Team AT&T
2008 U.S. Olympic Team Hopefuls
Finishing fifth, Michael Phelps made headlines at the 2000 Olympic Games for being the youngest swimmer in 68 years to compete for the U.S. Olympic team. At the end of the year he was ranked as the seventh best swimmer in the world for the 200-meter butterfly. Phelps set a world record for the same event at the Phillips 66 National Championship in 2001, bringing home the gold medal for the 100M butterfly and breaking his own record that year at the World Championship. Just two years later, Phelps became the first swimmer ever to set five world records during one meet. “Michael Phelps” turned into a household name when he became the FIRST AMERICAN TO WIN EIGHT MEDALS (6 GOLD, 2 BRONZE) AT THE 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES.

He joined his childhood hero, Mark Spitz, as one of the only swimmers to ever win four individual events at a single Olympic Games. Phelps anticipates breaking even more records at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Natalie Coughlin was the first woman in history to swim the 100m backstroke in under one minute. In 2007, she shattered her own World Record in the event and also became the first woman to break the 54-second barrier in the 100m freestyle. At the 2002 Summer Nationals, Natalie became the first swimmer in 24 years to win five national titles at one event. At the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, Natalie won five medals - two gold, two silver and two bronze, leaving the Games as the most decorated female athlete and BECOMING ONE OF ONLY FIVE USA WOMEN TO WIN FIVE MEDALS IN ONE OLYMPIC GAMES.

Misty May-Treanor is one of the few top-ranking volleyball players in the world with five gold medals in beach volleyball from the World Championships. At the 2000 Olympic Games, she partnered with Holly McPeak and finished fifth in the beach volleyball competition. In 2004, MAY-TREANOR JOINED FORCES WITH KERRI WALSH AND WON THE GOLD MEDAL IN BEACH VOLLEYBALL and is looking to earn another at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Nastia Liukin has won the most World Championship medals of any female U.S. gymnast in history (9). Thought of as the most graceful performer in the World, Nastia is trying to follow in her father's (Valeri Liukin) footsteps and win an Olympic Gold Medal. IN SEPTEMBER, 2007 IN STUTTGART GERMANY AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, NASTIA THRILLED THE CROWD WITH TWO (2) GOLDS AND ONE (1) SILVER MEDAL. Training in Plano, Texas at the WOGA Gym owned by her parents, Nastia is focused on perfecting her routines and exciting a new generation of sports fans from around the World.

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Steven Lopez is the most decorated athlete in taekwondo history. Lopez has won two consecutive Olympic gold medals (2000 and 2004) for the USA and four consecutive World Championships (2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007). **LOPEZ HAS NOT LOST A MATCH SINCE 2001.** He is looking for his third consecutive gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in Beijing and will be coached by older brother Jean.

Diana Lopez is, along with her three older brothers, Steven, Mark and Jean has Taekwondo in her “blood.” **THE LOPEZ FAMILY WERE THE FIRST THREE SIBLINGS IN ANY SPORT TO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES**, which they did at the 2005 World Taekwondo Championships in Madrid, Spain. After the Olympics, Diana plans to finish her degree in elementary education and become a kindergarten teacher.

Mark Lopez, the youngest U.S. male ever to medal at a World Taekwondo Championships (1999), has medaled in three World Championships (2005, 2003 and 1999). His gold medal performance at the 2005 World Championships cemented his family in sports history, as his brother, Steven and sister, Diana also captured world titles at the same event, making them the first trio of siblings to win world championships in the same sport in the same year. He also won silver at the 2003 World Taekwondo Championships and bronze at the 1999 World Taekwondo Championships **BECOMING THE YOUNGEST MALE EVER TO MEDAL AT THE EVENT AT 17 YEARS OF AGE.**

Jean Lopez was the first in the family to get involved in Taekwondo after his father, Julio enrolled him in a local taekwondo school. Jean, mentor and coach for his younger brothers and sister, has gained recognition and notoriety as the coach of the dynamic Lopez family. Known for his ability to coach athletes to medal performances at major international events, Jean got his start as internationally elite level competitor winning a silver medal at the 1995 World Championships. **JEAN COACHED HIS SIBLINGS TO A HISTORIC THREE-PEAT GOLD MEDAL PERFORMANCE AT THE 2005 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS,** marking the first time for three siblings ever to have a world title in the same year.

Donny Robinson turned pro in 2002 and has since become one of the world’s most talented, consistent BMX racers. In 2006, winning 20 races, Donny dominated the BMX Racing season and claimed the NBL #1 Elite Men’s Title, the UCI Supercross World #1 Title and the Transworld NORA Cup Racer of the Year Title. At the inaugural U.S. National Championships of BMX in 2007, Donny seized victory then went on to win the Olympic Test Event which took place on the actual Olympic track in Beijing. Donny is a front-runner to not only make the 2008 Olympic Team but also **TO WIN THE FIRST EVER BMX OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL AT THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES.**

Troy Dumais participated in his first Olympic Games in 2000 where he finished fourth in diving, and went on to earn a sixth-place finish in 2004. **A 22-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPION AND TWO-TIME OLYMPIC DIVER,** Dumais is all set to make a major splash at the 2008 Olympic Games.

David Durante is considered one of America’s most successful male gymnasts. He won the All-Around competition at both the 2005 & 2006 Winter Cup Challenge and added to his extensive list of achievements by **WINNING THE ALL-AROUND AND PARALLEL BARS AT THE 2007 VISA CHAMPIONSHIPS.** A graduate of Stanford University, David is a natural leader and he’s focused on helping the U.S. team become a dominant international force. With a tremendous amount of momentum, David is well-positioned to win a gold medal at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Kara Lynn Joyce broke the American record for the 50-meter freestyle in the preliminaries at the 2003 NCAA Championship and finished in first place. At the Pan-American Games in the same year, she broke another meet record in the 50M and won a gold medal. **JOYCE WON A SILVER MEDAL IN THE 400M FREESTYLE AND THE 400M MEDLEY RELAY AT THE ATHENS 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES** and hopes to continue her success in 2008.
Casey Tibbs

Casey Tibbs remained in the U.S. Navy when he became THE FIRST ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL TO COMPETE IN THE PARALYMPIC GAMES after losing his leg in a 2001 motorcycle accident. In addition to winning a silver medal in the pentathlon, Tibbs was part of the gold medal-winning 4x100-meter relay team at the 2004 Paralympic Games. In the 2006 International Paralympic Committee Athletics World Championships, Tibbs took the gold in the pentathlon and the silver medal in the long jump.

Cheryl Angelelli-Kornoelje

Cheryl Angelelli-Kornoelje was paralyzed from the neck down at the age of 14 after plunging headfirst into a swimming pool. After a long rehabilitation, she won two bronze medals in the 200M freestyle and the 4 x 50 meter women’s freestyle relay at the 2004 Paralympic Games. Angelelli-Kornoelje took two gold medals in the 100M and 200M freestyle along with a silver medal in the 50M freestyle at the 2006 International Paralympic Committee’s World Championships. ANGELELLI IS RANKED NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD IN THE 200M FREESTYLE and is hoping to continue her success at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.

April Holmes

April Holmes’ life changed in 2001 when she lost her leg in a severe train accident. Because of her training and determination, Holmes is now one of the fastest runners in the world. She began competing as a Paralympian in 2002 and is CURRENTLY THE WORLD RECORD HOLDER IN THE 100M, 200M AND 400M DASH. Holmes won a bronze medal in the long jump competition at the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games, and is looking to once again conquer the competition in 2008.

Marlon Shirley

Marlon Shirley was a five year old boy living in a Nevada children’s home when he lost his foot in a devastating accident. Now he is shattering records and transforming what it means to be disabled. SHIRLEY RAN THE 100-METER DASH IN UNDER 11 SECONDS, BECOMING THE WORLD’S FASTEST AMPUTEE. A 10-time World and Olympic Champion, Shirley holds records in the long jump and 200 meter dash.

Allison Ahlfeldt

Allison Ahlfeldt was born with an undeveloped thighbone in her right leg. She endured a number of surgeries to allow for movement of her prosthesis without a mechanical knee. IN 1997, AHLFELDT WAS ASKED TO JOIN THE U.S. MEN’S PARALYMPIC TEAM AS ITS ONLY FEMALE MEMBER. Prior to the 2000 Paralympic Games, the World Organization of Volleyball tried to remove Ahlfeldt from the U.S. team because of her gender. Ahlfeldt, along with USA Volleyball and the USOC, spent the next four years cutting through the red tape to form a women’s Paralympic program that would compete in the 2004 Paralympic Games, winning a bronze medal and shocking the world, they made the U.S. proud.

Mary Lou Retton

Mary Lou Retton is known as one of the greatest American gymnasts of all time, being the FIRST TO WIN THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE ALL-AROUND COMPETITION AT THE 1984 OLYMPIC GAMES. There Retton also won five medals and was named Amateur Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press. She was inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame the following year. Retton’s 1984 performance will always be remembered.

Gymnastics

Mary Lou Retton
houston, texas

Track & Field

Marlon Shirley
chula vista, california

Track & Field

Chula Vista, California

Swimming

Allison Ahlfeldt
manhattan beach, ca

Sit Volleyball

April Holmes
chula vista, california

Track & Field

Chula Vista, California

Mary Lou Retton
houston, texas

Mary Lou Retton

Track & Field

Chula Vista, California

Swimming

Mary Lou Retton

Gymnastics