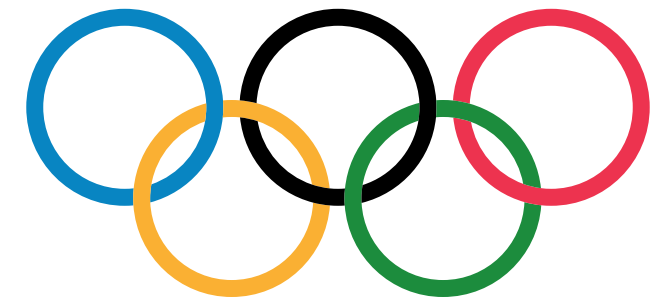




Eleven-time All-American Andy Bayer leads the pack in a Big Ten 1,500-meter run.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY **HOPEFULS**

SET THEIR **SIGHTS** ON SUMMER **OLYMPIC GAMES**

BY *Mike Leonard*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Michael D. Dickbernd*

FOR

athletes who compete in Summer Olympic sports, the quest to get better never ends. They train obsessively and compete in regional, national, and international events as well as collegiate competitions, most in relative anonymity compared with athletes in big money sports.

Then every four years, the Olympic Games happen and the whole world is watching.

Athletes who make it to the Olympics become household names. If they win medals, they morph overnight into national heroes. And if they win gold, they achieve worldwide fame and their likenesses appear on cereal boxes.

Over the years, Indiana University athletes have done their school and Bloomington proud, and there are high hopes they will do so again at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games starting on August 5 in Rio de Janeiro.

In 1964, IU had 13 athletes competing in the Summer Olympic Games, more than any other university in the U.S., and in 1968 the seven gold medals won by IU athletes would have ranked the Hoosier nation 11th among all nations in the world.

And that was before 1972, when IU swimmer Mark Spitz won a record seven gold medals at the Summer Olympic Games in Munich, Germany,

and IU-affiliated athletes won 15 medals, including 11 gold.

Four years later, at the 1976 games in Montreal, Canada, IU swimming coach James “Doc” Counsilman coached the U.S. Swimming and Diving team that won 12 gold medals and 10 silver in 13 events — the most successful U.S. swimming team ever.

The connection between IU, Bloomington, and the Olympics has been consistent, reflecting IU’s emphasis on all athletics and not just the revenue sports of basketball and football. Since 1904, IU has sent 167 athletes to the Summer Games, representing the U.S. and 15 other countries, in sports as varied as track and field, swimming and diving, fencing, and field hockey.

There are many current and former IU representatives who hope to make it to the 2016 Summer Games. Herein we profile 14 of the most promising. Some are simply trying for the career-affirming prestige of being called an Olympian while others are seeking a podium performance and hope to find themselves on the famous tri-level stand where medals are awarded.

More than one IU athlete has a strong chance of winning it all, taking their spots on the podium, and hearing their national anthems played as they bow their heads and accept Olympic gold.



Ludlow (then Beckwith) was a track star in the making when she qualified for four events at the state championships as a freshman at her Columbus, Ohio-area high school. Even then, she says, she knew she put too much pressure on herself running as an individual. She dropped track completely in favor of soccer, a team sport, and was good enough to earn a scholarship to IU.

"I had already torn both ACLs before I got to college, and it didn't take long before I realized I wasn't going into tackles as hard as I should.

I was always scared I was going to get hurt again," she says. Doctors told her there was good reason to be concerned about sustaining a devastating injury in soccer and that straight-line running would be much safer.

Now she's a prime contender for an Olympic berth at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials, July 1-10 in Eugene, Oregon. She placed fourth at the 2012 trials when she faltered at the finish line and missed the cut by 0.22 seconds. Last summer, Ludlow and her Team USA teammates won a gold medal and set an American record in the 4x800-meter relay at the World Relays in the Bahamas.

Whatever happens at the Olympic Trials or the Olympics, Ludlow says she'll be retiring afterwards. "I'm 28, I have bad arthritis in my knees, and we want to start a family," she says. "I've already applied for two nursing programs. So I'm happy looking to the future. There just comes a time to move on and my time has come.

"But," she says. "It sure would be nice to go out as an Olympian. That would be the perfect ending."

FOR *Molly Ludlow*

IT'S **THIS OLYMPICS** OR NEVER

If you run into Molly Ludlow around Bloomington in the coming weeks and she seems preoccupied, it's to be expected with the Olympic Trials ahead.

"My husband, Reed, says when I'm ready to start the (competition) season, I kind of turn into an introvert. I'm very focused on myself. You could even say I get a little selfish when I get to that point," she says. "I get on edge. We've been together five years, three of them married, and he understands when to keep his distance. He's very supportive. But he knows me."

The Ludlows live in downtown Indianapolis but maintain close ties to Bloomington. Reed Ludlow was born and raised here, and Molly ran for the Indiana University track and field team, finishing second in the 800-meter run at the 2010 NCAA Championships. "When I'm approaching the outdoor season, I train and go into my bubble in Bloomington," she says.

"I can put my work in silently and without expectations. It's the best place for me to go to get my work done."

Ludlow found herself in a different kind of bubble when she completed her IU running career in 2010. She says, "(IU) Coach Helmer was the first to approach me about running post-collegiately. He said, 'You're behind in this sport. You still have room for growth. You haven't reached your potential.'" Helmer arranged for Ludlow to compete in Europe, and she quickly set new personal records, breaking the 2-minute mark in the 800 that is seen as the dividing line between world-class and also-ran.

"That enabled me to sign with Saucony [athletic shoes], and I didn't even know there was such a thing. 'You mean I can get paid to run?'" she recalls thinking. "They pay me a salary in addition to time and place and ranking bonuses. I've been able to keep running and make a good living at it."



Derek Drouin

WORLD **HIGH JUMP CHAMPION'S**
LAST HURDLE IS TO **WIN GOLD**

Derek Drouin was an Indiana University junior coming off of surgery on three ligaments in his foot when the high jumper stunned the track and field world by winning a bronze medal at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

"I couldn't jump at all at this point four years ago," he says, recalling the lead up to the 2012 games. "I think I was just too young and naïve to be afraid to go all out."

His place on the world's grandest track and field stage made him IU's first medalist in the high jump and his native Canada's only track and field medalist at the 2012 games.

The IU alumnus and, as of 2015, reigning world high jump champion, is a favorite to win a medal in the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, and he's looking forward to savoring the whole experience. "It went by so quickly I really didn't take the time to experience the whole thing," he says of his first Olympics. "I want to walk away from Rio this summer knowing that I took it all in. I think I'm a more mature athlete now and better able to deal with external stimuli."

With a résumé of five national championships (indoor and outdoor) at IU, and honors including Big Ten Male Athlete of the Year 2013 and three-time National Field Athlete of the Year, the 26-year-old has consistently demonstrated that he can deal with pressure. "Actually," he says, "I'm going into the Olympics with the attitude that I have nothing to lose."

Drouin grew up in Corunna, Ontario, a small city "about the size of Bloomington" a 3-hour drive from Toronto. "It was nice because it's not like there were a lot of options to play really high-caliber sports, especially team sports," he says. "I was able to play just about everything, and I think that made me a better athlete overall. If I had specialized at a young age, I might have been burned out by now."

The 6-foot-5-inch high jumper says he loved the look and feel of IU and the size of Bloomington from his first visit. He stayed in Bloomington after earning his degree in kinesiology in 2013 but found it lonely training "pretty much on my own" in 2014. He now lives in Toronto and trains with other Olympic hopefuls. "It's easier



to get through when you're in a group," he explains. "We joke and support each other. I've pointed out what soccer or Major League Baseball players make and say, 'Man, we picked the wrong sport.'"

Drouin laughs and acknowledges, "Really, I'm very, very fortunate." He not only has the powerhouse Nike brand as a sponsor, but also BMW, which provides him with an automobile in addition to other compensation.

"Winning an Olympic gold — that is the highest level of our sport and, of course, having already medaled once, you want to improve on that," he says. "I'm really feeling good right now. I'm progressing. I'm still getting better. And the thing about the Olympic Games is that it doesn't matter who has the best jump in the world that year. It's just who is the best competitor on that day."



Photo by Ben Mikesell

Lilly King

AN **EXPLOSIVE HOOSIER** FRESHMAN
GAINING CONFIDENCE IN **BREASTSTROKE**

With the 2016 Summer Olympic Games looming, Lilly King admits to feeling pressure to build on the strong and steady improvement she's made in breaststroke events and earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team during the qualifying competition in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26–July 3.

Competing in the 100-yard breaststroke at the Big Ten Championships in February, King set a conference record, then went on to swim the seventh-fastest time ever recorded — 2:05:58 — in the 200. Now the IU freshman says she feels a little more at ease. “At this point, the Olympics doesn’t seem unreal. I’m expecting that of myself,” she says. “I’m talking like I’m going to be there.”

Adding to that confidence is her 50-yard contribution to IU’s Big Ten–winning 200-yard medley team, a breaststroke split of

25.92 that is believed to be the third-fastest 50 ever recorded. “I think the 50 would have to be my favorite event,” she says with a laugh. “If there was such a thing.”

King’s explosive starts are her greatest strength. She didn’t make a great exchange in the Big Ten relay event and still swam that exceptionally fast 50. She set a USA Swimming Junior National record in the 100-yard breaststroke in high school and says, “I’ve only recently gotten to the elite level at the 200.” Increasing physical maturity and top-level training and coaching have observers eager to see just how good the 19-year-old swimmer can be.

King, a native of Evansville, Indiana, has been an elite athlete from an early age and says the Olympics have long been her goal. “I remember when I was 8, one of my



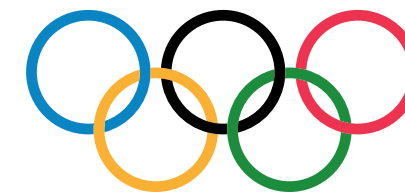
first swimming mentors was Janet Evans (a four-time gold medal winner). Just watching her made me dream of making the team,” she says. “That’s as good as it gets for us.”

The Hoosier also takes a certain pride in developing into a world-class swimmer at IU, a strong but not national powerhouse program. “I did get a lot of crap for staying in-state,” she says. “But it’s almost like I knew what I was doing when I committed here. I knew to stick with my gut.”

ONE LAST FLING FOR

Cory Martin

SHOT PUT



After winning state and national championships and being named a collegiate All-American nine times in shot put and hammer throw, Indiana University assistant coach Cory Martin acknowledges that a year ago, he had pretty much decided to retire his throwing shoes.

The 30-year-old Ellettsville, Indiana, native had spent the last eight years as a professional track and field athlete sponsored by Nike. Still, he says, “At some point you have to get on with your life,” and marriage, a child, and a position on the IU track and field coaching staff seemed to signal that the time had arrived.

“Actually my wife, Taryn, was pretty much the one who talked me out of it,” he says. “She said, ‘Look, you know you want this and you’re still good enough to get it. It’s the Olympics.’”

The 6-foot-5-inch, 290-pound Martin finds the time to train, coach, recruit, and attend occasional functions for Nike. He’ll be in Eugene, Oregon, a few days before the Olympic Trials begin on July 1 to get acclimated. “That’s the kind of thing you know to do when you’ve competed as long as I have. You really get to know how your body works,” Martin says. “That’s the advantage you have at my age. You don’t train to get bigger or stronger anymore. You train to maintain your athletic ability.”

Martin’s sister, Stacy, shattered Indiana state records in the shot put and discus for



Photo by Becky Miller

Edgewood High School. She set five school records at Auburn University before injuries put an end to her athletic career. Cory followed her from Edgewood to Auburn, enjoyed similar success in the shot put and hammer throw, and earned a degree in education in 2008.

He narrowly missed winning the shot put gold medal at the

2013 USA Indoor Track & Field Championships and says he feels that his chances to make the Olympic team this year will be good if he can reach his personal best throw of 72 feet, 6 inches. “We have 10 to 12 guys who could go to the Olympics,” he says of his U.S. peers.

Martin says track and field has given him a lifetime of

memories, including cruising down the Amazon River on his 24th birthday and seeing the sights of Rome on his 25th. “But the Olympics,” he says with a sigh. “That is the one thing I’ve always wanted to do.”



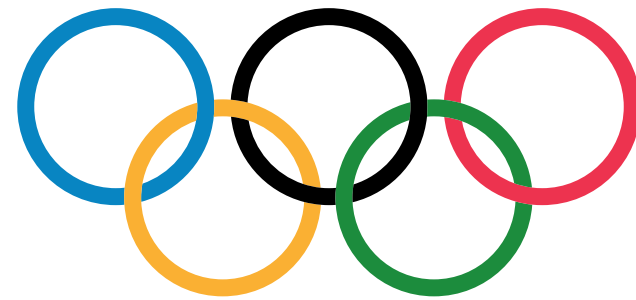
Michael Hixon
DIVER

Michael Hixon

Michael Hixon, 21, won NCAA championships in 1-meter and 3-meter diving for the University of Texas in 2014, was named NCAA Diver of the Year, and then transferred to IU where he is majoring in business.

The reasons for the transfer? The chance to train with former Duke and current IU diving coach Drew Johansen, who coached the U.S. Olympic team in 2012, as well as his friendship with IU diver Darian Schmidt. Hixon and Schmidt are now one of the top synchronized diving duos in the world.

Hixon's first love is basketball, but the Amherst, Massachusetts, native accepted the fact that his 5-foot-8-inch stature would limit his success. His father, David Hixon, is head basketball coach at Amherst College.



Darian Schmidt

Former Bloomington High School South star Darian Schmidt only had to cross town to be among the stand-outs in the IU diving program. He was named Diver of the Year at the Big Ten Championships in 2013 (for the second year in a row) after winning the 1-meter competition and placing second in the 3-meter.

He earned a degree in criminal justice from IU, and at 23 is an Olympic candidate in individual diving events as well as synchronized diving with IU sophomore Michael Hixon.

Darian Schmidt
DIVER



Andy Bayer
RUNNER

Andy Bayer

Fort Wayne, Indiana, native Andy Bayer was a six-time Big Ten champion at IU and, counting the indoor and outdoor track and field seasons, an 11-time All-American. He won the 2012 NCAA Championship in the 1,500-meter run in 2012 and finished fourth at the 2012 U.S. Olympic team trials.

Bayer married wife Chelsea after graduating from IU in 2012, joined the elite Bowerman Track Club in Portland, Oregon, and left his college specialty for the longer, 3,000-meter steeplechase. He finished eighth in the 3,000-meter run at New York's Millrose Games this year and says he's only getting better as he looks to qualify for the Summer Olympic Games.

Shae Fournier

Shae Fournier had a motto during her years in competitive sports: "You don't always get what you wish for, you get what you work for."

Fournier hails from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and holds IU water polo records in single-season and career goals scored and is one of five players in NCAA history to score more than 300 career goals. A first-team Academic All-American, graduating in 2015 with majors in French and psychology, Fournier says she dreamed of competing in the Olympic Games since she watched them on television as a child.

Water Polo Canada will announce its team members for the 2016 Olympics in early July.

Shae Fournier
WATER POLO



Emma Kimoto

The Canadian high jumper, from Richmond, British Columbia, won the indoor and outdoor high jump titles in Big Ten championships her senior year at IU in 2013. An exercise science major, Kimoto earned all-conference academic honors as well.

Kimoto represented Canada in the World University Games in 2013 and won bronze in the 2013 Canadian Championships, where she finished sixth in 2014. At age 24, Kimoto is competing to qualify for the Canadian Olympic Team with a best jump of 1.83 meters, needing to reach 1.94, the world-qualifying standard.

Emma Kimoto
HIGH JUMPER



Cody Miller

The world's best breaststrokers are usually 6-foot-3 to 6-foot-5. Cody Miller is 5-foot-11. And unlike his competitors, Miller has been diagnosed with *pectus excavatum*, a congenital condition that means "sunken chest," which typically reduces a person's lung capacity by 12–20 percent. Yet despite these disadvantages, his time of 59.51 in the 100-meter breaststroke ranks as eighth-best in the world. Miller won gold at the 2015 championships as a part of the 400-meter medley relay.

The Montana native grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada, and graduated with a degree in business management from IU in 2015. In his USA Swimming biography, he names his favorite sports team as the Indiana University Basketball Hoosiers.

Cody Miller
SWIMMER

James Connor

At 15, James Connor was the youngest male to compete for his native Australia in the Commonwealth Games. At 17, he became the youngest male to dive for Australia in the 2012 Olympic Games.

As a freshman, Connor became IU's first diver to score more than 500 points on a six-dive list and was named First-Team All-Big Ten as well as Big Ten Diver of the Year.

Connor, 20, is also versatile, making the cut for Australia's team in the 2015 World Championships in four events. The Melbourne native is majoring in neuroscience at IU.



James Connor
DIVER

Brooklynn Snodgrass

Brooklynn Snodgrass won the Big Ten 100- and 200-yard backstroke titles in 2013 and 2014 and won the NCAA Championship in 2014. She was also named Big Ten Swimmer of the Year in 2014.

A Canadian from Calgary, Alberta, Snodgrass, 21, took a redshirt year away from NCAA competition in 2015–16 in order to represent her country in the Canadian Olympic trials. Majoring in exercise science, Snodgrass earned Academic All-Big Ten honors in 2013–14. She plans to return to the Hoosier roster for the 2016–17 season and complete her senior year.



Brooklynn Snodgrass
SWIMMER



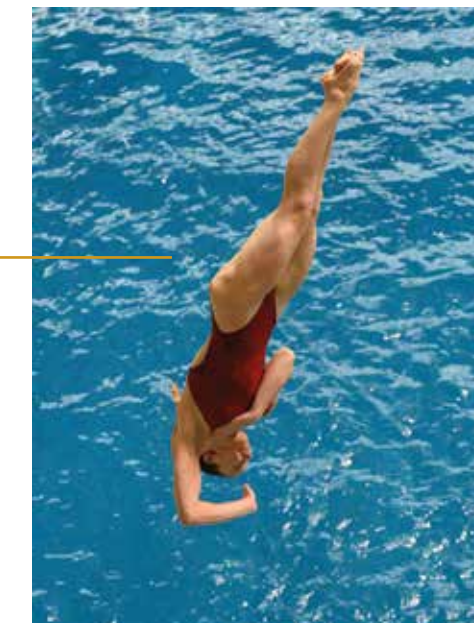
Jessica Parratto

Water sports run in Jessica Parratto's family. Her dad, Mike, is a swim coach; her mother, Amy, was a five-time All-American diver at Wellesley College; and her sister, Melissa, swims at the University of Pennsylvania.

The IU sophomore and New Hampshire native claimed the 2015 NCAA Championship in platform diving and qualified for the Olympic trials in June in both the 10-meter dive and synchronized competition with fellow Hoosier Amy Cozad.

Parratto, 21, is majoring in community health at IU.

Jessica Parratto
DIVER



Amy Cozad
DIVER

Amy Cozad

"The Platform is Amy Cozad's Stage, and America's Next Great Diver Is Ready to Shine," a headline on the Team USA website proclaims.

The 2013 Indiana University graduate is rising to the elite level at the right time, finishing sixth in the 2015 FINA World Championships — the highest finish for a U.S. diver in nearly a decade — and has qualified for spots in the 10-meter dive and synchronized diving competition with current IU diver Jessica Parratto at the Olympic Team Trials in Indianapolis, June 18–26.

The 5-foot-2-inch graduate of Decatur Central High School in Indianapolis is 24 and majored in mathematics at IU. ✨