

## NAVY/ MARINE CORPS NEWS

Naval Media Center FSD San Diego

STORY: Navy Olympian Steve Mays

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BY: JOC Bill Johnson-Miles

RT:

ANCHOR LEAD-IN:

In May we told you about some Marine Corps and Navy Greco-Roman wrestlers who had a shot at making the Olympic Team.

ANCHOR TWO:

And one of them did... a Navy Sailor attached to USS John F. Kennedy. Chief Petty Officer Bill Johnson-Miles, of our San Diego detachment, tells us all about our very own Navy Olympian.

Mays running with shots of wrestling interspersed

(Music and Natsound opening)

NARRATION:

PETTY OFFICER STEVE MAYS DREAMED OF MAKING THE U-S OLYMPIC TEAM, AND NOW HE'S HERE AT THE OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER IN COLORADO SPRINGS, GETTING READY TO COMPETE IN SYDNEY.

ABE1 Steve Mays  
U.S. Olympic Team Member,  
Greco-Roman Wrestling  
USS John F. Kennedy  
Hometown: Kalamazoo, MI  
Tape 1, 25:59, 26:108

"Whenever your dreams come true, words can't describe how good you feel. It's an inner feeling that can't be described by words... (AE) ...I'm just elated that... (AE) ... I achieved my goal and the Navy allowing me to have the time to do that."

NARRATION:

IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD SINCE HE STARTED WRESTLING FOR THE NAVY 13 YEARS AGO. HE'S HAD TO OVERCOME INJURIES INCLUDING SURGERIES ON HIS KNEE, ELBOW AND WRIST. AND HE'S HAD HEARTBREAKS, LIKE BARELY MISSING THE CUT FOR THE '96 OLYMPIC TEAM.

Video from 1995

Mays, Tape 1, 26:32

“Life is full of struggles, ups and downs, and I never was going to give up. I knew, as long as I kept pressing, I kept pressing, I was going to win that race... (AE) ...I had the Lord behind me, I had the Navy supporting me, I have a great wife and family at home... all those things coming together, I knew all I had to do was stand fast, and... (AE) ...I would do it.”

NARRATION:

MAYS DID IT BY FIRST WINNING THE OLYMPIC TRIALS TOURNAMENT, AND THEN BY BEATING THE NATIONAL CHAMPION TWICE DURING THE OLYMPIC TEAM WRESTLE-OFF.

Natsound Break

(Natsound Break)

NARRATION:

BRANDON POULSON WAS A SILVER MEDALIST IN ATLANTA AND HAD BEATEN MAYS AT NATIONALS IN APRIL, BUT MAYS TOOK THE FIRST MATCH THREE TO ZERO. AND HE GOT OFF TO A GOOD START IN THE SECOND MATCH...

PAX Television  
Voice of Jeff Blatnik, PAX Sports

“Steven Mays here gets Brandon Poulson up, and then body lifts him over to get on the board first. And then he would follow it up again with this reversal of Brandon Poulson and he would actually score two points on that because he got back exposure and Steven Mays is on his way to Sydney.”

Courtesy of PAX TV

Mays, Tape 1, 27:34

“I knew once I achieved this goal of making the Olympic team, the very first person that I wanted to hug and say thank you to was going to be my wife because... (AE) ...she’s the biggest fan, she’s the biggest supporter of Steve Mays.”

Slow-Mo of Mays and wife at Trials

Melanie Mays  
Steve Mays’ wife  
Nationals Tape 11, 42:28

“I’m very proud of my husband. He’s a wonderful husband, a great father, and a super athlete.”

NARRATION:

IT'S TAKEN A LOT OF HARD TRAINING TO BECOME THAT SUPER ATHLETE.

Mays, Tape 2, 2:06, 2:48, 3:11

"It's very grueling. It's six, seven days a week. It's twice a day, two hours per practice, so that's four hours a day of just training itself. And then... (AE) ...if it's closer to competition, you'll have a third workout so you could possibly train three times a day, six times a week... (AE) ...My favorite move, the lift, I have to do that 50 times a day, throwing a guy live, not dummies... (AE) ...It's very, very grueling."

NARRATION:

AND THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNING...

NATSOUND BREAK

(feet hitting the pavement)

NARRATION:

OR THE LONG HOURS PUMPING IRON IN THE WEIGHT ROOM...

NATSOUND BREAK

(weights being dropped to the deck)

NARRATION:

BUT WHAT PUT THIS 34-YEAR-OLD OVER THE TOP WAS WORKING OUT WITH DENNIS HALL, A 1996 OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALIST AND 1995 WORLD CHAMPION.

NATSOUND BREAK, Mays:

"I'm getting some expertise help."

NARRATION:

HALL TELLS WHAT HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO DURING THEIR FIRST PRACTICE, AFTER THEY HAD BEEN WRESTLING QUITE A WHILE.

Dennis Hall  
1996 Olympic Silver Medallist,  
1995 World Champion,  
Greco-Roman Wrestling, 58 KG  
Tape 4, 24:10

“He said I’m done, you know, we were wrestling hard and he goes ‘I’m done,’ you know, ‘let me have a break.’ I go ‘no, that’s the reason you’re number two or number three in the United States.’ I go, ‘until you learn how to push through that fatigue, you’re going to be number two or three.’ So he got back in my face, and then after that it was a slow and gradual process, but... (AE) ...that’s what made him what he is today. I mean through his hard work, you know. He wasn’t afraid to look adversity in the face and say here I am.”

NARRATION:

BUT WILL ALL THIS HELP HIM EARN A MEDAL IN SYDNEY?

Don Chandler  
Head Olympic Coach  
U.S. Greco-Roman Wrestling Team

“He, you know, he’s got a tough weight, but if he wrestles up to his ability, he can wrestle with anybody in the world. The competition is so tough. There are literally 20 wrestlers in each weight class, and out of those 20 there are probably 10 guys that could win the weight class. I’d say Steve’s right in there. We know technically he beat the silver medallist from the last Olympics, so he’s a contender.”

Mays, Tape 2, 7:42, 7:16

“I’m not going over to be second or third. I want to win the gold medal... (AE) ...I’m very proud to serve my country. I’m in the Navy, I defend the country. So of course I can go over and give my best... as an athlete.”

NARRATION:

TWO YEARS AGO THESE OLYMPIC RINGS WERE ONLY A DREAM, BUT NOW, MAYS HAS A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

Mays, Tape 4, 19:20

“Well, now the rings are a part of me. Before I was stretching out, striving to get to those rings. Now those rings and my self have united. I am an Olympian. Those rings represent me, Steven Mays, 2000 Olympian.”

NARRATION:

FROM THE OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER IN COLORADO SPRINGS, I'M CHIEF PETTY OFFICER BILL JOHNSON-MILES, NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS.

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