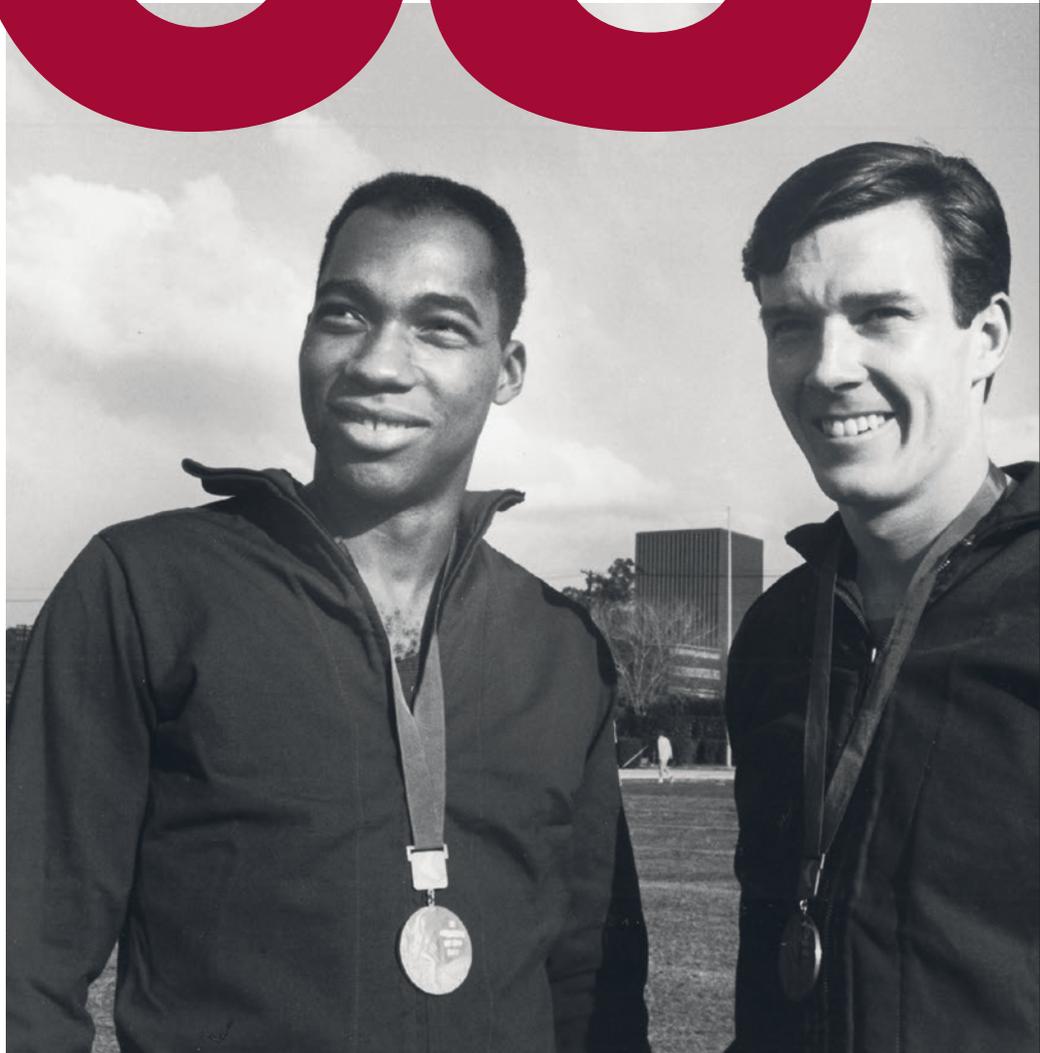


# 1968

PATTI LUCAS BRIGHT PANG CAPERONIS GARY CARLSEN WELLESLEY "WES" CLAYTON JOHN "SANDY" GILCHRIST KATHRYN ANN HECK WILLIAM JEWELL WILLIAM JOHNSON SUE JONES NINJA JORGENSEN MIKI MCFADDEN BRIGGS LENNOX MILLER LES MILLS RAFAEL OSUNA IVAN PEDERSON DO

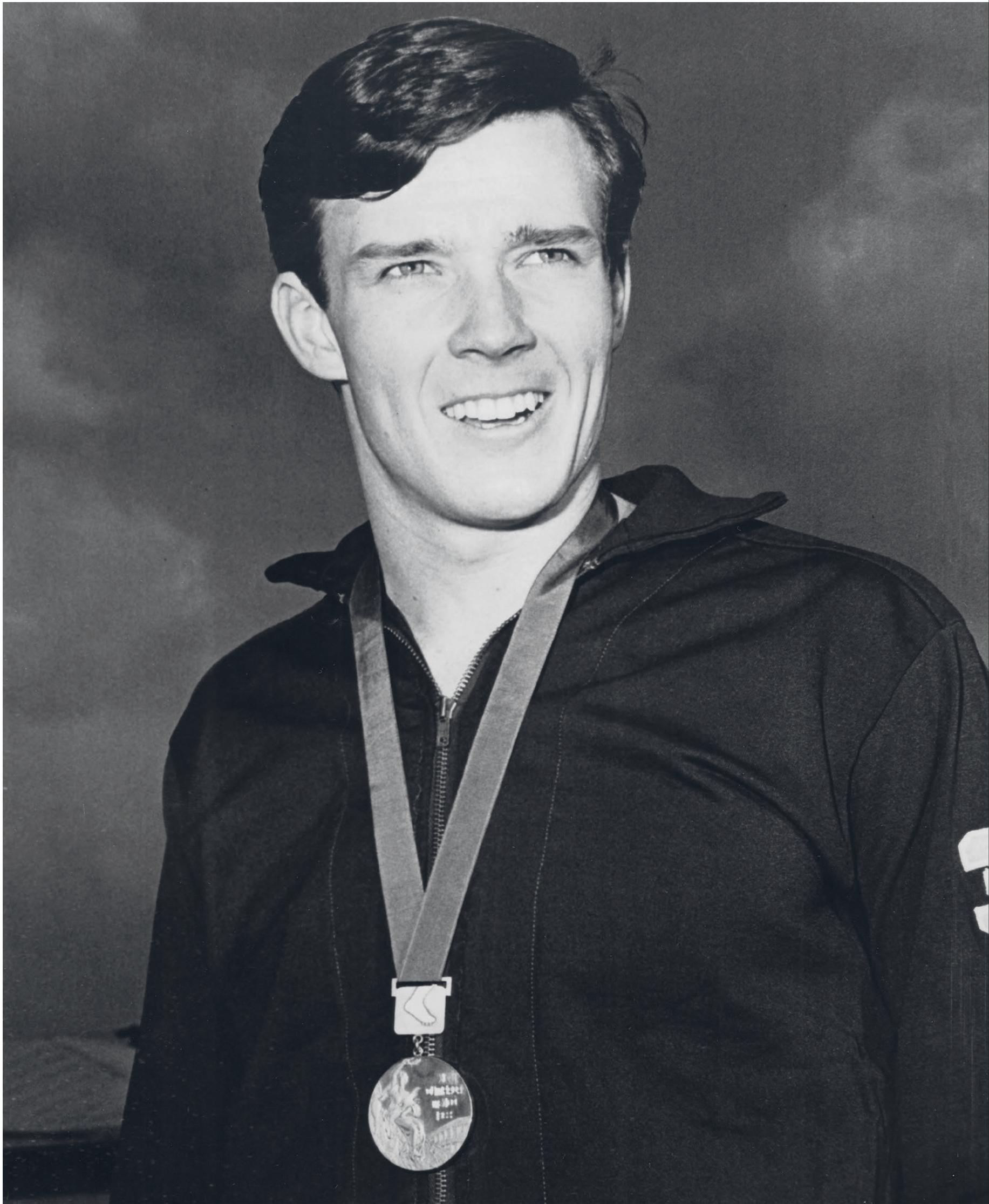


## MEXICO CITY

In 1968, USC's Janice-Lee York Romary (left) made history as the first woman to become a six-time Olympian. Lennox Miller '69, DDS '73 and Bob Seagren '69 (above, from left) starred on the track in Mexico City, winning silver in the 100-meter sprint and gold in the pole vault event, respectively.



In 1963, the International Olympic Committee voted to bring the Games somewhere they had never been. For the first time, with the selection of Mexico City, the Olympics would be held in Latin America, in a Spanish-speaking country and in a developing nation. These Games were also remarkable for the political turmoil that surrounded them. Only 10 days before the opening ceremony, government troops fired into a crowd of students who had gathered for a peaceful demonstration at Mexico City's Plaza de las Tres Culturas. At the medal ceremony for the men's 200-meter sprint, U.S. gold medalist Tommie Smith and bronze medalist John Carlos each arrived wearing long, black socks without shoes and a single black glove. As "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played, the two athletes bowed their heads and lifted their gloved fists into the air. In an HBO documentary years later, Smith called the gesture an effort to "bring attention to the inequality in our country." At the time, however, the United States Olympic Committee suspended the pair from the U.S. team and ousted them from the Olympic Village after the IOC threatened to penalize the entire American team. Czech gymnast Věra Čáslavská, one of the Games' top medalists, made known her fierce opposition to the recent Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. During two medal ceremonies, Čáslavská lowered her eyes and refused to acknowledge the Soviet flag as the Soviet national anthem was played. In response to her actions, the Soviet regime ostracized her and made it impossible for her to find work when she returned home. Despite these incidents, the Games included many outstanding athletic performances. In all, 112 countries participated, sending some 5,500 athletes. Among them were 24 USC Olympians who accounted for three medals — two golds and a silver.



# BOB SEAGREN

To be a successful pole vaulter, you need to be a bit of a daredevil.

USC track star Bob Seagren '69 certainly fit that description. He learned to pole vault as a teenager in Pomona, Calif., by bounding across rooftops on bamboo poles he took from a local rug store. It wasn't long before Seagren soared from the tops of roofs to the top of the sport, setting four world records from 1966 to 1972. While attending USC, he won six AAU titles, four NCAA titles, and also took gold at the 1967 Pan American Games. The feats landed him on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* that year

Seagren made his first Olympic appearance in Mexico City. The pole vault competition was among the most dramatic events of the Games and lasted more than seven hours. Seagren had set a world record — his third — at the Olympic Trials, but as the Olympic competition progressed, the bar was eventually raised to just a half inch below his record mark. Seagren and two other vaulters cleared the bar.

The bar was raised another 2 inches, and all three remaining competitors, including Seagren, missed their final attempts at the world-record height. Seagren was awarded the gold on the basis of fewest missed attempts, earning the medal a day before his 22nd birthday.

Seagren continued to dominate the pole vault through the early 1970s. He went to the 1972 Games in Munich as the heavy favorite, having once again set a world record at the Olympic Trials.

He had to settle for silver in Munich, however, when the International Track and Field Federation made a controversial decision to ban a new model of pole used by many of the leading vaulters. Using an unfamiliar pole, Seagren finished second. The event marked the first time an American had not won the Olympic pole vault competition since the beginning of the modern Games.

After the 1972 Olympics, Seagren became a fixture on television. He won the inaugural ABC *Superstars* sports competition in 1973, as well as *Superstars*' first world championship title in 1977. He joined the International Track Association's professional circuit for a few years and then turned to modeling and acting, starring for two seasons on the sitcom *Soap* and later serving as host of *PM Magazine*.

Seagren was inducted into the National Track & Field Hall of Fame in 1986.

# JANICE- LEE YORK ROMARY

In 2012, fencer Mariel Zagunis carried the American flag as she led the United States in the parade of nations at the opening ceremony of the London Olympic Games. She was not the first American fencer to have that honor, however. That went to USC's Janice-Lee York Romary in 1968 in Mexico City.

Romary developed a love of fencing at an early age and first learned to fence at Austrian director Max Reinhardt's Hollywood-based theater workshop, which her father managed. She later trained with famous fight choreographer and former Olympian Ralph Faulkner, who taught actors such as Errol Flynn and Douglas Fairbanks Jr. how to convincingly fence for their films. While she attended USC, Romary continued her training with the university's women's fencing club.

Her Olympic debut came in 1948. On the month-long voyage from New York to London on the *Queen Mary*, Romary fenced with her teammates on deck, but the added training failed to help her advance to the foil final.

In 1950 and 1951, Romary won the first two of her record 10 U.S. foil championships. She competed at the 1952 Summer Games in Helsinki, where she tied for third place in individual foil but lost the bronze medal to Denmark's Karen Lachmann.

In 1953, Romary married her husband, Charles, who was intrigued enough by the sport to take up épée and sabre fencing himself. Romary continued

competing and qualified for her third Olympics in 1956. Once again, she reached the individual foil final in Melbourne but finished fourth, one spot off the podium. In 1960, she competed in Rome but did not advance to the final in individual or team foil and also fell short of reaching the final at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo.

In 1967, Romary won a gold medal at the Pan American Games, as well as the World Wide Sportsman's Award. And in 1968, in recognition of her extraordinary streak of six Olympic appearances, Romary was chosen to be the first woman to carry the flag for the United States at the opening ceremony in Mexico City. In the 1970s, the U.S. Fencing Association saluted her remarkable career by inducting her into its Hall of Fame.

Her ties to the Olympic movement and to fencing continued after her competitive career was over. She was the women's administrator for the U.S. Olympic Committee for the 1976 Montreal Olympics and was responsible for all female American competitors. At the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, she served as the first female commissioner of fencing.

Romary and her husband moved to Oregon in 1989 to be closer to their grandchildren; she died in 2007 at age 79.





# RAFAEL OSUNA

For Rafael Osuna '63, tennis success was born of humble beginnings — in a different sport.

He made his athletic debut as a 9-year-old competing in the open category of the Mexican National Table Tennis Championships. In a surprising set of upsets, the young athlete won both the singles and the doubles titles. After this strong showing, Osuna continued competing in table tennis, developing the speed and agility that would later become hallmarks of his playing style.

Recognizing Osuna's extraordinary potential, USC awarded him a full scholarship, and he trained under Trojan head tennis coach George Toley, who was known in Mexico as the "Father of Tennis" because of his work with players there.

At USC, Osuna got off to a rocky start, as Toley remembers in a book he wrote about his time as a coach. "Everything he did on court was bad fundamentally, in part because he was such a natural and could get away with it... We had to tear his game apart, but he could move like a GOD!"

Under Toley's tutelage, Osuna rebuilt and refined his entire game. In 1960, he competed at Wimbledon in doubles with his future USC roommate, Dennis Ralston. Together, the two became the first unseeded pair to win the title.

More success followed Osuna's triumph at Wimbledon. He was the NCAA singles champion in 1962, NCAA doubles champion from 1961 to 1963, and a member of USC's 1962 and 1963

NCAA championship teams. Some analysts call the 1963 Trojan squad the best collegiate tennis team of all time.

In 1962, Osuna and Antonio Palafox won the U.S. Open doubles title, and that same year, Osuna steered his team to the Davis Cup final, making Mexico the first Latin American country to reach the finals.

The following year, Osuna graduated from USC with a degree in business administration, and won the U.S. Open singles title, becoming the first and only champion from Mexico. He also earned another doubles crown at Wimbledon, this time with Palafox as his partner. He finished 1963 as the No. 1 ranked player in the world and remains the only Mexican tennis player ever to hold that distinction.

Although the International Olympic Committee did not reinstate tennis as an official medal sport until 1988, Osuna returned to his hometown in 1968 and won gold in the singles and doubles exhibition tournaments at the Mexico City Games.

His final career victory was particularly momentous. For years, Australia had been the reigning champion of the Davis Cup competition, but in a stunning upset, Osuna defeated the Australians in both his singles and doubles matches.

Tragically, only weeks later, on June 4, 1969, 30-year-old Osuna was killed in a plane crash.

In 1979, he was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame — the only Mexican to date to receive this accolade. USC elected him to its Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.

**PATTY VAN WOLVELAERE-JOHNSON '78**

Troy's first female Olympic hurdler, Patty Van Wolvelaere-Johnson, was just out of high school when she placed fourth in the 80-meter hurdles in Mexico City. She competed again at the 1972 Olympics. She won two national titles at USC and went on to become a firefighter.



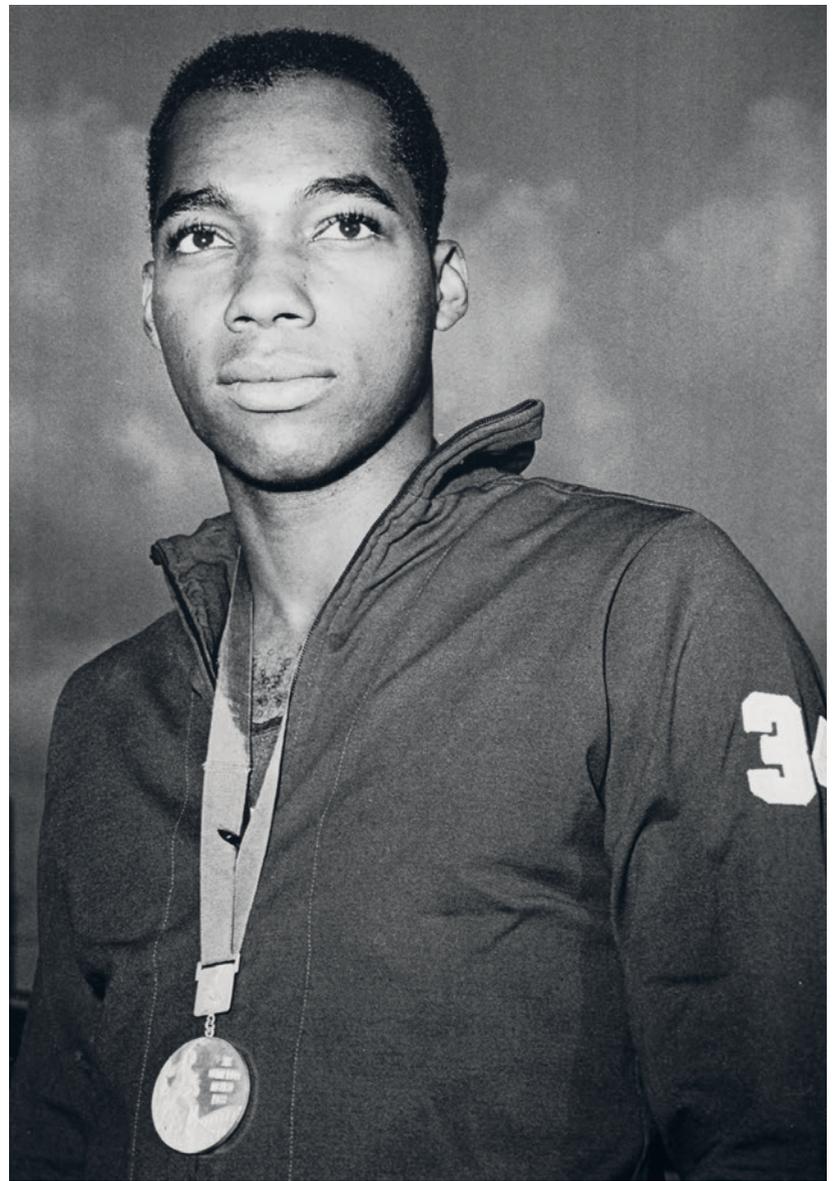
## LIGHTING THE CAULDRON

AT THE 1968 OLYMPICS, MEXICO'S NATIONAL CHAMPION IN THE 80-METER HURDLES, ENRIQUETA BASILIO, BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN EVER TO LIGHT THE OLYMPIC CAULDRON.



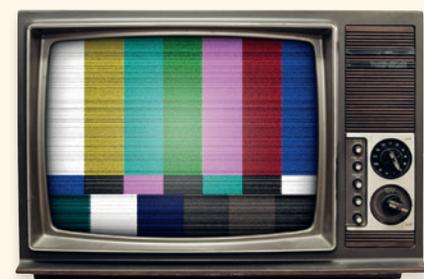
**BOB SEAGREN '69**

USC pole vaulter Bob Seagren won gold in Mexico City in 1968 and silver in Munich in 1972.



**LENNOX MILLER '69, DDS '73**

Lennox Miller won silver for Jamaica in the 100-meter dash at the 1968 Olympics. He added a bronze medal in the same event at the 1972 Games, and later watched his daughter Inger '94 win gold in the 4x100-meter relay at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.



## IN LIVING COLOR

MORE TELEVISION HISTORY WAS MADE AT THE 1968 MEXICO CITY OLYMPICS: FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE SUMMER GAMES WERE BROADCAST IN COLOR TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.



## RETRACING COLUMBUS' PATH

AFTER TRAVELING FROM GREECE TO SPAIN, THE 1968 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY FOLLOWED THE ROUTE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS TOOK ON HIS FIRST VOYAGE TO THE NEW WORLD — SYMBOLIZING, PER THE OFFICIAL REPORT, “THE UNION OF THE CLASSIC CULTURES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH THOSE OF AMERICA.”

### GARY CARLSEN '67, DDS '71

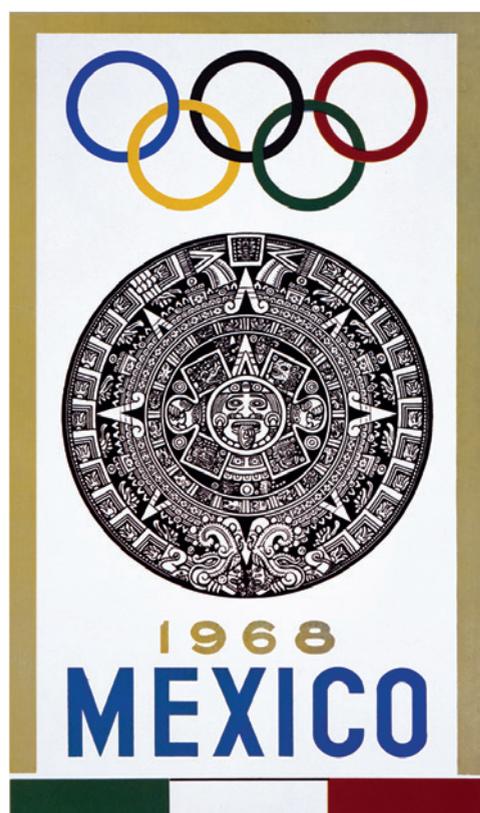
During his second year of dental school at USC, Gary Carlsen placed sixth in the discus at the 1968 Games in Mexico City. He has held the USC record in discus — 206 feet — since 1967.

## ALTITUDE MATTERS

AT MORE THAN 7,500 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL, MEXICO CITY'S ALTITUDE WAS HIGHEST OF ANY PREVIOUS OLYMPICS CITY. THE ALTITUDE MADE LONG-DISTANCE RUNNING AND SWIMMING DIFFICULT, BUT IT HELPED SPRINTERS AND JUMPERS SET MANY NEW RECORDS.

# TROJAN VICTORIES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1968 MEXICO CITY GAMES

USC OLYMPIANS: 24    GOLD: 2    SILVER: 1

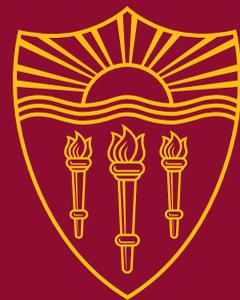


### GEOFFREY VANDERSTOCK '69

At the 1968 U.S. Olympic Trials, two-time All-American Geoff Vanderstock became the first man to run the 400-meter hurdles in under 49 seconds — smashing the record set by Rex Cawley '64 in 1964. Vanderstock's record was broken in Mexico City, however, where he came in fourth.

“He was such a popular player, always with such good sportsmanship and always with a smile.”

— Legendary tennis broadcaster Bud Collins, to CNN about many of Rafael Osuna’s biggest matches.



# TRAITS OF A TROJAN SKILLFUL

RAFAEL OSUNA

