

PARIS 2024 PRE-GAMES NOTES

PARIS 2024 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

JULY 25				
SOC	France vs. Colombia	Pool	Izquierdo, Perez	2 p.m.

JULY 26				
ALL	Opening Ceremony	Ceremonies	All	12:30 p.m.

JULY 27				
MT	Singles vs. TBD	First Rd.	Borges	TBD
MT	Doubles vs. TBD	First Rd.	Borges	TBD

JULY 28				
SOC	New Zealand vs. Colombia	Pool	Izquierdo, Perez	10 a.m.

JULY 29				
MT	Singles vs. TBD	Second Rd.	Borges	TBD
MT	Doubles vs. TBD	Second Rd.	Borges	TBD

JULY 30				
MT	Doubles vs. TBD	Quarterfinals	Borges	TBD

JULY 31				
MT	Doubles vs. TBD	Semifinals	Borges	TBD
MT	Singles vs. TBD	Third Rd.	Borges	TBD
SOC	Colombia vs. Canada	Pool	Izquierdo, Perez	2 p.m.

AUGUST 1				
MT	Singles vs. TBD	Quarterfinals	Borges	TBD

AUGUST 2				
MT	Singles vs. TBD	Semifinals	Borges	TBD
MT	Doubles vs. TBD	Bronze Medal	Borges	5 a.m.

AUGUST 3				
MT	Singles vs. TBD	Bronze Medal	Borges	TBD
SOC	Colombia vs. TBD	Quarterfinals	Izquierdo, Perez	TBD
MT	Doubles vs. TBD	Gold Medal	Borges	10 a.m.

AUGUST 4				
MT	Singles vs. TBD	Gold Medal	Borges	7:30 a.m.

AUGUST 6				
SOC	Colombia vs. TBD	Semifinals	Izquierdo, Perez	TBD
TF	Men's Javelin Qualifying	Group A	Peters	3:20 a.m.
TF	Men's Javelin Qualifying	Group B	Thompson	4:50 a.m.

AUGUST 7				
TF	Men's 800m	First Round	Anderson, Arop	4:55 a.m.

AUGUST 8				
TF	Men's 800m (if nec.)	Repechage	Anderson, Arop	5 a.m.
TF	Men's Javelin	Final	Peters, Thompson	1:25 p.m.

AUGUST 9				
TF	Men's 4x400m Relay	First Round	Eppie	4:05 a.m.
TF	Men's 800m	Semifinal	Anderson, Arop	4:30 a.m.
SOC	Colombia vs. TBD	Bronze Medal	Izquierdo, Perez	8 a.m.

AUGUST 10				
SOC	Colombia vs. TBD	Gold Medal	Izquierdo, Perez	10 a.m.
TF	Men's 800m	Final	Anderson, Arop	12:25 p.m.
TF	Men's 4x400m Relay	Final	Eppie	2:12 p.m.

NOTEWORTHY

GENERAL

- Mississippi State is sending a school-record nine Olympians to Paris (8 athletes, 1 coach) in a school-record three sports.
- The Bulldogs represent seven different nations, which is more nations than the previous record number of athletes.
- The seven nations represented include the first athletes from Botswana, Colombia and Jamaica and a return to the Games by the first Grenadian athlete.
- Mississippi State is the only school in the country to send an athlete to the Games from Portugal.
- Soccer and tennis are being represented for the first time, regardless of gender.
- Mississippi State's last Olympic medal came 24 years ago at the 2000 Sydney Games when Jude Monye (NGR) and the Nigerian 4x400m relay team finished second but were awarded the gold medal when Team USA was later disqualified for doping offense.

TRACK TIES

- Navasky Anderson (JAM) and Lee Eppie (BOT) were roommates while at MSU. Marco Arop (CAN) and Anderson Peters (GRN) were also roommates while in Starkville.
- Peters is one of three Mississippi State track athletes to win back-to-back NCAA Outdoor Championships. The first, Commodore Scott Cochran (USA), was also State's first Olympic medalist, running leadoff on the Americans' world-record-setting 4x400m relay team in Paris in 1924. Cochran won the NCAA 440-yard in 1922 and 1923.

#JAVU GOES GLOBAL

- Curtis Thompson (USA) and Anderson Peters (GRN) were two-thirds of State's javelin podium sweep at the 2019 NCAA Championships.
- That was the 11th sweep of any event podium in NCAA Outdoor Championships history. Arkansas has since added to the rare company with a sweep of the women's 400m in 2024.
- Oregon's 1964 squad is the only other trio to sweep in the men's javelin, and that was before the implement was changed in 1986.
- Mississippi State's pair of javelin throwers make up two-thirds of NCAA collegiate representation in the men's javelin at the Paris Games. Baylor's Chinecherem Nnamdi (NGR) is the only other athlete in this year's field to have thrown for an NCAA program.
- To date, Peters boasts five of the top-10 all-time throws by a collegiate athlete and he has since joined the top five in world history, tossing 93.07m in 2022.
- The Olympic record in the men's javelin is 90.57m set by Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR) at the Beijing 2008 Games.
- Since 2004, throws of 86.00m or greater would have won a medaled in the last four Games. Thompson and Peters both have personal bests beyond 86.00m.

MONUMENTAL MEDALS - MEN'S JAVELIN

- Anderson Peters (GRN) is the only Olympic javelin thrower in his nation's history. He was the first athlete from the Americas to win gold at the World Championship in the event in 2019 and defended that title in 2022. Keshorn Walcott (TTO) is the only athlete from the Caribbean to win Olympic gold in the javelin.
- Grenada has only won three Olympic medals as a nation, all by Kirani James in the men's 400m. James has won gold, silver and bronze in the 2012, 2016 and 2020 Games.
- Curtis Thompson (USA) will try to become the first American to win javelin gold since 1952 when Cyrus Young and Bill Miller won gold and silver, respectively. An American has not stood on the podium in more than 50 years (1972).

TWO-LAP TWO-STEPPING

- Marco Arop (CAN) and Navasky Anderson (JAM) are training partners in Starkville. Together, they make MSU the only school with multiple athletes in the men's 800m field at this year's Paris Games.
- The two Bulldogs are one-third of the NCAA collegiate representation in the event with Hampton, Kansas, Penn State and Texas A&M each having one athlete in the field.
- Both Arop and Anderson train under MSU head coach Chris Woods, who will serve as an assistant coach with Team Canada in Paris.
- The pair each hold their nation's respective national record in the 800m.
- Arop and Woods brought home gold medals from Budapest in 2023 when Arop won the world title.
- When Anderson began training with them, his only instruction was to focus on staying close enough to Arop to touch his back.
- Both athletes won SEC Championships in the 800m while in Starkville and went on to finish as NCAA runners-up.
- Arop and Anderson went skydiving together in 2022.

MONUMENTAL MEDALS - MEN'S 800M

- The reigning world champion, Marco Arop (CAN) is a favorite for the podium in the men's 800m. No Canadian man has ever won gold at the Olympics, and Arop was the first to win a World Championships gold in the event.
- Canada boasts four Olympic medals in the 800m: silver and bronze in 1932, bronze in 1936 and silver in 1964.
- Meanwhile a medal for Navasky Anderson (JAM) would put him in historic company. Arthur Wint is Jamaica's only Olympic medalist in the 800m, winning silver at the 1948 London and 1952 Helsinki Games. He was the island's first Olympic medalist.
- No Jamaican man has reached an Olympic final in the 800m since George E. Kerr finished fourth in 1964.

RELATING TO RELAYS

- Lee Eppie (BOT) will look to continue State's tradition of success in the 4x400m relay. Three of the Bulldogs' four Olympic medals in track and field came in that event, and two were won by African nations.
- Jude Monye (NGR) won gold in 2000 after the United States was disqualified for doping offenses. Monye and Nigeria set an African record in the race.
- Falilat Ogunkoya (NGR) won a silver medal in the relay at the 1996 Atlanta Games. She briefly held the bronze medal title from the 2000 Sydney Games while there was legal debate surrounding doping offenses by the gold medal-winning Americans, but ultimately the Americans were allowed to keep their medal and Nigeria remained fourth.
- Commodore Scott Cochran (USA) won the Bulldogs' first medal in school history at the 1924 Paris Games 100 years ago, setting a world record in the process.

MONUMENTAL MEDALS - MEN'S 4X400M

- Lee Eppie (BOT) will run on Botswana's 4x400m relay team, which won its first medal in the event in Tokyo in 2021. Botswana has clocked national records in the Olympic final in each of the last two Games.
- Botswana has raced in the men's 4x400m relay six times at the Olympics, reaching the finals three times (2004, 2016, 2020).
- The nation has never won an Olympic gold medal in any sport. It has won a bronze medal in the men's 4x400m relay in 2020, and Nijel Amos won silver in the men's 800m at the 2012 London Games.

PARTNERS ON THE PITCH

- Ilana Izquierdo (COL) and Catalina Perez (COL) are the first pair of MSU athletes to ever compete together in a team sport at the Olympics.
- Mississippi State is one of 12 schools with multiple soccer players in the Olympics. Of those, only Florida (CAN), Florida State (USA), Penn State (USA), Stanford (USA) and West Virginia (CAN) have athletes competing as teammates for the same nation.
- Bulldogs from the same country have competed in the same sport at the same Games six times prior to the Colombian soccer pair.
- In 2021 in Tokyo, Brandon McBride (CAN) and Marco Arop (CAN) competed side-by-side as individuals in the men's 800m. Additionally Curtis Thompson (USA) and Erica Bougard (USA) both competed, but in separate events.
- In 1996 and 2000, Jude Monye (NGR) and Falilat Ogunkoya (NGR) competed in the men's and women's 4x400m relay for Nigeria. They both won medals with those relays, but in separate years. Festus Igbinohe (NGR) joined them in 1996 in the triple jump.
- In 1928, State sent two athletes to the Games on Team USA, and in 1924 there were three American Bulldog athletes competing in track and field along with one in modern pentathlon.

NOTEWORTHY

SUMMER SCHOOL AT THE GAMES

- Ilana Izquierdo (COL) is the 11th student-athlete in school history to compete in an Olympic Games will still an active student-athlete or immediately following their final year of eligibility.
- Of the prior such athletes, eight returned to campus the following fall.
- Izquierdo is the first active student-athlete to represent MSU at an Olympics since Marta Pen Freitas (POR) did so in the women's 1500m at the 2016 Rio Games. Pen Freitas returned to campus but turned pro before completing the 2017 outdoor track season.
- She is the first to do so in a team sport since B.J. Wallace (USA) played baseball at the 1992 Barcelona Games.
- Izquierdo will be the fourth-youngest player on Colombia's women's soccer roster and the 21st-youngest in the tournament.

MONUMENTAL MEDALS - SOCCER

- In 2019, Catalina Perez (COL) won a gold medal at the Pan American Games, becoming the first Bulldog soccer player to win an international medal.
- Colombia is making its third women's Olympic tournament appearance. Their best international finishes include a 2023 quarterfinals run in the World Cup and three runner-up finishes in the Copa America. They have never advanced out of the group stage at the Olympics.

COLOMBIA'S OLYMPIC RECORD

- Colombia's women's soccer team is making its third Olympic appearance with an all-time Olympic record of 0-5-1. They have never advanced out of the group stage.
- In London in 2012, Colombia lost all three group matches to the United States (0-3), France (0-1) and North Korea (0-2).
- In Rio in 2016, the Colombians started 0-2 with losses to France (0-4) and New Zealand (0-1) before playing to a 2-2 draw against the United States.
- In Paris, they will play in Group A against France (0-2 at Olympics), Canada (first Olympic meeting) and New Zealand (0-1 at Olympics).
- All-time, Colombia holds a 1-2-0 record against Canada, a 1-3-0 record against France and a 1-3-2 record against New Zealand.

COMFORTABLE ON CLAY

- Nuno Borges (POR) and his Olympic doubles partner Francisco Cabral (POR) together boast a 94-35 record in doubles since Borges graduated in May 2019, including a 61-16 (.792) mark together on clay courts.
- The Olympic tournaments will be played on Roland-Garros' clay courts that host the French Open.
- The pair posted a 25-match winning streak on clay courts together from December 2021 to April 2022, claiming four Challenger Tour championships along the way including two in Borges' hometown of Maia, Porto.
- Borges has played singles at the French Open three times, posting a 4-3 record.
- Since turning pro, Borges' singles record on clay courts is 95-46 (.674).

USURPING THE CLAY KING

- Nuno Borges (POR) won his first ATP 250 Tour Championship in his final event before the Paris Olympic Games, winning the Nordea Open.
- Borges faced the "King of Clay" Rafael Nadal in the final and became just the fourth man to defeat Nadal in an ATP clay court final, joining Olympic medalists Roger Federer (SUI), Novak Djokovic (SRB) and Andy Murray (GBR).
- With the win, Borges climbed to his highest career ATP ranking, sitting at No. 42 entering the Olympic Games.
- He is the second Portuguese man to win an ATP title along with Olympian João Sousa (POR) and one of just four to reach an ATP final.
- Borges has now won 17 professional tournaments, including two in 2024. He defended his Arizona Tennis Classic title in Phoenix in March.

SEC TENNIS STARS

- Nuno Borges (POR) is one of 13 NCAA men's tennis players and five from the SEC to reach the 2024 Paris Games.
- The other four SEC players are Texas A&M's Austin Krajicek (USA), South Carolina's Francisco Cerundolo (ARG), Auburn's Tim Puetz (GER) and LSU's Nea Skupski (GBR). Borges did not face them collegiately.
- Borges and Krajicek both played for national championships while in college. Borges reached the singles national championship in 2019, and Krajicek won the doubles title in 2011.
- Borges has met Krajicek as a pro in doubles and Cerundolo in singles.
- Borges and his Olympic partner Francisco Cabral (POR) defeated Krajicek and Ivan Dodig (SRB) in the opening round of the 2022 Estoril Open 6-4, 3-6, 10-5 on their way to the doubles championship that year.
- Cerundolo won their singles meeting, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 at Wimbledon in 2023.
- Cerundolo met Borges' partner in doubles, Cabral, at the 2022 Watergen Gijon Open. Cabral and Jamie Murray (GBR) defeated Cerundolo and Pedro Cachin (ARG), 6-1, 6-2.

MONUMENTAL MEDALS - TENNIS

- No Portuguese athlete, man or woman, has ever won an Olympic medal in tennis. In fact, the country has never had an athlete advance past the second round.
- Gastão Elias and João Sousa hold the national record for matches won at a single Games. In Rio in 2016, they both won a singles match and they won their first doubles match together against Slovakia. Those stand as the only matches Portuguese athletes have ever won.
- Nuno Borges (POR) and his partner Francisco Cabral (POR) will be the seventh men's doubles team that Portugal has sent to the Olympics.
- In men's doubles, Portugal has faced Slovakia (1-0), The Bahamas (0-2), Canada (0-1), France (0-1), Japan (0-1) and Spain (0-1).
- Borges will be the sixth Portuguese man have competed in Olympic singles. Pedro Sousa, (2021), António Casanovas (1924) and Rodrigo de Castro Pereira (1924) were all eliminated in their first match. Elias and Sousa both won one match in 2016.

OLYMPIC TEAM TIDBITS

- Navasky Anderson (JAM) was named one of the "Most Fashionable Athletes on Team Jamaica" and has been known to cut his teammates' hair.
- Navasky Anderson (JAM) and Marco Arop (CAN) went skydiving together in 2022.
- Marco Arop (CAN) is from a family of Sudanese refugees who first sheltered in Egypt when he was a toddler before immigrating to Canada.
- Marco Arop (CAN) grew up playing basketball and did not start running competitive track meets until his senior year of high school though he ran some city races in elementary.
- Catalina Perez (COL) is part of the Athlete+ program where she helps sponsor Colombian girls as they pursue a collegiate soccer career. The Athlete+ program provides scholarships and opportunities for professional soccer careers.
- Nuno Borges' (POR) mother, Paolo, was a Portuguese national champion in volleyball.
- Nuno Borges (POR) was diagnosed as partially deaf in his left ear.

