las Vegas, Nev.
Gymnastics	June 19-22, '08	Philadelphia, Pa.
Diving	June 22-28, '08	Indianapolis, Ind.
Track & Field	June 27-July 6, '08	Eugene, Ore.
Swimming	June 29-July 6, '08	Omaha, Neb.



Athlete Spotlight: Boxer Rau'shee Warren

Warren, the 2004 light flyweight Olympian from Cincinnati, Ohio, has the opportunity to become the first American boxer to compete in two Olympic Games since Davey Lee Armstrong in 1972 and 1976. Warren was the youngest male Olympian in 2004 and will be 21 at the 2008 Olympic Games. He won a bronze medal at the 2005 World Championships.



The



China

Connection

The following U.S. athletes and coaches have interests in getting to China and the 2008 Olympic Games that goes well beyond just making the U.S. Olympic Team:

- ◆ It's hard for fourth-ranked **Lindsay Pian** (archery/Scottsdale, Ariz.) not to think about the 2008 Olympic Games. Her father (Robert Pian) is first generation Chinese-American and both of her grandparents were from the Beijing/Tenjing area in China. Her grandfather was a civil engineer and worked on the Yangtze River Three Gorges dam during its conceptual stages. He came to the U.S. in the 1940s, received a doctorate from Cornell, became a U.S. citizen and taught at Arizona State University for almost four decades.

Before they passed away in 2005, both of her grandparents were quite excited about the possibility of their grandchild traveling to Beijing to compete in the 2008 Games.

Lindsay visited China in 1997 as a 10-year-old and saw Shanghai, Xian and Beijing. She visited the Great Wall, Summer Palace, Forbidden City and Terra Cotta Warriors and would love to go back to Beijing as an Olympic Team member in 2008.

- ◆ If **Tara Kirk** (swimming/Bremerton, Wash.) competes at the 2008 Olympic Games in China, it is likely she will be surrounded by family – many of whom are Chinese. Kirk's grandfather, Leung Kwok-kong, was born in China, in the province of Quangdong. He and his family immigrated to Hong Kong when he was a young boy, then later to the Philippines when he was 16 years old. Kirk's grandmother, Aw-yong Mei-Lan, was born in the Philippines to Chinese parents also from the province of Quangdong, and she went back to China later for her education. Although Kirk's family moved around before settling in the United States, she says she is proud of her Chinese heritage. She still has family members who live in China.



- ◆ After winning a silver medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games for her native country China, **Gao Jun** (table tennis/Gaithersburg, Md.) has since become a U.S. citizen. She was the first American to advance beyond the first round in table tennis in the 2000 Sydney Games. She's achieved the highest ranking ever for a U.S. Table Tennis player. As of February 2007, Jun is ranked as the No. 9 women's single player and the No. 8 women's double player in the world.



The comments made by the ITTF about Jun's playing style are worth noting: "Gao Jun is simply an enigma, her style of play is from a bygone era. She is not powerful, she's not grease lightning and doesn't impart massive degrees of topspin on the table tennis ball as would seem to be the requirement demanded by many coaches in order to be a top class table tennis player. .. her control over the table tennis ball mesmerizes adversaries; close to the net, blocking, creating angles, being tactically astute are the facets of her game. She proves that there is more than one way to play table tennis and against Li Jai Wei, she endorsed that fact in an emphatic style."

- ◆ Iris Zimmermann (fencing/Rush, N.Y.) had all but hung up her sword in the sport of fencing after competing in the 2000 Olympic Games. But after the IOC brought back the team foil event to the Olympic program, Zimmermann decided to make one more run at Olympic glory.



The Asian-American fencer put on hold a budding political career and quit her job as a campaign worker for California Democratic candidate Steve Westly. Now, she's vying for a chance to return to her mother's native land and a spot on the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team that will compete in Beijing.

- ◆ Swimmer **Hongzhe Sun** is a U.S. National Team Member and competed on the 2006 Pan Pacific Team and is on the upcoming 2007 World University Games Team. He speaks fluent Chinese and visits at least once per year. His family is from Shanghai.

- ◆ USA Women's National Volleyball Team Head Coach "**Jenny**" **Lang Ping**, a native of China, returns to her home country for the Beijing Games. She is revered as a star player and coach in China. Lang Ping is often referred as the Michael Jordan of China.

