

# “Avengers” Assemble for Gold: U.S.A. Basketball Dominates Paris

BY GARRETT FOGLE

The United States men’s basketball team’s journey to the Paris Olympics in 2024 was a story to remember. The roster was one of the best in basketball history. Some people have compared the 2024 Paris team to the “Dream Team” in 1992.

This year’s roster had lots of big names such as LeBron James, Jayson Tatum, Joel Embiid, Anthony Edwards, Kevin Durant, Anthony Davis, Stephen Curry, and Devin Booker. The amount of skill on this team led the U.S.A. men’s team to a gold medal.

The U.S.A. Basketball Showcase was a solid performance by the highly favored team. They only had one game within one possession during the showcase, which shows their outstanding skill. Their first game was a statement, as they destroyed their opening opponent (Canada) with a shower of three-pointers and suffocating defense.

The American squad’s chemistry was clear as they effortlessly moved the ball, displaying the team’s depth. They slowly started calling themselves “the Avengers.” LeBron as “King James,” Steph Curry as “Chef Curry,” and Kevin Durant as “Easy Money” led the squad.

As the official Olympic Games began the Avengers began their journey against Serbia in their first game. The Avengers came out on top with a final score of 110-84.

They continued their streak by demolishing the teams of South Sudan, Puerto Rico, and Brazil.

The Semifinal Game in the 2024 Paris Olympics was a game that will be known as one of the greatest basketball games of all time. The semifinal game was U.S.A. vs. Serbia. Everyone was waiting for Stephen Curry to have an outstanding game of his own. It could not have come at a better time for the Avengers.

Curry assisted the team in previous games, but nothing compared to his performance in this game. He was the key player in getting the U.S.A. to the gold medal game.

Curry led the squad to a thrilling comeback victory over Serbia, winning 95-91. Curry scored 36 points in total, with 14 of those points coming in the decisive fourth quarter. Team U.S.A. outscored Serbia 32-15 in that quarter, with Curry’s performance, including a critical three-pointer in the closing minute of the game, being instrumental in overcoming a 15-point deficit.

Head Coach Steve Kerr said, “It is one of the greatest basketball games I’ve ever been a part of. They were perfect. They played a perfect game...They forced us to reach the highest level of competition that we could find. Our guys were incredible in that fourth quarter and got it done.”

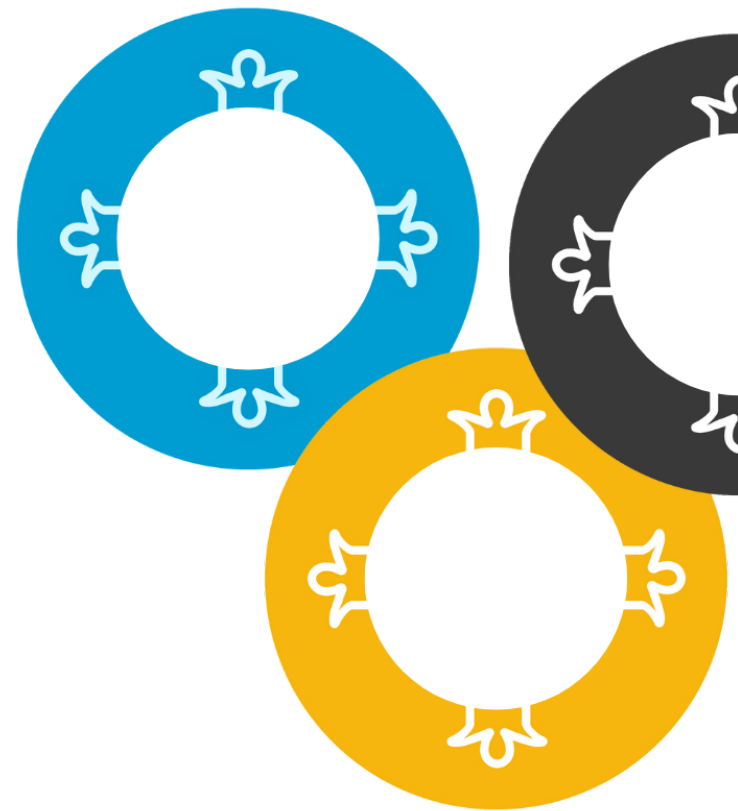
The Final Game in the 2024 Paris Olympics was just as good as the semifinal game. The Avengers fought for their fifth consecutive gold medal. Winning the game 98-87 makes the game seem like a blowout, but the reason for that final score was none other than Curry again.

Late in the game he started cooking and made 8-12 3-pointers (total of 24 points) during the game to secure the gold for the U.S.A. On what it means to get an Olympic gold medal, Curry said, “It is special. Two years ago, when we won our last championship, I knew that this was going to be on the horizon... These last five weeks together with this group have been nothing but ‘One, two, three, gold.’ That is all we have been saying. For us to finally accomplish that, for me to get a gold medal, is insane. I thank God for the opportunity to experience it.”

The U.S.A. Men’s Basketball team, with all the expectations and pressure, came out on top of the world with securing another consecutive gold medal for the U.S.A.



Graphic by Oliver Sorensen



## Lyles Does America Proud, Takes Home Gold in 100m Race

OPINION BY AUGIE KNOBBE

Noah Lyles competes for the United States Olympic Team and is a professional sprinter of high caliber. Famous for infusing his animated personality into his performance, he is often portrayed on social media as a very confident person who speaks his mind.

While this has helped propel Lyles forward on social media it has hurt his public image. Many people were rooting against him simply because of his eccentric personality. This personality is not all bad however.

While Lyles can be seen as obnoxious to some, he is an inspiration to others. Lyles has several physical and mental inhibitors that millions of people around the world can relate to. “I have Asthma, allergies, dyslexia, ADD, anxiety, and Depression. But I will tell you that what you have does not define what you can become. Why Not You!” Lyles said in a post on X. This side of Lyles could really do good in the world and give people a source of hope. Sadly, this side of Lyles is often overshadowed by his seemingly arrogant television personality.

Many people who have TikTok or other social media platforms know Noah Lyles from the quote, “You know the thing that hurts me the most is that I have to watch the NBA Finals and they have ‘world champion’ on their head. World champion of what? The United States?” Lyles said this in response to the NBA champions claiming they are world champions. Although he has received a large amount of backlash, he is a phenomenal athlete who deserves praise for his achievements.

Lyles has an impressive resume. Before even attending the Olympics, he attained one silver at the World Championships, four Diamond League Finals wins, and won the World Championship six times.

At the Olympics, Lyles showed out. He competed in the 4x100 relay, but the team came up short of a medal. His personal events were the 100m and 200m.

Lyles received a bronze medal in the 200m while

running ill with COVID. He was diagnosed two days before the race, which caused concern as to why he was allowed to compete; regardless of the question Lyles still brought another medal home to the United States. His best performance came in the 100m where he brought home a gold medal.

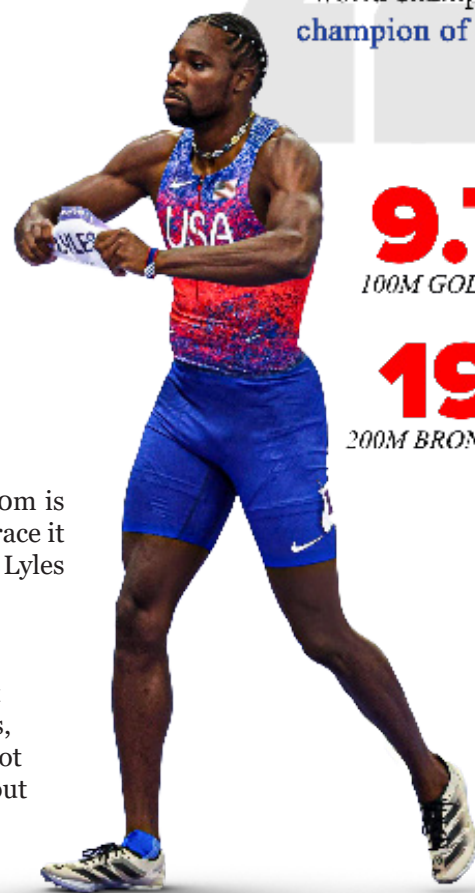
Lyles holds a lot of potential that the United States Olympic team should be excited about. Considering this was his first ever Olympics he deserves to be on the radar of best track athletes of all time.

Not only does Lyles deserve to be on that list for his medals but also for his personal records. Lyles is currently tied for the American record in the 150m sprint with a time of 14.41 seconds. His winning time in the 100m tied his personal best of 9.83 seconds.

Yet most notable is his 200m dash. Lyles set the American record with a time of 19.31 seconds. Since the 200m is generally regarded as his best race it came as a shock to many when Lyles only finished with a bronze medal in the Olympics.

Lyles plans to change this however. When asked about his plans for the 2028 Olympics, Lyles disclosed that he would not only be planning to compete, but he is chasing gold. This spirited young athlete is a wonder to watch and will be a star in the Olympics.

I have to watch the NBA Finals and they have ‘world champion’ on their head. **World champion of what?** The United States?  
-Noah Lyles



**9.79<sub>s</sub>**  
100M GOLD MEDALIST

**19.7<sub>s</sub>**  
200M BRONZE MEDALIST

Graphic by Oliver Sorensen

# The Good, The Goofy, & The Gross of The Olympics

BY JOHN KELLY

The 2024 Paris Olympics hosted some of the most viewed events in Olympics history, with not only a phenomenal American performance, but also other high and low moments that will go down in Olympic history.

Being the best country in the world, it is no surprise that the land of the free and home of the brave steamrolled the competition with 125 medals, including forty gold medals. The States especially dominated swimming and track.

In swimming, Americans won 28 medals with Katie Ledecky and Tori Huske racking up 8 golds each. In the track and field events we secured 34 medals, including 14 gold.

The U.S.A. also did very well in the gymnastics events with Simone Biles alone obliterating the competition with 3 gold medals and 1 silver.

But unfortunately, the U.S. was not the only country at the

Olympics, and the other countries certainly had their highlights, like the Australian breaker Rachel Gunn.

“B-Girl Raygun” was Australia’s representative for the brand-new breaking event, the official name for Olympic Breakdancing. Dawning her signature moves, such as the “Kangaroo Hop,” stirred up controversy in the breaking community.

She made many bold choices for dance moves, stating “All my moves are original,” which may have been entertaining for the rest of the world, but it was not good enough for any of the judges as she lost 0-18 in every single match.

Another highlight was Turkish shooter and silver medalist Yusuf Dikeç, who despite his fifth Olympic appearance, gained widespread notoriety for his simplistic strategy.

Most people use advanced leaning techniques and complex headgear, but Dikeç went in sweatpants and a t-shirt, hand in pocket, and effortlessly won the silver medal. Dikeç later stated, “I did not need special equipment. I’m a natural, a natural shooter.”

The Paris Olympics were also famous for the gross conditions of the Seine River and the athletes’ sleeping quarters, Olympic Village.

For the men’s and women’s triathlon the athletes had to, controversially so, swim in the Seine which not only looked

brown, but was previously polluted by protestors opposing the event taking place in the waters that have been unsafe for a century. Shortly before the Olympics, Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo swam in the Seine to show it was safe, which was still debated af-

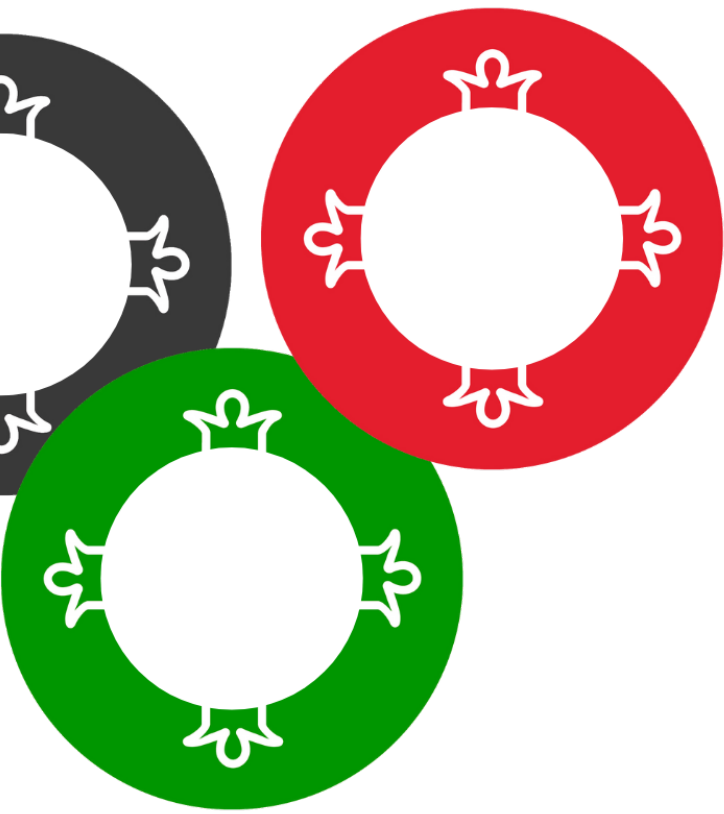
ter the spectacle.

Safety especially came into question after five triathletes fell ill after swimming, two of which had severe infections.

The 2024 Paris Olympics had one of the highest viewership in American history, so we can only expect the 2028 Los Angeles Games to have the freest, bravest, and most entertaining games of all time.



Graphic by John Kelly



## Patriotism: How the Olympics Inspire & Unite Americans

BY CODY TORCZON

Sports have a unique way of bringing people together. Passionate fans gather together to cheer on their favorite teams as they compete. For example, college football creates extremely passionate fans who share the emotions of winning and losing with their teams. However, college football and most other sports have rather specific and small fan bases. The Olympic Games are a great opportunity for Americans to unite under their national sports teams and promote unity and patriotism.

As the U.S. Olympic team traveled to Paris, support for the team on the domestic front was loud and proud. Americans across the nation tuned into the Olympics in the early hours of the morning and late hours of the night to watch the Olympic Games going on halfway across the world. These dedicated fans displayed their loyalty to their nation by supporting its most elite athletes while they competed at the highest level.

“The Olympics feed into my national pride, making me proud to be an American,” Will Storbeck ‘25 said. Storbeck also mentioned how seeing Americans step up onto the podium draped in “our nation’s awesome flag” was a win for not just that athlete, but all Americans.

This is what patriotism is all about: being proud of America and its accomplishments.

Leo Dustin ‘25 compared the Olympics to the 4th of July. “Just like how blowing up things makes me feel patriotic, watching our Olympic team made me want to go and raise an American flag in my yard,” Dustin said. His strong patriotism was also shared by many of his classmates who tuned into the Olympics, many of whom watched the basketball team in their quest for the gold medal.

Aidan Balas ‘25 shared that it was inspiring to see players from different teams play together and “fans who would normally hate each other” unite under one flag: the American flag. “The Star-Spangled Banner” highlights how the flag of the United States always stays strong and unites people across the nation. After being sung after each American win, the sweet taste of victory resonates through the stadium as Americans across unite through their patriotism and national pride.



Graphic by Oliver Sorensen