

Stanford Olympic Update - Hope you are Watching the Games!!!

We hope everyone has had the opportunity to watch the Olympic Water Polo Games up until this point, but even if you haven't, it is not too late. Despite being upset by Canada in their second game, our Women's Water Polo team has reached the Olympic Semifinals. The women will play Italy on Tuesday, August 24th for the right to go to the Gold Medal Game. As of press time, the Men's team has to beat a tough Serbia and Montenegro team to continue on.

For the women's brackets go to:

<http://www.nbcolympics.com/results/5001448/detail.html>

The men's brackets will be up Monday.

It isn't always easy to figure out exactly when the games will be played, but two places to check are: www.nbcolympics.com and www.usawaterpolo.com. If you can't watch it live, make sure to TIVO the games or have a friend record them.

Watching the games is not only a lot of fun, but there is so much to learn. As a coaching staff, we learn something new every possession.

Here are some fun notes for you:

- The leading scorers for the men's AND women's teams are both Stanford players. For the women is Brenda Villa who has graduate and for the men it is Tony Azevedo who you will be able to see play at Stanford for one more season this fall.
- Other Stanford players are: For the men: Layne Beaubien and Wolf Wigo. For the Women: Margie Dingledein, Jackie Frank, and Ellen Estes.
- Many of you know this, but one of our coaches on the club is in Athens on the Olympic Staff - Kyle Utsumi. He send us emails periodically and is having the time of his life.
- Here is a quote from Kyle, summing up his experience so far:
 - "The change of emotions here has been ridiculous. We beat Hungary, we're happy. We lose to Canada on a 5-0 run in the fourth, we're facing elimination. But beat Russia and we advance #1 and into the semis. It's so intense, it's a joke"
- Kyle also said a funny experience was watching our star Brenda Villa in a fun, verbal argument with Allen Iverson (Point Guard for US Dream Team and the Philadelphia 76ers) because he said he could get a gold medal in any one of the women's sports.
- Kyle will have plenty of great stories for us when he returns.

- Also, did you know that our Head Coach John Tanner has coached in the Olympics in both water polo AND swimming! He coached on the Men's Olympic Water Polo team in 1992 and 2000 and coached an Olympic Swimmer to **TWO GOLD MEDALS** in swimming in the 1996 games in Atlanta.
- Watch both the men's and women's players do a lot of the skills and tactics you learn here in the club...for the 14-and-unders in the fall we are going to ask for skills you saw that we do in the here in the club.
- Can you believe she said this? Canadian player Ann Dow:
 - "It's satisfying to win against any team, but mostly against the U.S., because, I wouldn't say we hate them, but we dislike them so much," Dow said. "I think we showed them today we can be as cocky as they can be by showing our fists when we scored and yelling to their faces. I think we showed them if they want to be cocky, we can be more cocky than they are."
 - Then they lost to Hungary to get eliminated from the medal round!
- The semi-final match for the US Women will be extremely difficult. Italy is a seasoned team with a superstar player in Tania DiMario and veteran players Francesca Conti (Goalie) and Giusy Malato (2M).
- On the other side, the home-team Greece takes on the defending Gold Medalist Australia.
- More on the men's side: The best team in the world is Hungary who a lot of the players in our club got to meet on their "Stanford Olympic Experience" trip to Los Angeles. Watch for a player named Tamas Kasas who is one of the most exciting players in the world. Check him out at <http://www.nbcolympics.com/athletbios/5011509/detail.html>
- If the men advance, we will write up a preview to their quarterfinals as well.

For now, make sure you watch and check www.stanfordwaterpolo.com for more updates.

Craig