

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sunday, July 25, 2021



## 2020 Olympic Games – Day One Recap, July 25

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### USA Swimming Event Medal Count at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
USA	1	2	3	6

### Team USA Athlete Medal Count at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

Athlete	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Chase Kalisz	1	0	0	1
Jay Litherland	0	1	0	1
Emma Weyant	0	1	0	1
Erika Brown	0	0	1	1
Catie DeLoof*	0	0	1	1
Hali Flickinger	0	0	1	1
Natalie Hinds	0	0	1	1
Simone Manuel	0	0	1	1
Allison Schmitt*	0	0	1	1
Kieran Smith	0	0	1	1
Olivia Smoliga*	0	0	1	1
Abbey Weitzeil	0	0	1	1

\*prelim swim in relay event

### Men's 400m Individual Medley – Final

Gold – Chase Kalisz (Bel Air, Md./Athens Bulldog Swim Club), 4:09.42

Silver – Jay Litherland (Alpharetta, Ga./Dynamo Swim Club), 4:10.28

Bronze – Brendon Smith (AUS), 4:10.38

### Race Notes:

- Kalisz's medal is the first U.S. medal, across all sports, at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020
- Seventh time that two U.S. swimmers have medaled in the men's 400m I.M. at the same Olympiad; last time was 2008 with Michael Phelps' gold and Ryan Lochte's bronze.
- U.S. continues streak of at least one medal in the event at every Olympic Games since 1988.

### Quotes:

**Chase Kalisz:** “(Getting a gold medal) is my lifelong dream, it is what everyone dreams of in this sport. I really kind of do feel like I let the U.S. down in ‘16, even though I swam a lot faster than here, but the USA has a proud legacy in the 400 IM – (Jack) Dolan, (Michael) Phelps, (Ryan) Lochte, and I really felt like I let the U.S. down last time. This was my redemption story. It certainly wasn’t an easy path, it was tough last year with the Olympics kind of getting pulled out from under us and really having so much uncertainty of if it was even going to happen – it was five years of preparation for this one moment. It’s not like I was getting any younger, I was one of the older ones there. I’m thrilled to get that one out of the way, like I said, this is a lifelong dream of mine.

**Jay Litherland:** “To come here and be 1-2 with my teammate, Chase, it feels good.”

**Jay Litherland:** “Jack (Bauerle, who coaches Litherland) has helped me a lot – even in age-group swimming, there was a lot of nights where we had to maintain 100’s stroke, and I think having that last little bit of juice at the end is kind of rooted from an early age.”

### Women’s 100m Butterfly – Semifinal

1. Yufei Zhang (CHN), 55.89

**5. Torri Huske (Arlington, Va./Arlington Aquatic Club), 56.51**

**10. Claire Curzan (Cary, N.C./TAC Titans), 57.42**

### Race Notes:

- Huske will be the 16<sup>th</sup> teenager to represent the U.S. in a women’s Olympic 100m butterfly final
- Huske’s 56.51 is the fourth-fastest time of her career. She has gone sub-:56 on two occasions.
- Curzan is the ninth-youngest swimmer to represent the U.S. in the event on an Olympic stage – the event is the third oldest non-freestyle event in women’s Olympic swimming history.

### Quotes

**Torri Huske** on her swim: “It wasn’t perfect, there are some things I still need to work on. But I’m happy that I made it (to the finals) and that is all that really matters right now.”

**Torri Huske** on her strategy: “I feel like when I try to hold back, I feel like sometimes it kind of backfires. I kind of just go out relaxed, but it always ends up being pretty fast just because of the adrenaline, and then I just try and come back as fast as I can.”

**Torri Huske** on her anticipation for tomorrow’s final: “I think it’s going to be pretty similar to semis, it was nice kind of seeing what it was like today and how they announced the names and stuff, just to get a feel for what it is going to be like, so I’m excited.”

### Men’s 400m Freestyle – Final

Gold – Ahmed Hafnaoui (TUN), 3:43.36

Silver – Jack McLoughlin (AUS), 3:43.52

**Bronze – Kieran Smith (Ridgefield, Conn./University of Florida), 3:43.94**

**8. Jake Mitchell (Carmel, Ind./Carmel Swim Club), 3:45.39**

### Quotes

**Kieran Smith:** “That was a great race. I turned at the 300, I was in a really good spot. I was on the right side of the pool, my race strategy is to go out pretty hard and I feel like the guys next to me did that. I

saw that the middle lanes were coming down the second-to-last 50, and I sprinted my butt off the last 50, like I was a 50 freestyler, and it paid off.”

**Jake Mitchell:** “I’m really grateful for the experience. It was definitely a lot more fun swimming with other people, especially from other countries, and being able to represent the USA is the greatest honor that I can have.”

**Jake Mitchell:** “Obviously I wanted to be a little bit faster, but I told myself going in that I was going to be happy with whatever happened because I was going to give it all I had.”

**Race Notes:**

- Smith’s 3:43.94 is a personal best and the first time he has gone sub-3:44. Smith’s time makes him the fastest American since the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- Smith’s bronze is the first international medal of his career.

**Women’s 400m Individual Medley – Final**

Gold – Yui Ohashi (JPN), 4:32.08

Silver – Emma Weyant (Sarasota, Fla./Sarasota Sharks), 4:32.76

Bronze – Hali Flickinger (Spring Grove, Pa./Sun Devil Swimming), 4:34.90

**Race Notes:**

- Just the second time the U.S. has captured two medals in the event at the same Olympiad. The only other occurrence was in 1964.
- Nineteen-year-old Weyant becomes the third U.S. woman (joining Katie Hoff and Elizabeth Beisel) to medal in the event as a teenager.
- Flickinger earns her first Olympic medal – the veteran has not swum the event internationally since 2015 World University Games.

**Quotes:**

**Emma Weyant:** “Having our teammates behind us in the stands, and obviously seeing Chase and Jay before, Hali and I kind of looked at each other and were like, ‘okay, we can do this now,’ and I think it’s just going to keep getting better throughout the meet.”

**Hali Flickinger:** “After the year we had, we just wanted to bring our country together, and what more of a beautiful stage to do it than the Olympic Games. We know we have our country behind us, it’s a little different, everyone is watching via TV, but we feel the love. We just wanted to stand up and do it for the red, white and blue.”

**Hali Flickinger:** “I’m not particularly the best at breaststroke, so it’s something that I’m aware of and I know my strengths and I know my weaknesses. All I knew is that I had to go on the freestyle, I didn’t realize that Katinka (Hosszu) was beside me, I wasn’t really paying attention to who was beside me, I just swam the hardest I could to make sure that I got my hand on the wall.”

**Men’s 100m Breaststroke – Semifinal**

1. Adam Peaty (Great Britain), 57.63

5. **Michael Andrew (Encinitas, Calif./MA Swim Academy), 58.99**

8. **Andrew Wilson (Bethesda, Md./Athens Bulldog Swim Club), 59.18**

### Race Notes:

- Both U.S. swimmers advance to Sunday night's final. Both will seek their first Olympic medal.

### Women's 4x100m Freestyle Relay – Final

Gold – Australia, 3:29.69

Silver – Canada, 3:32.78

**Bronze – USA, 3:32.81**

**Erika Brown (Modesto, Calif./Tennessee Aquatics)**

**Abbey Weitzeil (Santa Clarita, Calif./California Aquatics)**

**Natalie Hinds (Midland, Texas/Athens Bulldog Swim Club)**

**Simone Manuel (Sugar Land, Texas/Alto Swim Club)**

### Race Notes:

- Olivia Smoliga (Glenview, Ill./Athens Bulldog Swim Club), Catie DeLoof (Grosse Point, Mich./Cavalier Aquatics/Piedmont Family YMCA/NYAC) and Allison Schmitt (Canton, Mich./Sun Devil Swimming) also earn medals via their prelim swims. The medal gives Schmitt her ninth Olympic medal, moving her up to a share of fifth place on the all-time, total-medal leaderboard for female swimmers.
- Abbey Weitzeil's 52.68 split was the fastest of the U.S. relay team, followed by Simone Manuel's 52.96. Only 10 of the 32 swimmers in the final posted splits under :53.
- Australia's 3:29.69 set a new world record.

### Quotes:

**Natalie Hinds:** "We've been preparing for this since we came to camp to get ready for this meet, and I think we're all aware of how well we can do, and we're really invested even if people aren't doing our events. So to see people go on the podium and go on the podium, I think it really trickles down -- in the warm-up pool and everything, everyone has that energy and it just keeps rolling through, so by the time we were about to walk out, we were like, 'we are about to make this podium,' so it was really cool."

**Simone Manuel:** "After Trials, it was really difficult not making it in the individual 100 freestyle, but I'm grateful to be on this (relay) team and to end up making it in the 50 freestyle, and so I took some time to acknowledge my emotions and get back to work. During the training process, I still did some 100 work just to kind of take some break from 50 work just to keep training interesting. I saw improvements, I think the coaching staff saw improvements over the weeks, and after last night, I was told I was going to be on the relay. I'm happy to be with these three women."

**Simone Manuel:** "I'm always excited and pumped for relays, it's always different when you go behind the blocks and there is three other people there right with you instead of just going up there alone or having a teammate a couple lanes over or the lane next to you. It's an experience that is amazing, I don't take it lightly, and so, just to be put on a relay, I knew that I wanted to put my best foot forward. These three women had great splits and had great races and I knew that when I dove in, I had to give it everything I had and that's exactly what I did."

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