

HISTORY

MICHIGAN AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES

1900 Olympic Games: Paris

No organized U.S. team, rather, a number of universities sponsored squads. Considered the favorite to win the pole vault, Charles Dvorak missed the final after being incorrectly told it had been rescheduled. In response to heavy American protest, a special competition was held, allowing Dvorak to claim the silver medal. Future U-M coach Alvin Kraenzlein, largely considered the father of the modern hurdling technique, was the star of the 1900 Games, winning four individual gold medals over three days, the only track athlete to accomplish the feat.

John McLean (USA)

- 110m High Hurdles SILVER (15.6)
- Standing Long Jump Did not compete in finals
- 800 meters 3rd in fastest heat
- Low Hurdles 3rd in fastest heat
- Long Jump 6th (21-10)
- Long Jump SILVER, 'handicap' event
- Standing Triple Jump 6th
- Triple Jump 8th

Charles Dvorak (USA)

- Pole Vault SILVER, special event

Howard Hayes (USA)

- 800 meters SILVER, 'handicap' event

Clark Leiblee (USA)

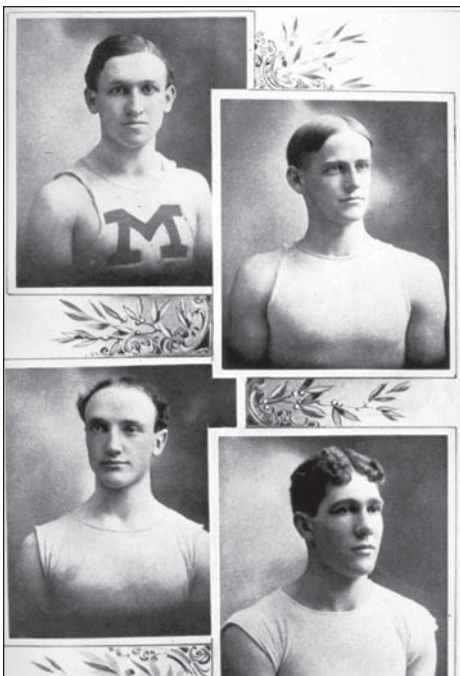
- 100 meters Semifinalist/DNP

Alvin Kraenzlein (USA)

- 60 meters GOLD (7.0*)
- 110m hurdles GOLD (15.4^)
- 200m hurdles GOLD (25.4)
- Long Jump GOLD (23-6 4/3^)

1904 Olympic Games: St. Louis

Many U.S. track and field athletes represented municipal athletic clubs rather than universities. Archie Hahn, for example, competed for his hometown Milwaukee Athletic Club, hence



Michigan's 1904 Olympians (clockwise, from top left: Howard Hayes, Charles Dvorak, John McLean, Clark Leiblee.)

his nickname, "The Milwaukee Meteor." Five Wolverine representatives combined for six gold, two silvers and one bronze medal. The University of Michigan finished 1-2 in the shot put behind the performances of Ralph Rose and William Coe.

Archie Hahn (USA)

- 60 meters GOLD (7.2*)
- 100 meters GOLD (11.2)
- 200 meters GOLD (21.6^)

Charles Dvorak (USA)

- Pole Vault GOLD (11-5 3/4)

Ralph Rose (USA)

- Shot Put GOLD (48-7*)
- Discus SILVER (tied for first with 128-10 1/2, lost in throw-off)
- Hammer Throw BRONZE (150-0)
- 56-lb. Throw 6th (28-0)
- Tug-of-War DNP

Fred Schule (USA)

- 110m High Hurdles GOLD (16.0)
- 200m Low Hurdles 5th (N/A)

William Coe (USA)

- Shot Put SILVER (47-3)

1906 Olympic Games: Athens

The United States' first organized Olympic team as selected by Olympic Committee. The only intercalated games held, the 1906 Athens Games are now considered unofficial by the International Olympic Committee. Archie Hahn claimed his fourth gold medal in the sprints, and likely could have won more, but no 60- or 200-meter dashes were contested.

Archie Hahn (USA)

- 100 meters GOLD (11.2)

1908 Olympic Games: London

Ralph Rose is credited with beginning an American Olympic tradition at the 1908 London Games when, as he marched the U.S. flag past the royal reviewing stand, he did not dip the flag at protocol required. For years, the U.S. flag bearer followed the precedent set by Rose.

Ralph Rose (USA)

- Shot Put GOLD (46-7 1/2)
- Discus DNP
- Tug-of-War DNP

John Garrells (USA)

- Shot Put BRONZE (43-3)
- 110m High Hurdles SILVER (15.7)
- Discus DNP

Gayle Dull (USA)

- 3-mile team U.S. SILVER (Dull placed 10th overall and did not contribute to U.S. team score)
- 3,000m Steeplechase Semifinalist/DNP

William Coe (USA)

- Shot Put 4th (42-10 1/2)
- Tug-of-War DNP

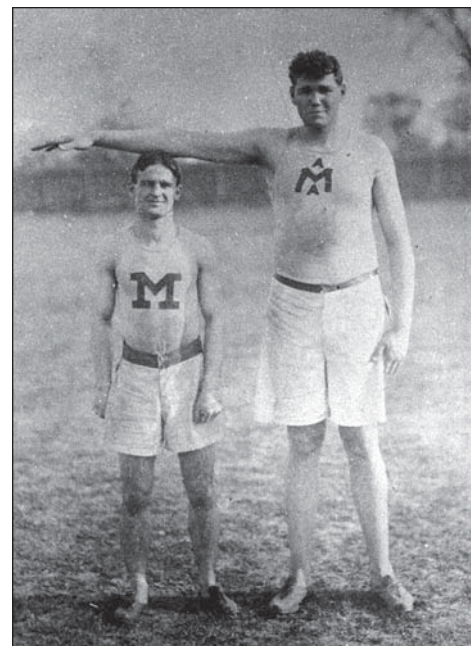
Harry L. Coe (USA)

- 800 meters DNP
- 1,500 meters DNP
- 400m hurdles Semifinalist/DNP

Horace Ramey (USA)

- 400 meters DNP
- 800 meters DNP

1912 Olympic Games: Stockholm



Former Wolverines Archie Hahn and Ralph Rose were Olympic teammates in 1904.

Ralph Rose claimed his third gold medal -- winning the left and right-handed combined shot put on the only occasion it was contested. Ralph Craig continued U-M's dominance in the sprints, claiming double gold in the 100m and 200m. By one account there were eight false starts in the 100-meter final, three by Craig. In one of them, Craig and another sprinter ran the entire distance. Apparently that was just a good warm-up for Craig. When there finally was a clean start, he won the race by two yards.

Ralph Craig (USA)

- 100 meters GOLD (10.4)
- 200 meters GOLD (21.7)

Ralph Rose (USA)

- Shot Put SILVER (50-5)
- Shot Put (combined) GOLD (90-10 1/2)
- Hammer Throw 9th (139-8.35)
- Discus 11th (130-1)

Carroll Haff (USA)

- 400 meters 5th (49.5)

1920 Olympic Games: Antwerp

R. Jerome Dunne, a three sport U-M letterman, made the U.S. team as a reserve in the pentathlon but did not compete in Antwerp.

Carl Johnson (USA)

- Long Jump SILVER (23-3 1/2)

R. Jerome Dunne (USA)

- Pentathlon Did not compete

1924 Olympic Games: Paris

William DeHart Hubbard became the first African-American athlete to win an individual gold medal; and for the first time, a U-M athlete represented a foreign country as Buck Hester competed in the sprint events for Canada.

MICHIGAN AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES

William DeHart Hubbard (USA)

- Long Jump GOLD (24-5)
- Triple Jump DNP

James Brooker (USA)

- Pole Vault BRONZE (12-9 1/2)

Buck Hester (Canada)

- 100 meters Semifinalist/DNP
- 200 meters Semifinalist/DNP
- 4x100m relay DNP

1928 Olympic Games: Amsterdam

U-M graduate student Ken Doherty, who would later coach the men's track team to seven Big Ten titles from 1940-1948, earned a bronze medal in the decathlon, finishing just 346 points behind the winner. Canadian sprinter George Hester participated in three events but was plagued by ill-luck. He placed second in his qualifying heat in the 100 meter dash but did not advance to the semifinals. In the 200m he again finished second in his heat but was disqualified for running out of his lane. The Canadian 4x100m relay advanced to the final and had a chance to medal but was disqualified after dropping the baton on the last exchange.

William DeHart Hubbard (USA)

- Long Jump 11th (23-4)

Buck Hester (Canada)

- 100 meters DNP
- 200 meters DNP
- 4x100m relay DQ

Ken Doherty (USA)

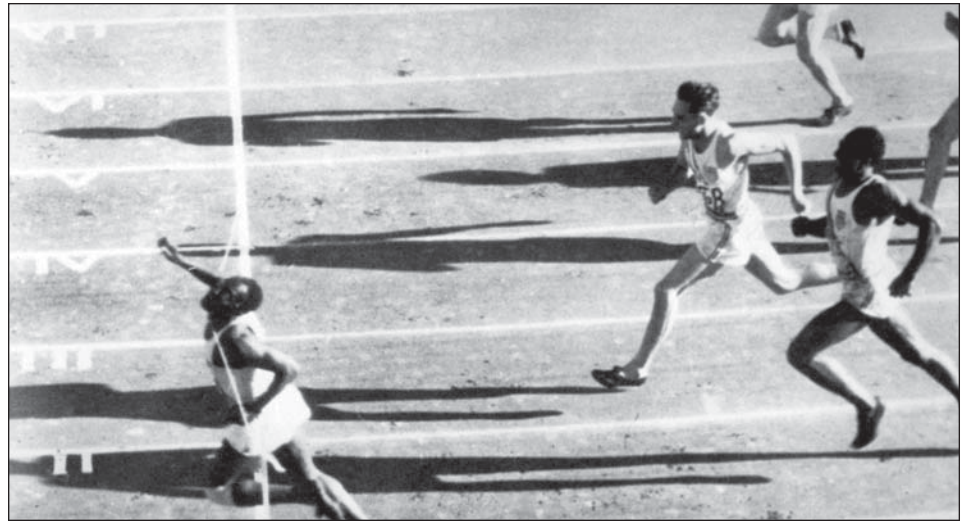
- Decathlon BRONZE (7,707 pts.)

1932 Olympic Games: Los Angeles

Eddie Tolan's double victories in the sprints brought Michigan the distinction of being the only university to claim three double-event Olympic champions in the sprint events. In the 200-meter run, Tolan broke the 28-year-old Olympic record by fellow Wolverine Archie Hahn. The 100-meter



Ralph Craig was one of three U-M runners to claim double gold in the sprint events.



Eddie Tolan blazed a pair of Olympic records en route to gold medals in the sprints at the 1932 Los Angeles Games, including the 200-meter mark previously held for 28 years by fellow Wolverine Archie Hahn.

finish was so close that seven judges needed to watch tape several hours later to determine that Tolan "crossed" the line just two inches ahead of runner-up Ralph Metcalfe.

Eddie Tolan (USA)

- 100 meters GOLD (10.3")
- 200 meters GOLD (21.2")

Ned Turner (USA)

- 800 meters 5th (1:51.70)

1936 Olympic Games: Berlin

Sam Stoller qualified as a member of the 4x100 via his sixth-place performance in the 100m at the U.S. trials, but on the day of the preliminary heats, he and teammate Marty Glickman were inexplicably replaced on the squad. Controversy ensued that the U.S. coach had replaced Stoller and Glickman - the only Jewish members of the team - to appease Nazi rule.

Sam Stoller (USA)

- 4x100m Relay Did not compete

1948 Olympic Games: London

In addition to Michigan's pair of representatives in track and field, former Wolverine track letterman Ralph Craig served as an alternate on the U.S. yachting team. In recognition of his Olympic accomplishments, Craig was given the honor of carrying the U.S. flag during the opening ceremonies.

Herb Barten (USA)

- 800 meters 4th (1:50.10)

Erkki Koutonen (Finland)

- Triple Jump DNP

1952 Olympic Games: Helsinki

Michigan matched its highest number of representatives at the Olympic Games, sending six individual competitors. For the first time in U-M's prestigious history in track and field at Olympic Games, not one representative was from the United States. Finland's Eeles Landstrom placed 14th overall in the decathlon, winning the pole vault competition and finishing second in the javelin.

Jack Carroll (Canda)

- 400 meters DNP
- 4x400m relay 4th (3:09.30)

Eeles Landstrom (Finland)

- Decathlon 14th (5,694 pts.)

John Ross (Canada)

- 800 meters DNP
- 1,500 meters DNP

Ray Pella (Canada)

- Discus 14th

Fritz Nilsson (Sweden)

- Shot Put 5th (54-3 1/2)
- Discus 7th (164-3)

Walter Sutton (Canada)

- 100 meters DNP
- 200 meters DNP
- 4x100m relay DNP

1956 Olympic Games: Melbourne

Ireland's Brendan O'Reilly went on to become one of his nation's top broadcasters, and in 1985, he wrote the song "Let the Nations Play" in reaction to the American and Soviet boycotts of the previous games. The International Olympic Committee adopted it as an official song for the Seoul Games. U-M head coach Dan Canham visited Melbourne as coach of a combined African team as part of a U.S. State Department program.

Eeles Landstrom (Finland)

- Pole Vault DNP

Brendan O'Reilly (Ireland)

- High Jump DNP

Laird Sloan (Canada)

- 400 meters DNP
- 4x400m relay 5th (3:10.20)

Don Canham (Africa)

- Coach

1960 Olympic Games: Rome

Eeles Landstrom (Finland)

- Pole Vault BRONZE (14-11 1/4)

Tom Robinson (Bahamas)

- 100 meters Semifinalist/DNP
- 200 meters Semifinalist/DNP

Ergas Leps (Canada)

- 800 meters Quarterfinalist/DNP

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- 4x400m relay Semifinalist/DNP

1964 Olympic Games: Tokyo

Kent Bernard (Trinidad-Tobago)

- 400 meters Semifinalist/DNP
- 4x400m relay BRONZE (3:07.10)

Ergas Leps (Canada)

- 1,500 meters DNP

Cliff Nuttall (Canada)

- 100m hurdles DNP

Tom Robinson (Bahamas)

- 100 meters 8th (10.57)

George Puce (Canada)

- Shot Put DNP

Ernst Soudek (Austria)

- Discus DNP

1968 Olympic Games: Mexico City

Ron Kutchinski (USA)

- 800 meters Semifinalist/DNP

Tom Robinson (Bahamas)

- 4x100m relay semifinalist

George Puce (Canada)

- Shot put DNP

1972 Olympic Games: Munich

Godfrey Murray (Jamaica)

- 110m Hurdles DNP

Kim Rowe (Jamaica)

- 4x100m relay DNP

1980 Olympic Games: Moscow

With 62 nations, including the United States and Canada, boycotting the Moscow Games in response to the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, Trinidad-Tobago native Andrew Bruce served as the lone U-M representative at the 1980 Olympic Games.

Andrew Bruce (Trinidad-Tobago)

- 100-meter Semifinalist/DNP
- 4x100m relay DNP

1984 Olympic Games: Los Angeles

Brian Diemer won Michigan's first Olympic medal in track and field since Kent Bernard's bronze medal in the 1600-meter relay at the 1960 games in Tokyo. With his own bronze medal performance, Diemer stands as the last American distance runner to medal in the Olympic Games.

Brian Diemer (USA)

- 3000m Steeplechase BRONZE (8:14.06)

1988 Olympic Games: Seoul

Brian Diemer (USA)

- 3000m Steeplechase 18th

1992 Olympic Games: Barcelona

Recording the top American time in the steeplechase, Brian Diemer received the distinct honor of serving as the U.S. Track and Field team captain at the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Brian Diemer (USA)

- 3000m Steeplechase 7th (8:18.77)

1996 Olympic Games: Atlanta

Neil Gardner (Jamaica)

- 400m hurdles Semifinalist/DNP

Brad Barquist (USA)

- 10,000 meters DNP

2000 Olympic Games: Sydney

After missing the 1996 Olympic Games due to injury, Kevin Sullivan won his semifinal en route to a fifth-place overall finish in the 1,500-meter run, the highest finish by a U-M athlete since Brain Diemer's bronze medal in 1984.

Kevin Sullivan (Canada)

- 1,500 meters 5th (3:35.50)

2004 Olympic Games: Athens

The Wolverines sent a trio of runners to the 2004 Olympics -- a current athlete, a former athlete and a current coach. After placing third in his first-round heat, Nick Willis missed the cut for the 1,500m final by a slim 0.19 seconds.



Brian Diemer

Kevin Sullivan (Canada)

- 1,500 meters Semifinalist/DNP

Nick Willis (New Zealand)

- 1,500 meters Semifinalist/DNP

2008 Olympic Games: Beijing

Nick Willis earned Michigan's first medal in men's track and field since 1984 with a bronze medal in the 1,500-meters. Three different Wolverines made it to the semifinals of the 1,500, with Willis being the lone U-M runner to advance to the finals. 2007 grad Stann Waithe and senior Adam Harris each competed in their first Olympic Games.

Nick Willis (New Zealand)

- 1,500 meters BRONZE (3:34.16)
- 800 meters DNP

Kevin Sullivan (Canada)

- 1,500 meters Semifinalist/DNP
- 5,000 meters DNP

Nate Brannan (Canada)

- 1,500 meters Semifinalist/DNP

Adam Harris (Guyana)

- 200 meters DNP

Stann Waithe (Trinidad-Tobago)

- 4x400 meters DNP

NOTES

1 - Prepared by Greg Kinney of the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library. Information was derived from official Olympic records publications, U-M Athletic Department news clipping scrapbooks and the Michiganensian yearbook.

2 - The first Olympic Games were held in 1896. No official information regarding Michigan participants in the 1896 Games is available. All documented records begin with the 1900 Games.

3 - No Olympic Games held in 1916 or 1940-1944 due to World War I and World War II.

* indicates world record

^ indicates Olympic record



Michigan's 2004 Olympians: Kevin Sullivan and Nick Willis in action.