



UNIVERSITY OF
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AN
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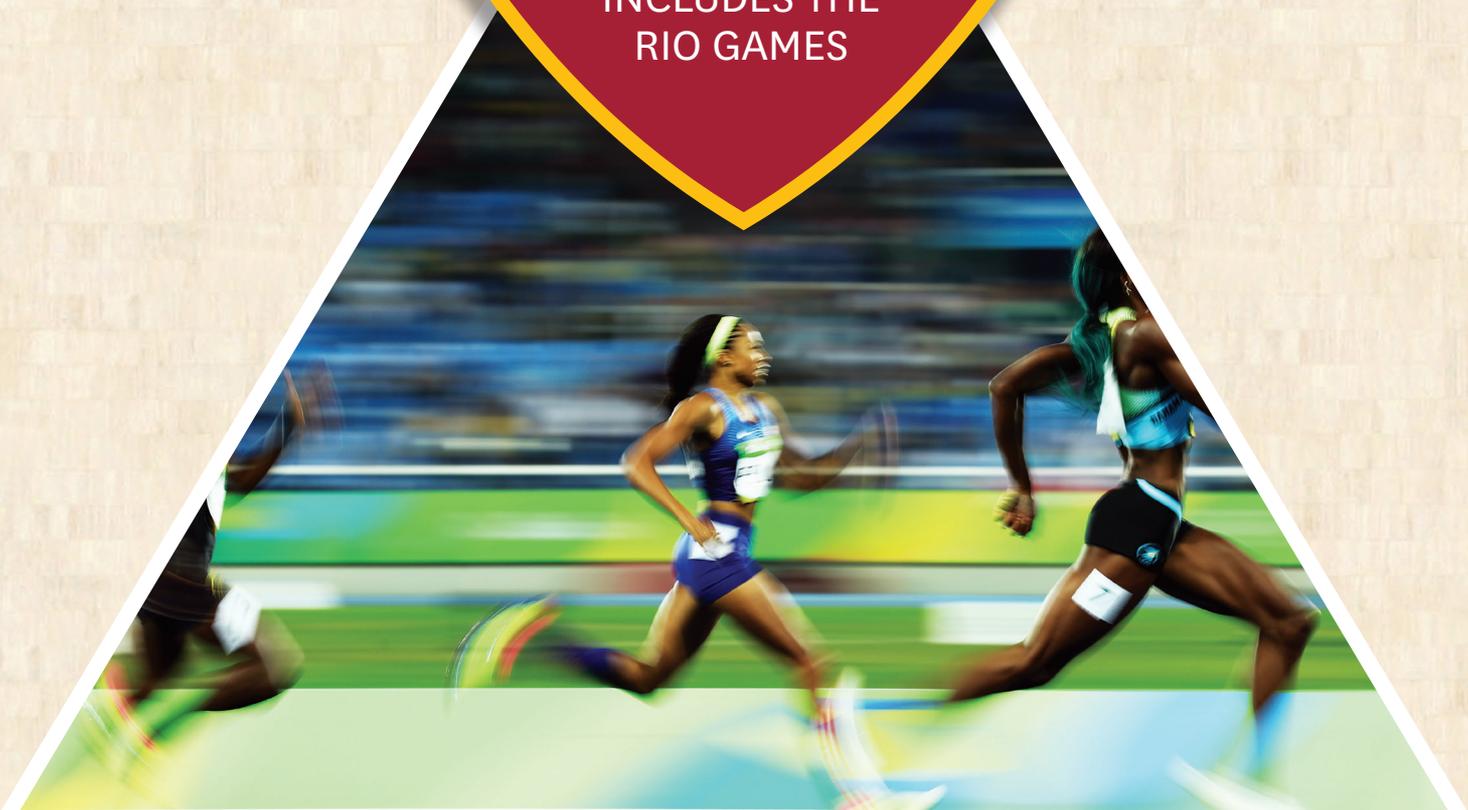
1904-2016

2ND EDITION

INCLUDES THE
RIO GAMES

LOS ANGELES
MEMORIAL
COLISEUM

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TRAITS OF A CHAMPION

BY USC PRESIDENT C. L. MAX NIKIAS

After the 2016 Olympics concluded, our Trojan athletes returned home, eager to share stories from their time in Rio de Janeiro. Many of them echoed a sentiment expressed by scores of Trojans who had competed at previous Olympics: Not only did they represent their country, they had represented USC.

Forty-four extraordinary Trojans competed in Rio, including legendary sprinter Allyson Felix, swimming star Katinka Hosszu and volleyball champion Murphy's Troy. Together, they brought home a remarkable 21 medals, including nine golds. A number of performances stood out: While Felix became the most decorated American female track and field athlete in history, Dalilah Muhammad became the first American woman to win the 400-meter hurdles. Also on the track, Nia Ali — with her silver medal — helped the American women complete the first-ever podium sweep in the 100-meter hurdles.

While we cheered these successes, we also recalled that USC's Olympic achievements date back more than a century. Felix, Hosszu, Troy, Muhammad and Ali built on an already-glorious legacy that began with Fred Kelly, who won gold in the 110-meter hurdles at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. Since then, a Trojan athlete has won a gold medal at every Summer Olympics.

Also impressive: USC has produced more Olympians, more Olympic medalists and more Olympic gold medalists than any other American university. But these extraordinary achievements amount to more than glittering medals and an abiding place in sports history. They represent decades of determination, demanding training and steady sacrifice. They reflect the

enduring support of family, coaches and community. They speak to the power of pushing one's self beyond one's limits, of imagining an illustrious moment that will outlive one's own self.

In their purest form, these Olympic achievements also speak to the fruits of a magnificently led life, one that champions the ideals USC hopes to instill in every Trojan: to be faithful, courageous, skillful, ambitious and scholarly. Our student-athletes embrace a noble ideal: the notion that a healthy body and a healthy mind go hand in hand. They are at once scholars who excel in sports, and athletes who cultivate intellect and creativity. This ideal has its roots in ancient times and appears in the writings of Thales, the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher. As a virtue, or as a goal to pursue, this ideal even predates the original Olympics, the Games that unfolded in ancient Greece, centuries before they were revived in 1896.

Since then, our civilization's greatest thinkers have picked up and promoted this idea. In the 17th century, John Locke, the English philosopher and physician, explored it in his treatise "Some Thoughts Concerning Education." He pondered the relationship between a sound body and a sound mind, and the seminal role each plays in nurturing the other.

Today, we hear echoes of these ideas from our student-athletes, as they seek excellence in the classroom and in their sports. This explains why USC cheers so hard for its Trojan athletes, why we feel such joy when Katinka Hosszu lowers a world record or when Allyson Felix evinces drive and integrity in competition. We see greatness, character and passion.

In these epic moments, we also see the Trojan Family step onto the grandest of stages. We see its power and grace gather, its pride and grit swell. Indeed, we see our closely knit community at its very best.

C. L. Max Nikias
President
University of Southern California



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