

Asian Americans going for the gold in...



Badminton

synchronized swimming

shooting

wrestling

synchronized swimming

Badminton

judo



**LOVIEANNE JUNG**  
SOFTBALL  
Birthplace: Honolulu, Hawai'i  
Age: 28  
Ethnicity: Chinese, Lithuanian, Filipino, Spanish, Hawaiian  
Position: Second base

**MESINEE "MAY" MANCKALAKIRI**  
BADMINTON  
Birthplace: Los Alamitos, Calif.  
Age: 25  
Ethnicity: Thai  
Event: Women's doubles

**EVA LEE**  
BADMINTON  
Birthplace: Hong Kong  
Age: 22  
Ethnicity: Chinese  
Event: Women's singles, doubles

**HOWARD BACH**  
BADMINTON  
Birthplace: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
Age: 29  
Ethnicity: Vietnamese-Birthplace Chinese  
Event: Men's Doubles

**LOGAN TOM**  
WOMEN'S INDOOR VOLLEYBALL  
Birthplace: Napa, Calif.  
Age: 27  
Ethnicity: Hapa Chinese Hawaiian  
Position: Outside hitter

**ROBYN AH MOW-SANTOS**  
WOMEN'S INDOOR VOLLEYBALL  
Birthplace: Honolulu, Hawai'i  
Age: 32  
Ethnicity: Chinese Hawaiian  
Position: Setter

**LINDSEY BERG**  
WOMEN'S INDOOR VOLLEYBALL  
Birthplace: Honolulu, Hawai'i  
Age: 28  
Ethnicity: Hapa  
Position: Setter

**WANG CHEN**  
TABLE TENNIS  
Birthplace: Beijing, China  
Age: 34  
Ethnicity: Chinese  
Event: Women's singles, team

**DAVID ZHUANG**  
TABLE TENNIS  
Birthplace: Guangdong, China  
Age: 44  
Ethnicity: Chinese  
Event: Men's singles

**CRYSTAL HUANG**  
TABLE TENNIS  
Birthplace: Changsha, Hunan, China  
Age: 29  
Ethnicity: Chinese  
Event: Women's singles, women's team

**KEVIN TAN**  
GYMNASTICS  
Birthplace: Fremont, Calif.  
Age: 27  
Ethnicity: Chinese  
Event: Men's gymnastics

**CAO JUN**  
TABLE TENNIS  
Birthplace: Hebei, China  
Age: 39  
Ethnicity: Chinese  
Event: Women's singles, team

**NATALIE COUGHLIN**  
SWIMMING  
Birthplace: Emeryville, Calif.  
Age: 25  
Ethnicity: Hapa Filipino  
Event: 100m backstroke, 100m freestyle, 200m individual medley, 4x100m freestyle relay, 4x200m freestyle relay, 4x100m medley relay

**NATHAN ADRIAN**  
SWIMMING  
Birthplace: Bremerton, Wash.  
Age: 19  
Ethnicity: Hapa Chinese  
Event: 4x100m free relay

**NATASHA KAI**  
SOCCER  
Birthplace: Kahuku, Hawai'i  
Age: 25  
Ethnicity: Hawaiian, Chinese, Filipino, Caucasian  
Position: Forward

**TAYLOR TAKATA**  
JUDO  
Birthplace: Honolulu, Hawai'i  
Age: 26  
Ethnicity: Japanese  
Event: 66 kg Judo

**KAYLA BASHORE**  
FIELD HOCKEY  
Birthplace: Daegu, South Korea  
Age: 25  
Ethnicity: Korean  
Position: Midfield/back

**AMY TRAN**  
FIELD HOCKEY  
Birthplace: Harrisburg, Pa.  
Age: 27  
Ethnicity: Hapa Vietnamese  
Position: Goalkeeper

**EMILY CROSS**  
FENCING  
Birthplace: Seattle, Wash.  
Age: 21  
Ethnicity: Hapa Korean  
Event: Individual, team foil

**HALEY ISHIMATSU**  
DIVING  
Birthplace: Bellflower, Calif.  
Age: 15  
Ethnicity: Japanese  
Events: 10m platform, 10m synchronized

**BRYAN CLAY**  
TRACK AND FIELD  
Birthplace: Austin, Texas  
Age: 28  
Ethnicity: Japanese and African American  
Event: Decathlon

BY BELEZA CHAN, LEILA KANG, STEFFI LAU, MIRIAM LING, VICKI MAC, IVAN NATIVIDAD, MICHELLE-LINH THUY NGUYEN AND NANCY WENG

**RAJU RAI**  
BADMINTON  
BIRTHPLACE: ATLANTA, GA.  
AGE: 25  
ETHNICITY: INDIAN  
EVENT: MEN'S SINGLES

How did you get started in badminton?  
My father is from India, where badminton originated. It was a passion of his, and I used to tag along. I fell in love with it.

Has being an Indian American played a role in your success?  
In the Indian heritage, people are very loyal and respectful. Many Indians had to work extremely hard to be where they are today. That shows in my matches, like the sportsmanship, pride and respect I have for my opponents.

Why do you think Badminton is not so popular in America?  
We don't have enough sponsors, coaches or facilities where we can teach the sport. If we could get more money, we could expand its popularity to states other than California.

**ANNABELLE ORME**  
SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING  
BIRTHPLACE: NEW YORK, N.Y.  
AGE: 21  
ETHNICITY: HAPA CHINESE  
EVENT: TEAM

What is your favorite thing about synchronized swimming?  
It mixes a lot of different sports into one, like dance, gymnastics and swimming. I did ballet, tap and gymnastics as a child, so it's the perfect sport for me.

You were injured with back problems for a couple of months last year. What was the hardest part of that?  
The worst thing was not feeling part of the team — sitting on the sidelines, watching the team and knowing that I could not practice. But my teammates were very supportive. I am still performing with a cracked rib.

What is the weirdest thing that has happened to you in competition?  
In an exhibition in San Diego, Calif., my suit, which has a strap on the side, fell, so I had to do the entire routine with my hand over my chest holding the suit up.

**SANDRA FONG**  
SHOOTING  
BIRTHPLACE: NEW YORK, N.Y.  
AGE: 18  
ETHNICITY: HAPA CHINESE  
EVENT: 50M RIFLE THREE POSITION

Your sister Abigail competed in the trials but didn't qualify. What was it like competing with her to make it to the Olympics?  
We really can't think of each other as family on the range. As much as I love Abby, on the range, we're just competitors. She was happy for me, but was obviously very disappointed she didn't make the team.

Your sister Danielle is going to Beijing for the Paralympics in September. What's it like to both be going?  
I'm so proud of her because she's worked so hard to get where she is. When she was born, they told her she wouldn't be able to walk, and she does; that she wouldn't be able to talk, and she does; that she wouldn't be able to go to a normal school, and she does.

Can you speak Chinese?  
Only a little bit of Cantonese. It's enough to talk a little bit with my grandparents and order lots of dim sum.

**CLARISSA CHUN**  
WRESTLING  
BIRTHPLACE: HONOLULU, HAWAII  
AGE: 26  
ETHNICITY: JAPANESE AND CHINESE  
EVENT: WOMEN'S FREESTYLE WRESTLING — 48KG / 105 LBS

Did you wrestle with boys in high school?  
Yes — I was one of two girls on the team. I like wrestling with guys and am still wrestling with them to train for Olympics. It's a different feeling than wrestling girls; boys seem to work and fight harder. If anything, it might make boys more uncomfortable wrestling with girls because the boys are like, "I don't want to touch her boob!"

You trained at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs from 2002 until last year. How was that?  
At first, it was new and exciting, but then I got stagnant there. It was hard to be training in the same room with the same people I would be competing against.

What do you plan to do after the Olympics?  
I haven't decided wrestling-wise, but I've made plans to teach English in Japan in September for a couple of years.

**BECKY KIM**  
SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING  
BIRTHPLACE: REDWOOD CITY, CALIF.  
AGE: 23  
ETHNICITY: KOREAN  
EVENT: TEAM

What do the Olympics mean to you?  
It's a dream. I've learned so much and grown so much as a person being in the sport. Being raised in a Korean family and having teammates in the American culture, I experienced two families. It taught me to be very open and accept everyone for who they are — every shape, size, culture, background.

What's next for you after the Games?  
I'm planning to enroll again in Ohio State University and finish one more year of school. I want to get into nutrition and health to help people be healthy and happy in a natural way.

Have you had the opportunity to touch someone's life as a role model?  
I find that a lot of Asian American girls come up to me and tell me "I love you, you're my hero."

**KHAN "BOB" MALAYTHONG**  
BADMINTON  
BIRTHPLACE: VIENTIANE, LAOS  
AGE: 27  
ETHNICITY: LAOTIAN  
EVENT: MEN'S DOUBLES

What was it like growing up in Laos?  
It was rough. We didn't have much; I didn't even have shoes. I only had one piece of underwear. I used to eat sticky rice and salt for a meal. We had one piece of meat and that was it. I was malnourished, really skinny but had a big belly. But I was happy. As a little kid you don't think that there is a better place.

What was the biggest culture shock when you moved to the United States?  
I threw up when I had pizza for the first time because it had cheese in it. But now I love cheese!

What is it like to play for America and for Laos at the same time?  
I have pride in both countries, and I will represent both, but most of all America for giving me the opportunity to be in the Olympics. At Laos, I would never be playing badminton at the professional level because kids in Laos don't have this kind of opportunity.

**SAYAKA MATSUMOTO**  
JUDO  
BIRTHPLACE: OMIYA, JAPAN  
AGE: 25  
ETHNICITY: JAPANESE  
EVENT: 48 KG JUDO

You teach at the East Bay Judo Institute. Are there any rules you make sure to teach your students?  
We try to teach the philosophy of judo. It's not just a sport where you try to beat people up and win. It instills self-confidence and teaches you to be humble and have manners, integrity and respect for others.

Have you faced any stigma being a female in this sport?  
Some people crack jokes like, "Oh, it's just women's judo..." But I don't take it personally.

Do you hear a lot of "Asian Martial Arts" cracks?  
I do get a lot of misconceptions of what judo is, like the "judo chop." There's no chopping in judo; it's throwing and chokeholds.