

Rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline trials close out San Jose's Olympic qualifiers

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SAN JOSE (June 11, 2004) – San Jose will close out its trio of athlete selection events for this summer's Athens Olympic Games on Saturday, June 19, when it hosts the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Rhythmic Gymnastics and Trampoline.

One athlete in each discipline will win a berth on the U.S. Olympic Team from a field of 13 candidates in the 6 p.m. event at the San Jose State University Event Center. The field was set at the Visa U.S. Championships earlier this month in Nashville, Tenn.

A single clear favorite has emerged in each discipline:

- Three-time national champion Mary Sanders in rhythmic gymnastics.
- Five-time national trampoline champion Jennifer Parilla.

Sanders, a native of Toronto, Ontario and a dual citizen of Canada and the United States, easily swept the all-around competition in Nashville, finishing more than 10 points ahead of her next competitor, Olga Karmansky from Brooklyn, N.Y. Sanders also won gold medals in hoop and ball, but due to a nagging foot injury she withdrew from the competition.

"I probably will change around a few routines before the trials," Sanders said. "I could have been better but I'm satisfied with my all-around performance."

It was Sanders' ninth-place finish in the preliminaries of the 2003 Rhythmic World Championships last fall in Budapest, Hungary – the best ever for a U.S. athlete – which earned the United States its single Olympic berth in the discipline for Athens.

Sanders will be challenged by national all-around silver medalist Olga Karmansky, whose performances in Nashville earned her gold medals in the clubs and ribbon, and Lisa Wang from Buffalo Grove, Ill., who finished third in the all-around. Two Californians – Aline Bakchadjan of Woodland Hills and Alexandra Licona of Culver City – qualified in sixth and seventh place, respectively.

Jennifer Parilla of Lake Forest, Calif., the only U.S. trampoline athlete at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, placed 16th at the 2003 Trampoline World Championships last fall in Hanover, Germany and placed first in Nashville.

"Obviously any athlete who makes it to the Olympics wants to do their best," Parilla said. "I have a lot of competition ahead."

Parilla will compete against four other women for the trampoline berth, including Amanda Bailey, who qualified to Trials in second place, and Kim Poling, who qualified to the Trials in third place.

Individual rhythmic gymnastics first appeared in the Olympic Games in 1984, with trampoline following in 2000.

Event tickets range from \$12 to \$15, and VIP packages, which include a reserved seating area, event program and an autographed poster, are \$40. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com or by phone at Ticketmaster outlets. Discounted group tickets (15 or more) are available through Talya Rogers of the San Jose Sports Authority at (408) 288-2933. For more ticket information, email tickets@usa-gymnastics.org.

Rhythmic qualifiers

Athlete	Hometown	Club
Aline Bakchadjian	Woodland Hills, Calif.	Hollywood Academy
Shayna Javornicky	Corona, N.Y.	Isadora
Olga Karmansky	Kings, N.Y.	Nova Athletics
Valery Kharina	Deerfield, Ill.	Illinois Rhythmics
Alexandra Licon	Culver City, Calif.	Hollywood Academy
Mary Sanders	Toronto, Ontario	Ritmika
Brennan Stacker	Lincolnshire, Ill.	Illinois Rhythmics
Lisa Wang	Buffalo Grove, Ill.	Rhythmic Gems

Women's trampoline qualifiers

Athlete	Hometown	Club
Amanda Bailey	Sundown, Texas	South Plains Acrospirits
Jennifer Parilla	Lake Forest, Calif.	Team Everybody
Kim Poling	Eden Prairie, Minn.	Minnesota Twisters
Nicole Roethle	Victoria, Texas	South Plains Acrospirits
Jaime Strandmark	Excelsior, Minn.	Trampoline and Tumbling Express