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Five Former Louisiana High School Athletes Set to Compete in 2024 Paris Olympics

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) proudly celebrates the achievements of five former high school athletes who have qualified to compete in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. Representing a diverse range of sports, these athletes have risen to the pinnacle of international competition to represent their country.

Kristen Nuss is a beach volleyball star from New Orleans who has continued to excel in the sport after her days at LSU where she became a first-team All-American. Her partnership with partner Taryn Kloth has been formidable, and their qualification for the Olympics underscores their dominance in the sport. The duo is ranked No. 2 by the FIVB and is the top ranked pair representing the USA. Nuss is a 3-time volleyball state champion from Mount Carmel Academy who was named LHSAA Division I MVP and Gatorade Player of the Year candidate for indoor.

Beach volleyball at the 2024 Olympic Games will be held at Eiffel Tower Stadium, a temporary outdoor arena at the base of the Eiffel Tower. The women's Olympic beach volleyball competition kicks off July 27 and runs through August 9. A Team USA Pair has medaled in five consecutive Olympics, including four gold medals.

Aliaksei Shostak punched a ticket to his second Games for the United States after winning the individual trampoline competition at the USA Gymnastics Championships. It was a dramatic finish, with Shostak scoring a season-high 58.860 on his final routine to jump from third to first in the rankings. Shostak finished 13th in qualifications in Tokyo. The Trampoline competition will take place on August 2nd starting at 11:00 a.m.

Shostak is a 2013 graduate of Lafayette high school who was born into the world of gymnastics with two parents that are currently gymnastics coaches in Mandeville, La. His father, Aliaksandr Shostak, is a two-time Olympic champion for Belarus. Aliaksandr represented his birth country at the 1996 and 2000 Olympics. Aliaksei Shostak's mother is Alena Shostak who helped build a trampoline program in their gym in Mandeville.

Aleia Hobbs is a sprinter from New Orleans who is no stranger to Olympic competition. Hobbs earned a silver medal in Tokyo 2020 for the women's 4x100 relay. Hobbs is a former LSU standout who is a 6-time All-American that has won three national championships in the 60 meters, 100 meters, and the 4x1 relay.

Hobbs is a 2014 graduate of Eleanor McMain High School where she was a 13x state champion across indoor and outdoor track and field state championships. The sprinter is regarded as one of the most decorated and dominant track athletes in the state of Louisiana.

Vernon Norwood, is another talented track and field athlete from Louisiana who brought home two gold medals from the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Norwood was a part of the USA men's team

that took home a gold medal in the 4x400 relay. He was also a member of the mixed 4x400 relay team that earned a bronze medal.

Norwood grew his skills at LSU where was a 4-time NCAA Champion and an 8-time All-American after only competing for two years with the Tigers. Norwood spent his first two seasons of collegiate track at South Plains College. Norwood graduated from Morgan City High School where he was a varsity basketball player for four years. He picked up track and field in his junior year of high school.

Both Hobbs and Norwood will compete in the Track and Field events beginning August 1st and running until August 11th.

Mondo Duplantis, native of Lafayette, has revolutionized pole vaulting with his remarkable talent and achievements. At just 24-years old Duplantis has reached the top spot in the world men's pole vault rankings. Duplantis competed in his first Olympic games in 2020 where he brought home a gold medal from Tokyo.

Duplantis attended LSU for just one year before advancing to professional competition. With the Tigers he was a 2019 Indoor National Champion and a collegiate record holder. Duplantis has now broken the pole vault world record eight times, most recently in April 2024. Duplantis is a 2018 graduate of Lafayette High School where he was highly recognized. Duplantis is a 7-time LHSAA State Champion that was named the Gatorade Track and Field Athlete of the Year in 2017 and 2018.

"These athletes embody the spirit of Louisiana high school athletics excellence," said Eddie Bonine, LHSAA Executive Director. "Their qualification for the Summer Olympics is a source of immense pride for our state, and we look forward to cheering them on as they compete on the world stage."

The opening ceremony begins on July 26 at 12:30 p.m. CT (7:30 p.m. in Paris) and is expected to last a little over four hours. The traveling ceremony will work its way from east to west, ending with a final show at the Trocadéro.

NBC, which has a lock on Olympics coverage, will kick things off with a preview show starting at 11:00 CT. It will broadcast the entire ceremony live on TV and stream it via Peacock, NBCOlympics.com, NBC.com and the NBC/NBC Sports apps. Their opening ceremony coverage will be hosted by Kelly Clarkson, Mike Tirico, and Louisiana High School Hall of Famer, Peyton Manning.