

Olympic Team Norway



Media Guide



Norwegian Olympic Committee



NORWAY IN 100 SECONDS

Head of state:
H.M. King Harald V
H.M. Queen Sonja



PHOTO: SCANPIX

Area (total):

Norway	385.155 km ²
- Svalbard	61.020 km ²
- Jan Mayen	377 km ²
Norway (not incl. Svalbard and Jan Mayen)	323.758 km ²
Bouvet Island	49 km ²
Peter Island	156 km ²
Queen Maud Land	

Population (24.06.08) 4.768.753

Main cities (01.01.08)

Oslo	560.484
Bergen	247.746
Trondheim	165.191
Stavanger	119.586
Kristiansand	78.919
Fredrikstad	71.976
Tromsø	65.286
Sarpsborg	51.053

Life expectancy: Men: 77,7 Women: 82,5

Length of common frontiers:

- Sweden	2.542 km
- Finland	1.619 km
- Russia	727 km
- Shortest distance north/south	196 km
Length of the continental coastline	1.752 km
- Not incl. Fjords and bays	21.465 km
Greatest width of the country	2.650 km
Least width of the country	430 km
	6,3 km

Largest lake: Mjøsa 362 km²

Longest river: Glomma 600 km

Highest waterfall: Skykkjedalsfossen 300 m

Highest mountain: Galdhøpiggen 2.469 m

Largest glacier: Jostedalbreen 487 km²

Longest fjord: Sognefjorden 204 km

Prime Minister: Jens Stoltenberg

Head of state: H.M. King Harald V and H.M. Queen Sonja

Monetary unit: NOK (Krone)

16.07.08: 1 EUR = 7,90 NOK

100 CNY = 73,00 NOK

On a mandate from the Norwegian Olympic Committee (NOK) and Confederation of Sports (NIF) has been given the operative responsibility for all top sports in the country. In close co-operations with the sports federations, the NOK instigates and co-ordinates several activities to facilitate the athletic development.

The initiative was taken after the Olympic Games in 1984, as a project on a trial basis. It was made permanent in 1988, and in 1990 the responsibility was formally given to the NOK. At the core of the Norwegian Top Sports Programme, stands the reliance of the athlete and his or her coach. All other activities are seen as a support of this. Another central issue is to learn from each other experiences across traditional barriers between the different sports. The cross training has proven beneficial to those who have tried it.

In preparation for the 2008 Olympics, coaches and officials of the Olympic Team have been going through a training programme. When the athletes are training, why should not the rest of the Olympic Team train as well? The purpose of this is to prepare the support organisation, and to familiarises the whole team with the aims and objectives of the Norwegian Top Sports Programme.

The Olympic Team is organised under the Chef de Mission. He exercises his authority through his Team Directors and administrative personnel for administrative matters. The health team and the team of press attachés are organised under the Chef de Mission.

Being a small country, it is easy for Norway to establish an Olympic Team where everybody knows each other. That helps create secure and supportive surroundings for those who are to perform in the Olympic competition.

Media Guide of the Norwegian Olympic Team in Beijing 2008 is published by the Norwegian Olympic Committee to assist the international media representatives.



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Abbreviations

OG: Olympic Games

WCh: World Championship

ECh: European Championship

WC: World Cup

NCh: National Championship

WR: World Record



NORWEGIAN OLYMPIC TEAM

Beijing – Norwegian Vikings, here we come!

We're finally here at the big and impressive Chinese Olympics. Each set of Olympic Games has its own identity and distinctive character. For Athens it was being the birthplace of the Olympics, while Sydney was a place far away, on the other side of the world.

For many, an OL in China is something new. China as a country hasn't been all that accessible, nor have very many international championships been held there in recent years. This makes the setting for the games all the more exciting, and we can feel how Chinese history and culture has become more familiar to us during the last Olympic period.

There has been a lot of focus on Chinese politics and social development. For us this has served as an important backdrop during our preparations for the Games. But our basic attitude, from our troop's point of view, has been that we are, first and foremost, athletes; and with the backing of a solid support apparatus, we intend to perform in Beijing at the highest level we are capable of. The IOC knew what it was doing when it chose Beijing and China to host the Olympics, being fully aware that this would put a number of political challenges on the agenda.

We want Norwegian athletes and representatives, wherever they come from, to know more about the country we are visiting, and move beyond our focus on sports. So at our first gathering we heard a lecture on Chinese culture and history. This was followed up by a focus at the next gathering on the challenges related to human rights. And at our last gathering the subject was Norway's official policy towards China. In addition, we have passed on a raft of informative material on all these subjects.

We are a troop of 80 athletes, and are thus nearly back to the level we enjoyed in Sydney. The biggest different from Athens is that our handball and football girls are back, having qualified for the Games. They were sorely missed during the last OL, as they infuse any Olympic team with so much energy and enthusiasm. Furthermore, we are now represented in many other sports. It is gratifying that we have managed to maintain a high standard in Norway in minor sports, often in the face of challenging framework conditions.

The goal of the Norwegian troop is to win more medals than we did at the Athens Games. This goal has crystallized after a positive and thorough-going process involving the various fields of sports. In Athens we really hit the jackpot in terms of gold medals. Even though our focus is on winning medals, we will all – quite naturally – be fighting hard to reach the top.

We know this is going to be a fantastic OL. Never have we seen such stadiums and arenas, and the Olympic Village is also of a very high standard. Many of the athletes will be performing at the Olympic Park, but the sailing and show jumping events are a plane trip away. This presents some challenges, but we will do our utmost to promote a sense of being a united troop during the Games.

Everyone has been training hard so they can turn in an optimal performance and work to win. This past year and most recent period, in particular, has proven vital. This is when the last piece of the puzzle falls into place, the athletes get into top shape physically, the most effective techniques have been successfully applied, and a sense of expectancy is promoted.

We're ready – let the games begin!

Jarle Aambø

Top Sports Manager

Norwegian Olympic Committee

Norway has participated in the Olympic Games since year 1900 (Paris).

Summer Games:

1900 Paris	8 athletes	–		1 silver,	2 bronze
1906 Athens	26 athletes	–	2 gold,	1 silver,	
1908 London	58 athletes	–	2 gold,	3 silver,	3 bronze
1912 Stockholm	191 athletes	–	4 gold,	1 silver,	5 bronze
1920 Antwerp	190 athletes	–	13 gold,	8 silver,	9 bronze
1924 Paris	62 athletes	–	5 gold,	2 silver,	3 bronze
1928 Amsterdam	51 athletes	–	1 gold,	2 silver,	1 bronze
1932 Los Angeles	5 athletes	–	no medals		
1936 Berlin	72 athletes	–	1 gold,	3 silver,	2 bronze
1948 London	79 athletes	–	1 gold,	3 silver,	3 bronze
1952 Helsinki	105 athletes	–	3 gold,	2 silver,	
1956 Melbourne	18 athletes	–	1 gold,		2 bronze
1960 Roma	42 athletes	–	1 gold,		
1964 Tokyo	26 athletes	–	no medals		
1968 Mexico	47 athletes	–	1 gold,	1 silver,	
1972 Munich	116 athletes	–	2 gold,	1 silver,	1 bronze
1976 Montreal	64 athletes	–	1 gold,	1 silver,	
1984 Los Angeles	107 athletes	–		1 silver,	2 bronze
1988 Seoul	71 athletes	–	2 gold,	3 silver,	
1992 Barcelona	95 athletes	–	2 gold,	4 silver,	1 bronze
1996 Atlanta	98 athletes	–	2 gold,	2 silver,	3 bronze
2000 Sydney	96 athletes	–	4 gold,	3 silver,	3 bronze
2004 Athens	50 athletes	–	5 gold,		1 bronze

Total number of medals in Summer Games:

136 (53 gold, 42 silver, 41 bronze)

Winter Games:

1924 Chamonix	14 athletes	–	4 gold,	7 silver,	6 bronze
1928 St. Moritz	28 athletes	–	6 gold,	4 silver,	5 bronze
1932 Lake Placid	19 athletes	–	3 gold,	4 silver,	3 bronze
1936 Garmisch Partenkirchen	30 athletes	–	7 gold,	5 silver,	3 bronze
1948 St. Moritz	49 athletes	–	4 gold,	3 silver,	3 bronze
1952 Oslo	76 athletes	–	7 gold,	3 silver,	6 bronze
1956 Cortina	43 athletes	–	2 gold,	1 silver,	1 bronze
1960 Squaw Valley	29 athletes	–	3 gold,	3 silver,	
1964 Innsbruck	57 athletes	–	3 gold,	6 silver,	6 bronze
1968 Grenoble	65 athletes	–	6 gold,	6 silver,	2 bronze
1972 Sapporo	69 athletes	–	2 gold,	5 silver,	5 bronze
1976 Innsbruck	88 athletes	–	3 gold,	3 silver,	1 bronze
1980 Lake Placid	66 athletes	–	1 gold,	3 silver,	6 bronze
1984 Sarajevo	64 athletes	–	3 gold,	2 silver,	4 bronze
1988 Calgary	66 athletes	–		3 silver,	2 bronze
1992 Albertville	83 athletes	–	9 gold,	6 silver,	5 bronze
1994 Lillehammer	94 athletes	–	10 gold,	11 silver,	5 bronze
1998 Nagano	84 athletes	–	10 gold,	10 silver,	5 bronze
2002 Salt Lake	82 athletes	–	13 gold,	5 silver,	7 bronze
2006 Turin	74 athletes	–	2 gold,	8 silver,	9 bronze

Total number of medals in Winter Games:

280 (98 gold, 98 silver, 84 bronze)



NORWEGIAN GOLD MEDAL WINNERS OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES

Athens 1896

Norway didn't participate

Paris 1900

No gold medals

St. Louis 1904

Norway didn't participate

Athens 1906

Gudbrand G. Skatteboe Shooting free rifle

20 men team Gymnastic

London 1908

Albert Helgerud Shooting free rifle

6 men team Shooting free rifle team

Stockholm 1912

«Magda IX», Johan Anker w/crew . . . Sailing 12 m

«Taifun», Thoralf Glad w/crew Sailing 8 m

24 men team Gymnastic II team

Ferdinand Bie Athletics

Berlin 1916

Cancelled

Antwerp 1920

«Heira II», Johan Friele w/crew Sailing 12 m new

«Atalanta», Henrik Østervold w/crew Sailing 12 m old

«Mosk», Chr. Archer Arentz w/crew . Sailing 10 m new

«Eleda», Erik Herseth w/crew Sailing 10 m old

«Sildra», Magnus Konow w/crew . . . Sailing 8 m new

«Irene», August Ringvold w/crew . . . Sailing 8 m old

«Jo», Andreas B. Brecke w/crew . . . Sailing 6 m new

Helge Løvland Athletics heptathlon

Otto M. Olsen Shooting single shot deer

Ole A. Lilloe-Olsen Shooting double shot deer

5 men team Shooting single shot team

5 men team Shooting double shot team

Otto M. Olsen Shooting army rifle

NORWEGIAN GOLD MEDAL WINNERS OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES

Paris 1924

- Ole A. Lilloe-Olsen Shooting double shot deer
4 men team Shooting single shot team
Otto von Porat Boxing heavyweight
«Bera», August Ringvold w/crew Sailing 8 m
«Elisabeth V», Eugen Lunde w/crew . . Sailing 6 m

Amsterdam 1928

- «Norna», Johan Anker, Crownprince
Olav, Erik Anker, Haakon P. Bryhn . . . Sailing 6 m

Los Angeles 1932

No medals

Berlin 1936

- Willy Røgeberg Shooting miniature rifle

1940-1944

No Olympic Games

London 1948

- «Pan», Thor Thorvaldsen,
Hakon Barfod, Sigve Lie Sailing Drake

Helsinki 1952

- «Pan», Thor Thorvaldsen,
Hakon Barfod, Sigve Lie Sailing Drake
John H. Larsen Shooting running deer
Erling Kongshaug Shooting miniature rifle

Melbourne 1956

- Egil Danielsen Athletics javelin

Rome 1960

- «Sirene», Peder Lunde Jr,
Bjørn Bergvall Sailing Flying Dutchman

Tokyo 1964

No medals



NORWEGIAN GOLD MEDAL WINNERS OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES

Mexico City 1968

Steinar Amundsen, Tore Berger,
Jan Johansen, Egil Søyby Kayak K-4 1000 m

Munich 1972

Knut Knudsen Cycling 4000 m track
Leif Jensen Weightlifting
light heavyweight

Montreal 1976

Alf and Frank Hansen Rowing double sculls

Moscow 1980

Norway didn't participate

Los Angeles 1984

No gold medals

Seoul 1988

Jon Rønningen Wrestling 52 kg
Tor Heiestad Shooting quarry

Barcelona 1992

Jon Rønningen Wrestling 52 kg
Linda Andersen Sailing Europe

Atlanta 1996

Knut Holmann Kayak K-1 1000 m
Vebjørn Rodal Athletics 800 m

Sydney 2000

Knut Holmann Kayak K-1 1000 m
Knut Holmann Kayak K-1 500 m
Trine Hattestad Athletics javelin
Norway Football Women

Athens 2004

Andreas Torkildsen Athletics javelin
Eirik Veraas Larsen Kayak K-1 1000m
Gunn-Rita Dahle Mountain Bike-cross-country
Olaf Tufte Rowing single sculls
Siren Sundby Sailing – Europe

MEDALS DISTRIBUTION ATHENS 2004

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1. USA	36	39	27
2. CHN	32	17	14
3. RUS	27	27	38
4. AUS	17	16	16
5. JPN	16	9	12
6. GER	13	16	20
7. FRA	11	9	13
8. ITA	10	11	11
9. KOR	9	12	9
10. GBR	9	9	12
11. CUB	9	7	11
12. UKR	9	5	9
13. HUN	8	6	3
14. ROU	8	5	6
15. GRE	6	6	4
16. BRA	5	2	3
17. NOR	5	0	1
18. NED	4	9	9
19. SWE	4	2	1
20. ESP	3	11	5
21. CAN	3	6	3
22. TUR	3	3	4
23. POL	3	2	5
24. NZL	3	2	0
25. THA	3	1	4
26. BLR	2	6	7
27. AUT	2	4	1
28. ETH	2	3	2
29. IRI	2	2	2
29. SVK	2	2	2
31. TPE	2	2	1
32. GEO	2	2	0
33. BUL	2	1	9
34. JAM	2	1	2
34. UZB	2	1	2
37. DEN	2	0	6
61. FIN	0	2	0

Note:

301 events – 74 nations won at least one medal
 201 NOC – 10.625 athletes (4.329 women/6.296 men)
 45.000 volunteers – 21.500 media



NORWEGIAN GOLD MEDAL WINNERS OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Chamonix 1924

Thorleif Haug	Cross-country 18 km
Thorleif Haug	Cross-country 50 km
Thorleif Haug	Nordic combined
Jacob Tullin Thams	Ski-jumping

St. Moritz 1928

Johan Grøttumsbråten	Cross-country 18 km
Johan Grøttumsbråten	Nordic combined
Alf Andersen	Ski-jumping
Bernt Evensen	Speed skating 500 m
Ivar Ballangerud	Speed skating 5000 m
Sonja Henie	Figure skating

Lake Placid 1932

Johan Grøttumsbråten	Nordic combined
Birger Ruud	Ski-jumping
Sonja Henie	Figure skating

Garmisch-Partenkirchen 1936

Oddbjørn Hagen	Nordic combined
Birger Ruud	Ski jumping
Ivar Ballangerud	Speed skating 500 m
Charles Mathiesen	Speed skating 1500 m
Ivar Ballangerud	Speed skating 5000 m
Ivar Ballangerud	Speed skating 10000 m
Sonja Henie	Figure Skating

St. Mortiz 1948

Petter Hugsted	Ski jumping
Finn Helgesen	Speed skating 500 m
Sverre Farstad	Speed skating 1500 m
Reidar Liaklev	Speed skating 5000 m

Oslo 1952

Hallgeir Brenden	Cross-country 18 km
Simon Slåttvik	Nordic combined
Arnfinn Bergmann	Ski jumping
Stein Eriksen	Alpine skiing Giant slalom
Hjalmar Andersen	Speed skating 1500 m
Hjalmar Andersen	Speed skating 5000 m
Hjalmar Andersen	Speed skating 10000 m

NORWEGIAN GOLD MEDAL WINNERS OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Cortina 1956

Hallgeir Brenden	Cross-country 18 km
Sverre Stenersen	Nordic combined

Squaw Valley 1960

Håkon Brusveen	Cross-country 15 km
Roald Aas	Speed skating 1500 m
Knut Johannessen	Speed Skating 10000 m

Innsbruck 1964

Tormod Knudsen	Nordic combined
Toralf Engan	Ski jumping
Knut Johannessen	Speed skating 5000 m

Grenoble 1968

Harald Grønningen	Cross-country 15 km
Ole Ellefsæter	Cross-country 50 km
Norway (Odd Martinsen, Pål Tyldum, Harald Grønningen, Ole Ellefsæter) . .	Cross-country 4x10 km relay
Norway (Inger Aufles, Babben Engen Damon, Berit Mørdre)	Cross-country 3x5 km relay
Fred Anton Maier	Speed skating 5000 m
Magnar Solberg	Biathlon

Sapporo 1972

Pål Tyldum	Cross-country 50 km
Magnar Solberg	Biathlon

Innsbruck 1976

Ivar Formo	Cross-country 50 km
Jan Egil Storholt	Speed skating 1500 m
Sten Stensen	Speed skating 5000 m

Lake Placid 1980

Bjørge Eva Jensen	Speed skating 3000 m
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Sarajevo 1984

Norway (Inger Helene Nybråten, Anne Jahren, Brit Pettersen, Berit Aunli)	Cross-country 4x5 km relay
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NORWEGIAN GOLD MEDAL WINNERS OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Tom Sandberg Nordic combined
Eirik Kvalfoss Biathlon 10 km

Calgary 1988

No gold medals

Albertville 1992

Kjetil André Aamodt Alpine skiing Super-G
Finn Christian Jagge Alpine skiing Slalom
Bjørn Dæhlie Cross-country 50 km Free
Vegard Ulvang Cross-country 30 km
Classical
Vegard Ulvang Cross-country 10 km
Classical
Bjørn Dæhlie Cross-country 15 km Free
mass start
Norway (Terje Langli, Vegard
Ulvang, Kristen Skjeldal,
Bjørn Dæhlie) Cross-country 4x10 km
relay
Johan Olav Koss Speed skating 1500 m
Geir Karlstad Speed skating 5000 m

Lillehammer 1994

Bjørn Dæhlie Cross-country 10 km Clas-
sical
Bjørn Dæhlie Cross-country 15 km Free
mass start
Thomas Alsgaard Cross-country 30 km Free
Fred Børre Lundberg Nordic combined
Espen Bredesen Ski jumping K90
Lasse Kjus Alpine skiing Combination
Stine Lise Hattestad Freestyle skiing Moguls
Johan Olav Koss Speed skating 1500 m
Johan Olav Koss Speed skating 5000 m
Johan Olav Koss Speed skating 10000 m

NORWEGIAN GOLD MEDAL WINNERS OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Nagano 1998

Bjørn Dæhlie	Cross-country 10 km Classical
Thomas Alsgaard	Cross-country 15 km Free mass start
Bjørn Dæhlie	Cross-country 50 km Free
Norway (Sture Sivertsen, Erling Jevne, Bjørn Dæhlie, Thomas Alsgaard)	Cross-country 4 x 10 km relay
Bjarte Engen Vik	Nordic combined
Norway (Halldor Skard jr, Kenneth Braaten, Bjarte Engen Vik, Fred Børre Lundberg)	Nordic combined Team
Hans-Petter Buraas	Alpine skiing Slalom
Ådne Søndrål	Speed skating 1500 m
Halvard Hanevold	Biathlon 20 km individual
Ole Einar Bjørndalen	Biathlon 10 km individual

Salt Lake 2002

Kjetil Andre Aamodt	Alpine skiing Combination
Kjetil Andre Aamodt	Alpine skiing Super-G
Ole Einar Bjørndalen	Biathlon 10 km
Ole Einar Bjørndalen	Biathlon 12,5 km pursuit
Ole Einar Bjørndalen	Biathlon 20 km
Norway (Frode Andresen, Ole Einar Bjørndalen, Egil Gjelland, Halvard Hanevold)	Biathlon 4 x 7,5 km relay
Frode Estil	Cross-country 10 km pursuit
Thomas Alsgaard	Cross-country 10 km pursuit
Bente Skari	Cross-country 10 km
Tor Arne Hetland	Cross-country sprint 1,5 km
Norway (Thomas Alsgaard, Anders Aukland, Frode Estil, Kristen Skjeldal)	Cross-country 4 x 10 km relay
Norway (Pål Trulsen, Lars Vågberg, Flemming Davanger, Bent Ånund Ramsfjell, Torger Nergaard)	Curling men
Kari Traa	Freestyle moguls

Turin 2006

Lars Bystøl	Ski jumping K90
Kjetil Andre Aamodt	Alpine skiing Super-G



Paule, Tove

Born: 11.01.54 – Kongsberg

Residence: Drammen

President NOC

President Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports

Andersen, Inge

Born: 22.05.64 – Bergen

Residence: Vetre

General Secretary NOC

General Secretary Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports



Heiberg, Gerhard

Born: 24.03.39 – Oslo

Residence: Oslo

IOC Member

President Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee (1989-1994)

President Lillehammer Paralympic Organizing Committee (1989-1994)

FEDERATION PRESIDENTS

Hansen, Svein-Arne

Born: 06.05.46 – Eidskog

Residence: Oslo

Norwegian Amateur Athletic Association





Pindard, Thomas
Born: 02.05.75 - Kristiansand
Residence: Lillestrøm
Norwegian Canoe Association

Tidemann Hansen, Harald
Born: 30.07.56 – Skien
Residence: Skien
Norwegian Cycling Federation



Aasen, Kristin Kloster
Born: 04.01.61 – Oslo
Residence: Oslo
Norwegian Equestrian Federation

Kåfjord, Sondre
Born: 07.06.48 – Mandal
Residence: Mandal
The Football Association of Norway





Faye, Bjørn
Born: 19.08.52 – Bergen
Residence: Bergen
Norwegian Fencing Federation

Modahl, Arne Sverre
Born: 29.06.48 – Bergen
Residence: Oslo
Norwegian Handball Federation



Berg, Trond
Born: 24.04.52 – Molde
Residence: Slependen
Norwegian Martial Arts Federation

Thorsen, Rolf
Born: 22.02.61 – Zürich (CH)
Residence: Oslo
Norwegian Rowing Federation





Smith, Stig Hvide
Born: 09.03.56 – Oslo
Residence: Oslo
Norwegian Sailing Federation

Sørli, Rune
Born: 21.07.52 – Oslo
Residence: Flisa
Norwegian Shooting Association



Eknes, Per Rune
Born: 11.12.62 – Bergen
Residence: Asker
Norwegian Swimming Federation

Broks, Edgar
Born: 20.11.60 – Tromsø
Residence: Tromsø
Norwegian Volleyball Federation





Mattingsdal, Per
Born: 25.03.43 - Vigrestad
Residence: Hå
Norwegian Weightlifting Federation

Dauidsen, Øystein
Born: 28.05.45 – Porsgrunn
Residence: Porsgrunn
Norwegian Wrestling Federation



Waldal, Erling
Born: 19.03.45 – Trondheim
Residence: Moelv
Norwegian Walking Association

CHEF DE MISSION



Aambø, Jarle

Born: 26.03.60 – Tingvoll

Residence: Fjellhamar

Chef de Mission

Director/Manager of Elite Sport Programme

3rd as Chef de Mission

5th as Team Official

Three OG as coach alpine skiing (1988, 1992, 1994)

Myrmæl, Marit

Born: 20.01.54 – Trondheim

Residence: Oslo

Ass. Chef de Mission

5th OG as Team Official

Athlete cross-country skiing Olympic Games
1976-1980-1984



STAFF



Lium, Guro

Born: 04.12.74 – Oslo

Residence: Oslo

Adm. Personnel (Administration)

1st OG as Team Official

Århus, Kjetil

Born: 28.12.70 – Bergen

Residence: Bergen

Adm. Personnel (IT and Transportation)

4th OG as Team Official





NORWEGIAN OLYMPIC TEAM



Mundal, Svein

Born: 06.03.51 – Oslo

Residence: Bærum

Adm. Personnel (Responsible for Radisson SAS Hotel in Beijing)

5th OG as Team Official

One OG as coach alpine skiing (1980)

OLYMPIC ATTACHÉ

Reinfjord, Knut

Born: 10.12.64 – Bodø

Residence: Hexi District

Olympic Attaché

1st OG as Olympic Attaché



COACHES



Jørgensen, Michael

Born: 05.01.63 – Randers, DEN

Residence: Hordvik, Bergen

Coach

3rd OG as Team Official

Kvålsvoll, Atle

Born: 10.04.62 – Trondheim

Residence: Trondheim

Coach

4th OG as Team Official

Former professional cyclist – Road Race.
Won the overall victory for teams in Tour de France 1990 with Greg Lemond as individual winner. Athlete in Los Angeles OG 84.





Øvrebø, Tore

Born: 25.08.65 – Stavanger

Residence: Oslo

Coach

4th OG as Team Official

Former rower. OG competitor 1988.

SECURITY

Brattset, Rolf A.

Born: 21.07.58 – Oppdal

Residence: Oslo

Security

1st OG as Team Official



MEDICAL OFFICERS



Rønsen, Ola

Born: 24.02.56 – Sørumsand

Residence: Skedsmokorset

MD, Chief Medical Officer

5th OG as MD, Medical Officer

Fossan, Bjørn

Born: 19.05.53 – Oslo

Residence: Oslo

Physiotherapist

9th OG as Medical Staff





NORWEGIAN OLYMPIC TEAM



Helle, Christine
Born: 29.03.65 – Bærum
Residence: Oslo
Nutritionist
4th OG as Medical Staff

Carlsen, Kai Håkon
Born: 03.01.46 – Moss
Residence: Oslo
MD, Medical Officer
1st OG as Medical Staff



Stensrud, Trine
Born: 09.01.60 - Porsgrunn
Residence: Bærum
Physiologist
1st OG as Medical Staff

Hem, Erlend
Born: 08.05.60 – Oslo
Residence: Oslo
Physiologist
4th OG as Medical Staff



SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST



Pensgård, Anne Marte
Born: 16.10.64 – Haugesund
Residence: Oslo
Sports Psychologist
3rd OG as Medical Staff

Abrahamsen, Frank
Born: 18.12.73 - Tønsberg
Residence: Oslo
Sports Psychologist
1st OG as Medical Staff



Tajet-Foxell, Britt
Born: 17.02.48
Residence: ENG
Sports Psychologist
1st OG as Medical Staff

CHEF

Skogvoll, Trond
Born: 26.07.68 – Narvik
Residence: Mandal
Chef
5th OG as Team Official





NORWEGIAN OLYMPIC TEAM

PRESS ATTACHÉS



Lea, Halvor
Born: 24.07.65 – Stavanger
Residence: Oslo
Chief Press Attaché
Athletics, Handball, Rowing, Sailing
5th OG as Press Attaché
Mobile in China: 13910082549

Eide, Gro
Born: 21.10.63 – Trondheim
Residence: Trondheim
Press Attaché
Beach volleyball, Cycling, Fencing,
Taekwondo, Weightlifting
6th OG as Press Attaché
Mobile in China: 13910083346



Bjørnland, Lars Otto
Born: 14.11.54 – Sarpsborg
Residence: Sarpsborg
Press Attaché
Equestrian, Kayak, Shooting, Swimming,
Wrestling
7th OG as Press Attaché
Mobile in China: 13910084227

Jamessen, Jon S.
Born: 06.11.60 – Sarpsborg
Residence: Sarpsborg
Press Attaché
Football
3rd OG as Press Attaché
Mobile in China: 13522180863




NATIONAL STADIUM


Venue: Athletics – **Location from Olympic Village:** 0,5 km – ≤ 5 min –
Total land surface: 258.000 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 80.000 –
Temporary seats: 11.000

Thorkildsen and Saidu Ndure, Norway's brightest prospects at the top

Norwegian athletics (track and field events) are about to complete a successful generational change. The hard core of our best players, those who brought home EC, WC and OL medals in the 1990s and just after the turn of the century, have retired. But now a new generation of players is becoming well established. Leading the way is Andreas Thorkildsen (26), Olympic champion in the javelin at the Athens games. He shocked the entire track and field world at the tender age of 22 when he won the gold in Athens. No-one had thought that this young lad was capable of such a feat. Thus Thorkildsen became the third Norwegian to win the Olympic gold medal in the javelin. Trine Hattestad took the gold in Sydney in 2000, and Egil Danielsen did so in Melbourne in 1956.

In the years after taking the OL gold, Thorkildsen has won WC silver in Helsinki (2005), EC gold in Gothenburg (2006) and WC silver in Osaka (2007). Now he is itching to defend his OL gold. Physically and mentally he is in better shape than ever, and the back problems he had last year seem to have disappeared completely.

In addition to javelin thrower Thorkildsen, there are high hopes for the former Gambian Jaysuma Saidu Ndure, who has become a Norwegian citizen and will be representing Norway in Beijing. Last season he surprised the international sprint set by



ATHLETICS

winning in the Golden League finals and the Grand Prix finals. Saïdy Ndure racked up Norwegian records last year in both the 100m (10.06) and 200m (19.89). In the first rally of the season, in Doha, he bettered the Norwegian record even further (10.01). Saïdy Ndure has high hopes of reaching the OL finals in both sprint distances.

The Norwegian Athletics Federation was founded in 1896. It grew, in time, to become a powerful organization with 100,000 members. During the 1990s, athletics in Norway lost membership, but the number of active members is now on the rise. Today there are 66,000 registered members in 707 clubs/groups. The Federation has done an outstanding recruiting job these past few years, and is currently focusing on building up top-level sports.

More info: www.friidrett.no



Tømmernes, Ketil
Born: 18.12.71 - Bergen
Residence: Oslo
Team leader
Occupation: Sport director
3rd OG as Team Official



Martinsen, Åsmund
Born: 21.04.72 – Oslo
Residence: Fjerdingby
Coach – Andreas Torkildsen
2nd OG as coach



Tveitå, Olav
Born: 23.07.69 – Oslo
Residence: Hornnes
Coach
2nd OG as coach



Udelhoven, Lucas
Born: 22.01.67 – Berlin, GER
Residence: Kristiansand
Coach – Ida Marcussen
1st OG as coach



ATHLETICS



Vukicevic, Petar

Born: 07.08.56 – Beograd

Residence: Lommedalen

Coach

1st OG as coach

Athlete in OG 1980



Talsnes, Ove

Born: 22.06.62 - Tynset

Residence: Hamar

MD, Medical Officer

3rd summer OG as MD, Medical Officer.

Former middle distance runner. 1500 m:

3.39.25. High jump: 200 cm



Lager, Eirik W.

Born: 16.09.62 – Kongsberg

Residence: Hønefoss

Physiotherapist

1st OG as Physiotherapist



Røstad, Vibeke

Born: 27.02.79 – Trondheim

Residence: Oslo

Physiotherapist

1st OG as Physiotherapist



MEN

**Thorildsen, Andreas****Club:** Kristiansand IF**Born:** 01.04.82 - Kristiansand**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 190**Civil Status:** Cohabit**Occupation:** Javelin thrower**Hobbies:** Cod 4**Favourite music:** Dragon Force**Favourite film:** Boondock Saints**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Taco**Greatest sport moment:** Athens Olympics**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, english**Previous results:****OG 04:** 1/javelin**WCh 05:** 2/javelin **WCh 07:** 2/javelin**ECh 06:** 1/javelin**WC 06:** 1/javelin**Personal best:** Javelin: 91.59**Saidu Ndure Jaysuma****Club:** IL Bul**Born:** 01.01.84 – Bakau, Gambia**Residence:** Blystadlia**Height:** 190 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabit**Occupation:** Athlete**Hobbies:** Watching soccer, basketball and volleyball**Favourite music:** Rap, hip hop and reggae**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****OG 04:** Heats/100 m, heats/200 m**WCh 05:** Semi/200 m**AfrCh 04:** 3/100 m**NCh:** 2**Personal best:** 100 m: 10.01, 200 m: 19.89



ATHLETICS – ATHLETES

WOMEN

**Otterbu, Kirsten Melkevik****Club:** BFG Fana**Born:** 29.05.70 - Bergen**Residence:** Bergen**Height:** 170 cm**Civil Status:** Married**Occupation:** Physiotherapist**Hobbies:** Piano playing**Favourite music:** Pop/rock**Favourite film:** Varg Veum**Favourite book genre:** Crime/Varg Veum**Favourite food:** Mexican**Greatest sport moment:** Frankfurt Marathon – 2.29.12**Sport idol:** Paula Radcliff**Languages spoken:** Norwegian**Previous results:****WCh 05:** 28/maraton **WCh 07:** 29/maraton**ECh 06:** 13/maraton**NCh:** 19 medals**Personal best:** 3000 m: 9.06, 5000 m: 16.00, 10.000 m: 33.05,
½ marathon: 2.12.35, Marathon: 2.29.12**Marcussen, Ida****Club:** I.K. Våg**Born:** 01.11.87 - Kristiansand**Residence:** Kristiansand**Height:** 173 cm**Civil Status:** Single**Occupation:** Student**Hobbies:** Volleyball, "Sex and the city"**Favourite music:** Pop, rhythm & blues**Favourite film:** The fabulous Amelie**Favourite food:** Salmon baked in oven**Greatest sport moment:** Wch 2007 and OG 2008!!!**Sport idol:** Carolina Klüft**Languages spoken:** Norwegian**Previous results:****Jr. WCh 06:** 2/heptathlon (6020 p)**WCh 07:** 11/heptathlon (6226 p)**Personal best:** Heptathlon 6226 p.

**Vukicevic, Christina****Club:** Ski IL**Born:** 18.06.87**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 177 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabit**Occupation:** Athlete**Favourite music:** System of Down**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Everything**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, Serbian**Personal best:**

100 m hurdles: 13.07

**Okparaebo, Ezinne****Club:** BUL**Born:** 03.03.88 – Nigeria**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 164 cm**Civil Status:** Single**Occupation:** Athlete/student**Hobbies:** Watching TV, sports, reading books**Favourite music:** R&B, ne-yo**Favourite film:** Titanic**Favourite book genre:** The kite-runner, novels**Favourite food:** Rice, stew and chicken**Greatest sport moment:** Winning European Junior Championships 2007**Sport idol:** Tiger Woods**Languages spoken:** Igbo, English, Norwegian, French**Comments:** It's not just about winning, it's all about fighting**Previous results:****WCh indoor 08:** Semi final 60 m**ECh jr 07:** 1/100 m**NCh:** 4**Personal best: 60 m:** 7.33, **100 m:** 11.42, **200 m:** 23.99



CHAOYANG PARK BEACH VOLLEYBALL GROUND

Photo: RAYMOND WARDENÆR



Venue: Beach Volleyball – **Location from Olympic Village:** 15 km – ≤ 15 min – **Floor area:** 14.150 sq m – **Permanent seats:** None – **Temporary seats:** 12.200

Olympic experienced teams will compete in the sand in Beijing

Three Norwegian Beach Volley teams are ready for the Beijing Olympics. Representing the men experienced Jørre Kjemperud is competing in his third Olympics together with his new companion since the Olympic Games in Athens - Tarjei Skarlund. Tarjei now participates in his first Olympics. On the female's side both teams have Olympic experience. Both Susanne Glesnes and Kathrine Maaseide and also Ingrid Tørlen and Nila Håkedal competed in Athens in 2004.

Even though Beach Volley has been played at Californian beaches and in Hawaii since the 1920's the sport is relatively new in Norway. The first official tournament in the world was played in California in 1947, but it was played unofficially in Europe as early as in the 1930's. FIVB – The International Volleyball Federation - included Beach Volley in their program and in 1987 they arranged the first official World Championships in Beach Volleyball at Ipanema Beach in Rio de Janeiro. In 1996 beach volleyball was included in the Olympic program and Norway had teams in both men and women classes. In Sydney Norway participated with two men's teams and in Athens with two men's and two women's teams.



The first beach volleyball tournament arranged in Norway took place in 1984 at Oddane Sand near Larvik. The Norwegian Championship has been arranged annually since 1993 at the great beaches of Mandal in southern Norway. In 1999 Norway arranged a world event for the first time in Stavanger and since then there has been arranged several event with both international and national status.

Norway became a leading beach volley nation starting in the 1990's. In 1995 Jan Kvalheim and Bjørn Maaseide became World Champions after having won the World Series. They also won the European Championship in 1994 and in 1997 the team Jørre Kjemperud and Vegard Høidalen became European Champions. After the girl team Merita Berntsen Mol and Ragni Hestad won silver in the European Championships in 1995 new girl teams have continued successfully in the 2000's. In 2004 Susanne Glesnes and Kathrine Maaseide won the European Championships Silver Medal and in 2008 the Bronze Medal. Ingrid Tørlen and Nila Håkedal won the Bronze Medal in the European Championship both in 2006 and 2007 and the Silver Medal in 2008.

More info: www.volleyball.no



BEACH VOLLEYBALL



Mol, Kåre

Born: 23.02.62 – Rjukan

Residence: Strandvik

Team Leader

3rd OG – Coach women Atlanta 96,
assistant coach men Athens 04.



Grydeland, Jon

Born: 12.11.74 – Asker

Residence: Lier

Head Coach

3rd OG – Assistant coach men Sydney 00,
assistant coach women Athens 04. Former
indoor volleyball player on National Team.



Berntsen, Ronny

Born: 04.02.66 – Stavanger

Residence: Stavanger

Coach

1st OG as coach. Former beach volleyball
player at international level.



Brunale de Andrade, Ricardo

Born: 03.09.72 – Brasilia

Residence: Rio de Janeiro and Stavanger

Coach

2nd OG - Assistant Coach for Brazil in
Sydney 00. Former indoor and beach
volleyball player for 16 years.



Torgalsen, Thomas
Born: 23.03.55 – Oslo
Residence: Oslo
MD, Medical Officer
1st OG as MD, Medical Officer



Leitao, Maria Øgreid
Born: 15.03.78 – Stavanger
Residence: Stavanger
Physiotherapist
1st OG as Physiotherapist



Wigstrand, Arvid
Born: 20.03.62 – Stavanger
Residence: Sandnes
Video Analysis
1st OG as Video Analyst



BEACH VOLLEYBALL – ATHLETES

MEN

**Kjemperud, Jørre****Club:** Randaberg volleyball**Born:** 31.08.68 - Vikersund**Residence:** Stavanger**Height:** 188 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabitant**Occupation:** Professional Beach Volley player**Hobbies:** Golf, skiing, friends**Favourite music:** All**Favourite food:** Pasta**Greatest sport moment:** Winning world tour. Bronze medal in WCh.**Sports idol:** Air Jordan**Languages spoken:** English**Previous results:****OG'00:** 9 **04:** 9**WCh'01:** 3**ECh'97:** 1**NCh:** Six times national champion beach volley, twice national champion indoor volley**Skarlund, Tarjei****Club:** Randaberg IL**Born:** 06.11.78 - Ålesund**Residence:** Stavanger**Height:** 191 cm**Civil Status:** Engaged – getting married 6th September**Occupation:** Professional Beach Volleyball player**Hobbies:** Guitar, music**Favourite music:** Bigbang (Norwegian), Red Hot Chilli Peppers**Favourite film:** Shawshank Redemption, Braveheart, American History X**Favourite book genre:** Empty books (don't like to read)**Favourite food:** Traditional Norwegian food**Greatest sport moment:** My breakthrough with a 9th place in World Tour Stavanger 2004**Sports idol:** Kjetil André Aamodt**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English and a little self learned German**Previous results:****World Tour'04:** 9 – Stavanger **07:** 4 – Åland**NCh'06:** 1



WOMEN



Tørten, Ingrid Mogstad

Club: Blindheim IL

Born: 21.07.79 - Ålesund

Residence: Oslo

Height: 174 cm

Civil Status: Single

Occupation: Professional Beach volleyball player

Hobbies: Reading, music, photography

Favourite music: It depends so much of the

mood, to day I listened to Jack Johnsen and Donovan Frankenreiter

Favourite film: Cinema paradiso

Favourite food: Maybe Mexican? Greek?

Greatest sport moment: 3rd in Acapulco'06, World Tour, 2nd in Shanghai'07, World Tour

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Previous results:

OG'04: 19

WCh'03: 17

ECh'06: 3 **07:** 3 **08:** 2

NCh: National Champions 04, 05, 06



Håkedal, Nila

Club: Kristiansand Sandvolleyballklubb

Born: 13.06.79 - Kristiansand

Residence: Oslo

Height: 176 cm

Civil Status: Engaged

Occupation: Professional Beach volleyball player

Hobbies: Books and movies

Favourite food: Strawberries

Greatest sport moment: Bronze medal, World Tour, Acapulco'06

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English, German, some Spanish and Portuguese

Previous results:

OG'04: 19

WCh'03: 17

ECh'06: 3 **07:** 3 **08:** 2

NCh: National Champions 04, 05, 06



BEACH VOLLEYBALL – ATHLETES



Glesnes, Susanne

Club: BSI

Born: 01.12.74 - Bergen

Residence: Glesvær

Height: 177

Civil Status: Cohabitant

Occupation: Professional beach volleyball player

Hobbies: Reading, snowboard

Favourite music: Enigma, U2

Favourite film: Dr. House, Matrix

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite food: Sea food

Greatest sport moment: Olympic Games'04 Athens, ECh Silver Medal 2004

Sports idol: No one special

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Previous results:

OG'04: 17

WCh'07: 9

Ech'04: 2 **08:** 3

NCh: 5 gold medals, 2 silver medals



Maaseide, Kathrine

Club: Austrått IL

Born: 18.12.76 - Stavanger

Residence: Stavanger

Height: 183 cm

Civil Status: Married

Occupation: Professional beach volleyball player

Hobbies: Family and friends

Favourite music: Kaizers orchestra

Favourite film: Love actually

Favourite book genre: Biographies

Favourite food: Crab and shrimps

Greatest sport moment: ECh Silver Medal 2004

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Previous results:

OG'04: 17

WCh'07: 9

Ech'04: 2 **08:** 3

NCh: 5 times national champion beach volley, twice national champion indoor volleyball

Other: 5 Grand Slam Klagenfurt'07



LAOSHAN MOUNTAIN BIKE COURSE



Venue: Cycling – Mountain bike – **Location from Olympic Village:** 23 km – ≤ 20 min – **Floor area:** 8.725 sq m – **Permanent seats:** None – **Temporary seats:** 2.000 – **Standing seats:** 15.000

Olympic Champion on her way back

Gun Rita Dahle Flesjå's gold medal in Mountain Bike in Athens 2004 was the first female medal in Norwegian Olympic history. On the men's side Knut Knutsen won his gold medal in 4000m individual pursuit on the velodrome in Munich in 1972. In addition Dag Otto Lauritzen won the Olympic bronze medal in road race in Los Angeles in 1984.

Since the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004, Norwegian cyclists have achieved great international victories. In Tour de France Thor Hushovd, Credit Agricole, took six stage victories and won the Gent-Wevelgem 2006 in addition to several international victories in the professional Tours and the highest categorized races of UCI – Union Cycliste Internationale. Kurt Asle Arvesen, Team CSC, won a strong stage victory in Giro d'Italia 2007 and he also won the E3 Prijs Vlaanderen, Harelbeke in 2008. Olympic rookie Edvald Boasson Hagen was in 2007 ranked as the world's best U23-cyclist due to several UCI-race victories. Our 4th man on the team, Gabriel Rasch, is despite his late pro-tour debut a young man with lots of experience and routine. On the female side experienced Anita Valen is in her second come back aiming for a road race medal finishing her career.

BMX – Bike Motor Cross – is a brand new Olympic discipline and Sebastian Kartfjord will make his debut for Norway. We expect a tough competition but we hope he can make it to the finals.



URBAN ROAD CYCLING COURSE



Venue: Cycling – Road race – Location from Olympic Village:
25 km – ≤ 25 min –Permanent seats: None – Temporary seats: 3.000

In the discipline MTB – Mountain Bike - Lene Byberg achieved top ten results in all the World Cup races last year. In addition this year's World Cup result confirms that Lene is even improving from her strong 8th place in the MTB World Championship in 2007. Lene made her Olympic debut in Athens 2004 in Road race.

Reigning Olympic Champion in MTB Gun Rita Dahle Flesjå is working hard to get back in perfect shape for the competition in Beijing. Since her Olympic victory in Athens 2004 she has done fabulous efforts winning almost every international race she has participated in. Except from this is the season 2007 where she struggled with health issues. Even though she became World Champion in Marathon Cycling last month, time will tell if her level will be in place to compete for a new medal in MTB.

More info: www.sykling.no

**Kjærgaard, Steffen****Born:** 24.05.73 - Tønsberg**Residence:** Tønsberg**Team Leader**

1st OG as Team Official

Former professional road cyclist including two Tour de France and OG 92. Eight times participant in WCh road and track.

**Flesjå, Kenneth****Born:** 10.09.78 - Stavanger**Residence:** Sandnes**Coach** (Gunn-Rita Dahle Flesjå, MTB)

2nd OG as Coach

Former road cyclist on Norwegian National Team as junior and U23 rider. Coach and training partner for Gunn-Rita Dahle Flesjå since March 2001.

**Dalen, Petter****Born:** 14.01.65 - Haugesund**Residence:** Sandnes**Coach BMX**

1st OG as Coach

**Tiede, Ralf****Born:** 05.01.65 – Heubach, GER**Residence:** Heubach, GER**Mechanic**

1st OG as Mechanic



CYCLING – ATHLETES



Josefsen, Tommy
Born: 25.03.75 - Oslo
Residence: Oslo
Mechanic
1st OG as Mechanic



Olsen, Kim Stian
Born: 26.11.75 - Hammerfest
Residence: Tønsberg
Masseur
1st OG as Masseur

MEN



Hushovd, Thor
Club: Credit Agricole
Born: 18.01.1978 - Grimstad
Residence: Nyon, SUI
Height: 183 cm
Civil Status: Married to Susanne
Occupation: Cyclist
Hobbies: Hunting, skiing
Favourite music: TOTO
Favourite film: A bloody diamond

Favourite book genre: Criminal

Favourite food: Mexican

Greatest sport moment: Winning a stage in Tour de France on Champs Elysée in Paris

Sport idol: Bjørn Dæhlie

Languages spoken: Norwegian, French, English

Previous results:

OG'00: 7 Time Trial, DNF Road race 04: 32 Time Trial, DNF Road race

WCh'98: 1 – U23

NCh: 4 times Champion

Other: Won 5 stages of Tour de France.

**Arvesen, Kurt Asle****Club:** Team CSC**Born:** 09.02.1975 - Molde**Residence:** Eresfjord**Height:** 183 cm**Civil Status:** Married**Occupation:** Cyclist**Hobbies:** Mountain hiking**Favourite music:** Flåklypa (Norwegian movie)**Favourite film:** Flåklypa (Norwegian movie)**Favourite book genre:** None**Favourite food:** Italian**Greatest sport moment:** When Liv Baldersheim won the sprint in ProTour Valdres 2008**Sport idol:** Jalebert**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, Italian**Previous results:****OG'00:** DNF, Road race 04: 9 Road race, 28 Time Trial**WCh'97:** 1 – U23**Hagen, Edvald Boasson****Club:** Higroup/Lillehammer CK**Born:** 17.05.87 - Lillehammer**Residence:** Lillehammer**Height:** 181 cm**Civil Status:** Relationship**Occupation:** Professional cyclist**Favourite music:** Hit music**Favourite book genre:** I don't read books**Favourite food:** Taco, Pizza**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****WCh'06:** 5 U23 Time Trial, 9 U23 Road race 07: 6 U23 Time Trial**Other: 07:** 1 – overall Ringerike GP **08:** 1 – Denain GP, 1 – Criterium Int. Time Trial. Won 2 stages and overall Paris – Coreze'07. Won 1 stage Tour de Ireland 2007. Won 3 stages of Tour de L'Avenir'06. Ranked as the world's best U23-cyclist at UCI Europe Tour-07.



CYCLING – ATHLETES

**Kartfjord, Sebastian****Club:** Sandnes BMX**Born:** 06.08.87 - Bodø**Residence:** Sandnes**Height:** 180 cm**Civil Status:** Engaged, 1 son**Occupation:** Cyclist**Hobbies:** Friends, Mountainbike, Trails, Webdesign**Favourite music:** Rock, Hardcore, 70's**Favourite film:** Quentin Tarrantino movies**Favourite book genre:** Athlete's bios**Favourite food:** Chinese and my girlfriend's pizza**Greatest sport moment:** Winning international races**Sports idol:** Different Olympic and Gold medallists**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****ECh'08:** 5 Zwolle, 8 Denmark**NCh:** Twice 1 Junior. Twice 1 Elite**Zwolle Round'08:** 1 – Elite Men Semi**Rasch, Gabriel****Club:** Credit Agricole**Born:** 080476 - Ringerike**Residence:** Hønefoss**Height:** 184 cm**Occupation:** Cycling**Hobbies:** Boats, Ice hockey**Favourite film:** Star Wars, Lord of the Rings**Favourite food:** Taco, Pizza, Fish**Languages spoken:** English**Sports idol:** Wayne Gretzky, Steffen Kjærgaard**Previous results:****NCh'03:** 1 – Road race



WOMEN

**Flesjå, Gunn-Rita Dahle****Club:** Multivan Merida Biking Team/Sola Cycleklubb**Born:** 10.02.73 - Stavanger**Residence:** Sandnes**Height:** 173 cm**Civil Status:** Married**Occupation:** Professional MTB OXC Cyclist**Hobbies:** Writing, reading, hiking, fishing**Favourite music:** Rock, Pop, Disco from the

70's and 80's

Favourite film: Forrest Gump**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Italian, Mexican**Greatest sport moment:** European Champion in Zürich 2002**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****OG'04:** 1 MTB**WCh'98 OXC:** 2 02: 1 04: 1 05: 1 06: 1**WCh'04 MXC:** 1 05: 1 06: 1**ECh'98 OXC:** 2 02: 1 03: 1 04: 1 05: 1 06: 2 08: 3**ECh'02 MXC:** 2 03: 2 06: 1**Byberg, Lene****Club:** Bryne CK/ Specialized Factory Racing**Born:** 25.11.82 - Sandnes**Residence:** Sandnes**Height:** 171 cm**Civil Status:** Boyfriend**Occupation:** Professional mountain biker**Hobbies:** Friends, hiking, travelling**Favourite music:** All kinds of music, de-

pends on my mood

Favourite book genre: Everything written by Unni Lindell**Favourite food:** Sushi and Mexican**Greatest sport moment:** Selected for the OG in Athens, first time on the WC Podium**Sport idol:** Ole Einar Bjørndalen**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****OG'04:** 48 Road race**NCh:** Four times champion (2 x Olympic cross country MTB, 1 x marathon MTB, 1x road criteria)**Other:** 4 x 5th place WC MTB. 3 Olympic test event China. 8 WCh Olympic cross country



CYCLING – ATHLETES



De vries-Valen, Anita

Club: Team Flexpoint-Grenland cycling club

Born: 2.12.68 - Porsgrunn

Residence: Skien in Norway and Nederland

Height: 172 cm

Civil Status: Married. Two children; 16 and 10

Occupation: Sports instructor-education
anatomy-physiology

Hobbies: Various sports, music, art, fashion,
travel, religion

Favourite music: Soul, jazz, blues and gospel

Favourite film: Lord of the rings

Favourite book genre: Not without my daughter-bible

Favourite food: West Indian and Asian food

Greatest sport moment: My first National title, medal in the worlds

Sport idol: Gerrit de Vries. Ex pro rider

Languages spoken: English, Dutch, Norwegian

Comments: There is always light in the dark!!!

Previous results:

OG'04: 14 Road race

WCh'03: 8 Road race 04: 3 Road race 05: 7 Road race 07: 25
Road race

Other: Best result ever from a Norwegian in Tour de Laude in the
general qualification. 5 overall. Several top 5 in World Cups. 13
National titles. 2 Scandinavian Gold medals.



HONG KONG OLYMPIC EQUESTRIAN VENUE



Venue: Equestrian – **Location from Olympic Village in Hong Kong:** n/a
 – **Permanent and temporary seats:** 20.000 – **Distance from Beijing and travel time:** 1.988 km, 3 hours and 30 minutes by air

Mutual commitment and team spirit are the keys to success

Not since Morten Aasen competed in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics has Norway been represented in the discipline of jumping. Therefore, 17 August 2007 was a day to remember in Norwegian riding sports. With its 6th place finish on the EC team in German Mannheim, Norway qualified for the Beijing Olympics.

What we have here is a team with team spirit and a strong mutual commitment that is headed for Hong Kong. Even though all four are new to the Olympics, Morten Djupvik, Stein Endresen, Geir Gulliksen and Tony Andre Hansen are all experienced riders. They are also very consistent, and if all of them do what they are capable of, there is a real chance at a medal.

Sylve Söderstrand, team leader and head coach, is quick to remind us, however, that they are not focusing on results, but on achievement. The goal is to aim for error-free rounds, so-called 0 rounds. This could potentially lead to something really big. Germany and the Netherlands are the clear favourites here, with the US and a few other countries being given an outside chance. Sixteen teams in all will be competing in Hong Kong.



The Norwegian team has completed its preparations in an outstanding manner, and our riders have good enough horses. It's the team competition that counts most for Norway. The individual competition is an added bonus. And here, many have a chance to win. Sylve Söderstrand claims that some 50-odd riders could be competing for a medal. The biggest favourites rarely make it to the top. We saw that clearly during the Sydney Games eight years ago, when the Dutchman Joroen Dubbeldam won the gold; he had never won a Grand Prix competition.

Norway is a small country when it comes to jumping, but will be going all out to improve its international ranking. Young riders are undergoing rigorous, and efforts are focused on finding systems that will turn them into top-notch international riders.

During the past decade, the Norwegian Riding Association has doubled its membership rolls. There are currently 40,000 members in approx. 350 riding clubs. Around 4,000 of these are licensed riders in all disciplines, and about 10,000 horses are registered. Even the disabled play a key role in the Riding Association's strategy and vision.

More info: www.rytter.no

**Söderstrand, Sylve****Born:** 24.11.57 – Gotland, SWE**Residence:** Enköping, SWE**Team leader/Head Coach**

1st OG as Team Leader/Head Coach

Head Coach for Sweden in OG 00 and 04

**Mullins, Michael Gerard****Born:** 29.12.53 – Croom, IRE**Residence:** Kilcock, IRE**Ass. Coach**

1st OG as Ass. Coach

Participating for Ireland in Jumping in OG 84 and OG 88

**Schröder, Dirk****Born:** 30.05.58 – Lentförden, GER**Residence:** Lentförden, GER**Ass. Coach**

1st OG as Ass. Coach

**Bräthen, Katharina****Born:** 18.03.87 – Drammen**Residence:** Gilse, NED**Groom**

1st OG as Groom



EQUESTRIAN



Kleppe, Anita

Born: 07.07.77 – Kristiansand

Residence: Sandefjord

Groom

1st OG as Groom



Terkelsen, Eva Beate Frøydis

Born: 21.09.79

Residence: Vettre

Groom

1st OG as Groom



Van der Heijden, Patrick J. F.

Born: 23.01.75 – Haelmond, NED

Residence: Sandefjord

Groom

1st OG as Groom

**Djupvik, Morten****Club:** Drammen og Omegn Rideklubb**Born:** 27.04.72 – Oslo**Residence:** Gilze, NED**Height:** 172 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabit**Occupation:** Rider**Hobbies:** Motor cycle, horses**Favourite music:** U2, Coldplay**Favourite film:** Green Mile**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Everything that taste good...**Greatest sport moment:** ECh 2007**Sport idol:** John Withaker**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, Dutch, English**Comments:** Groom Katharina Bråthen**Previous results:****ECh 07:** 6/Team and 10/Individual**Gran Prix:** 1 in Ascona 2007 and 1 in Team Lumen 2008.**NCh:** 1 (1993)**Personal best:** 2.10 m**Endresen, Stein****Club:** Larvik og Sandefjord Rideklubb**Born:** 04.10.59 - Nesodden**Residence:** Sandefjord**Height:** 175 cm**Civil Status:** Married and two children**Hobbies:** Horses**Favourite music:** Pink Floyd**Favourite film:** Lord of Rings**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Italian food**Greatest sport moment:** ECh Showjumping 2007**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, German**Comments:** Groom Patrick J. F. van der Heijden**Previous results:****ECh 07:** 6/Team and 13/Individual**WC:** 2 in Sevilla 1997**NCh:** 3 (1987, 1994, 1997)**Others:** 1 in Team CSIO5 in Lummen 2008, 2 in Grand Prix Drammen Horse Show 2007

**Gulliksen, Geir****Club:** Drammen og Omegn Rideklubb**Born:** 09.01.60**Residence:** Lierskogen**Height:** 183 cm**Civil Status:** Married**Occupation:** Daily manager, rider**Hobbies:** Skiing**Favourite music:** Bruce Springsteen**Favourite film:** Notting Hill**Favourite book genre:** "Be motivated" by Øvind Hammer, professional paper**Favourite food:** Chicken salad**Greatest sport moment:** Oslo Gorse Show 2007**Sport idol:** Ole Einar Bjørndalen**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, German**Comments:** Groom Eva Beate Frøydis Terkelsen**Previous results:****ECh 07:** 6/Team**Grand Prix:** Victories in Moscow, Hamburg, Drammen and Oslo**NCh:** 7 individual (7 Kings Cup) and 7 team**Personal best:** 2.25 m (Norwegian record)**Hansen, Tony Andre****Club:** Skogan Rideklubb**Born:** 23.02.79 - Kongsvinger**Residence:** Sandefjord**Height:** 183 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabit**Occupation:** Rider**Hobbies:** Playing in band, golf**Favourite music:** Pop and rock**Favourite film:** "Elling"**Favourite book genre:** I'm not reading books...**Favourite food:** A real good beefsteak**Greatest sport moment:** Last Grand Prix victory in Drammen 2008**Sport idol:** Tiger Woods**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English and some German**Comments:** Groom Anita Kleppe**Previous results:****ECh 07:** 6/Team**Grand Prix:** 1 in Grand Prix in Drammen 2008**Others:** 10 in WC (European Final), 4 in World Cup Qualification in Gothenburg, 1 in team Nations Cup in Lummen, 3 in team Nations Cup in Madrid



RESERVE

**Øien, Christian Anfinssen****Club:** Askim Rideklubb**Born:** 14.06.80 - Oslo**Residence:** Zupental, BEL**Height:** 178 cm**Civil Status:** Single**Occupation:** Rider**Hobbies:** Tennis**Favourite music:** Hard rock**Favourite food:** Tacco**Greatest sport moment:** ECh 07 and qualified for the Olympic Games, Nation Cup in Drammen 2003 and Poland 2005**Sport idol:** Ludger Beerbaum**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, German**Previous results:****ECh 05:** 12/Team**WC:** 5 in Gothenburg 2005**Grand Prix:** 3 in Grand Prix in Drammen 2008**Others:** 8 in ECh Young Rider in 2001

**FENCING HALL OF NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER**

Venue: Fencing – **Location from Olympic Village:** 0,5 km –
≤ 5 min – **Floor area:** 50.000 sq m – **Permanent seats:** None –
Temporary seats: 6.000

Norwegian fencer back in the Olympic Games

It's been 24 years since Norway last entered male fencers in the Olympics. This was at the Los Angeles Games in 1984. Representing Norway were Nils Koppang and Bård Vonen, who ended in 11th and 16th place respectively. So it is all the more gratifying for Norwegian fencing that 27-year-old Sturla Torkildsen from Njård Fekting, who hails from Oslo, has managed to qualify and is ready to participate in the Olympics in Beijing.

Even though we were almost able to enter male fencers in the 2004 Games, unfortunately none of the Norwegians succeeded in qualifying for the Athens OL. Claus Severin Mørch was ranked 10th in the world, but didn't manage to qualify. The women, on the other hand, took part in the Games in Sydney in 2000. Norway entered a women's team with Margrete Mørch, Silvia Lesoil and Ragnhild Andenæs, which resulted in an 8th place finish.

Fencing is a modern sport. It hones one's ability to concentrate, one's sense of balance and one's strategic abilities; it is also provides plenty of exercise. In modern sports fencing there are three branches: rapier, foil and sabre. All three are based on their respective historical weapons. International fencing features all three weapons, but rapier predominates, both in terms of the number of active participants and the number of participating countries in the Olympic Games. In Norway, only the Norwegian championship is arranged in this branch.



The rapier's triangular blade is approx. 90 cm long, with a total weight of approx. 750 grams; it is slightly spring-loaded at the tip. It has to be thrust with a force of 750 grams. The blade's triangular shape traces its history to the rapier's roots as a dueling weapon, and is used to attach the cable that goes from the tip to the parrying plate (the cup). Points are won by striking one's opponent with the tip anywhere on the body. Points are accumulated whether the hit is on the foot, the underarm, or right over the heart. There is no "right of attack"; the object is simply to get in the first hit. It is also possible for the fencers to hit simultaneously; when that happens, both fencers receive points, and fencers work just as hard to avoid being hit by their opponent as they do to make a hit.

More info: www.fekting.no



Piasecki, Mariusz

Born: 26.09.58 – Olesnica, POL

Residence: Oslo

Head Coach

2nd OG as Head Coach

Head Coach for Norway since 1993.

Polish national fencer 1978-1988.

7th as best result in WC and 2nd place in the 1985 Universidad.

ATHLETE



Torkildsen, Sturla

Club: Njård

Born: 18.07.81 - Oslo

Residence: Oslo

Height: 193 cm

Civil Status: Single

Occupation: Graduated Norwegian Law School

Favorite music: U2

Favorite literature: Contemporary novels

Favorite movie: Usual Suspects

Favorite food: Caviar

Favorite "thing": PS3

Greatest moment in sport: Kjetil André Aamodt's Olympic Gold Medal in Super G in 2006

Sports idol: Kjetil André Aamodt

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Previous results:

Wch 07: Men's Epee 125

ECh 07: Men's Epee 25

NordicCh'07: 1

**BEIJING WORKERS' STADIUM**

Venue: Football – **Location from Olympic Village:** 12 km – ≤ 15 min –
Floor area: 44.800 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 64.000

Football – the biggest women's sport in Norway

Football is Norway's biggest sport. There are 1,839 Norwegian football clubs, 26,573 teams and 375,000 players. Of these, 108,000 are female football players, making football the biggest sport for women. All told there are more than a million people directly associated with football, either as players or trainers, team leaders or spokesmen.

More than 330,000 football matches are played each year in Norway. Even at the national team level there is a high level of activity. The Football Association of Norway (NFF) participates internationally with 12 national teams, which play a total of approx. 120 international matches per year.

The first football club in Norway was Christiania Football Club, which was founded in 1885. The Football Association of Norway was founded in 1902. Even though Norwegian football has a long history of tradition, a new dimension was added to the sport in the early 1970s when women's football became an established part of organized football.

The Norwegian Women's National Football team played its first international match in 1978, and quickly gained an international reputation. In 1987, the team won the gold in the European championship, a feat they repeated in 1993. The national women's team also emerged victorious from the first unofficial



QINHUANGDAO OLYMPIC SPORTS CENTER STADIUM



Venue: Football Preliminary – **Location from Olympic Village in Qinhuangdao:** 3 km – ≤ 10 min – **Total land surface:** 168.000 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 35.000 – **Distance from Beijing and travel time:** 199 km, approx. 2 hours by road, approx. 1 hour by expressway train

World Championship in women's football in 1988. After subsequently winning the silver in the 1991 WC, Norway won WC gold in 1995. In the first Olympics that featured women's football (Atlanta in 1996), the team won the bronze, but in 2000 they won the gold and became Olympic champions in Sydney. On the men's side, on a number of occasions Norway has participated in international final tournaments, but their only medal was won in the 1938 Olympics, when Norway took the bronze.

On account of the climate conditions in this country, the outdoor season starts in April and ends in early November. In recent years, a number of indoor halls and artificial grass pitches have made it possible to extend the playing season. Norway currently has 18 indoor football halls, all of which meet international size specifications and have FIFA-approved artificial grass. Forty-one training halls, more than 500 artificial grass pitches and 1,477 football bins have also been built. This has made it possible to further increase options for playing football and has helped make football in Norway a year-round sport.

The Football Association of Norway's vision is the thrill of the sport, and an opportunity and challenge for all. As the largest children's organization in the country, Norwegian football also carries a heavy social responsibility, one that keeps a clear focus and that is managed in the best possible way in all parts of Norwegian football's organization.

More info: www.fotball.no



Berntsen, Bjarne

Born: 21.12.56 - Figgjo

Residence: Figgjo

Head Coach

1st OG as Head Coach

Former top division and National Team football player. He has played 33 National Team Matches for Norway. From 1980 until he took over as Head Coach for the National Women's Team in 2005, he was head coach

for several clubs in the national league. He was also assistant coach for National Men's Team 1986-1987.

Honours as player:

1987: Gold medal National Cup Championship Norway with Bryne IL

1994: Bronze medal National League Championship Norway with Viking FK



Johansen, Pål Arne

Born: 16.02.77 – Sandessjøen

Residence: Oslo

Assistant Coach

1st OG as Assistant Coach



Konstad, John T.

Born: 03.12.64 - Melhus

Residence: Korsvegen

Goalkeeper Coach

1st OG as Assistant Coach



Rapp, Anita

Born: 24.07.1977 - Lillehammer

Residence: Oslo

Team Administrator

1st OG as Team Administrator

Olympic Gold Medallist in Sydney 2000

62 National Team Caps



Flørenes, Tonje W.
Born: 11.03.78 - Oslo
Residence: Oslo
Medical Doctor
1st OG as Medical Doctor



Wollen, Vibeke
Born: 05.03.58 - Korgen
Residence: Asker
Physioterapist
4th OG as Physioterapist



Welle, Randi Helen
Born: 06.06.63 - Ålesund
Residence: Sykkylven
Physioterapist
1st OG as Physiotherapist



Jamessen, Jon S.
Born: 06.11.60 – Sarpsborg
Residence: Sarpsborg
Press Attaché
3rd OG as Press Attaché



Finjord, Roger
Born: 08.10.72 - Øksfjord
Residence: Alta
Video Analyst
1st OG as Video Analyst



1

Skarbø, Erika

Club: Arna-Bjørnar

Born: 2.06.87 - Ålesund

Residence: Bergen

Height: 175 cm

Civil Status: Boyfriend

Occupation: Student

Hobbies: Telemark skiing

Favourite music: Celine Dion and Lifehouse

Favourite film: The Holiday

Favourite book genre: "Snømannen"

Favourite food: Nachos

Greatest sport moment: FIFA Women's World Cup 2007

Sport idol: Bente Nordby

Languages spoken: English

Previous results:

4th place, FIFA World Cup 2007

Silver medal WU19 UEFA European Championship 2003

Debut National Team: 05.03.08 vs Italy (4-2)

National Team Matches (goals): 8 (0)



2

Horpestad, Ane Stangeland

Club: Klepp

Born: 02.06.80 - Stavanger

Residence: Bryne

Height: 166 cm

Civil Status: Married

Occupation: Customer Advisor

Hobbies: Family and friends

Favourite music: Jack Johnson

Favourite film: Varg Veum

Favourite book genre: Crime books: "The Snowman" by Jo Nesbø

Favourite food: "Komle" (local Norwegian dish) and tacos

Languages spoken: English

Previous results:

4th place – FIFA World Cup 2007

Silver medal – UEFA European Championship 2005

1 Norwegian League Championship with Kolbotn IL 2006

Debut National Team: 12.05.99 vs Italy (2-2)

National Team Matches (goals): 102 (5)



3

Følstad, Gunhild Bentzen**Club:** Trondheims-Ørn**Born:** 03.11.81 - Namsos/Skage**Residence:** Trondheim**Height:** 173**Civil Status:** Cohabitant**Occupation:** Physiotherapist/Soccer player**Hobbies:** Outdoor activities, reading, listen to music, family and friends.**Favourite music:** Madrugada, Sivert Høyem,

Joni Mitchell, Sheryl Crow, Big Bang, Lars Winnerbäck, Coldplay, Bruce Springsteen, Leonard Cohen, Ane Brun, etc.

Favourite film: Swedish "feel-good movies".**Favourite book:** "Den lille prinsen".**Favourite food:** Salmon, beef of elk, sodd (Norwegian dish), taco**Greatest sport moment:** There are so many....**Sport idol:** No one**Languages spoken:** English**Previous results:**

4th place, FIFA World Cup 2007

Silver medal, UEFA European Championship 2005

2 National Cup Championships with Trondheims-Ørn, 2001, 2002

2 National League Championship with Trondheims-Ørn, 2001, 2003

Debut National Team: 21.07.02 vs USA (0-4)**National Team Matches (goals):** 71 (1)

4

Stensland, Ingvild**Club:** Kopparberg Göteborg FC (Sweden)**Born:** 03.08.81 – Farsund**Residence:** Gothenburg**Height:** 176 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabitant**Occupation:** Football player**Hobbies:** Family and friends**Favourite music:** R&B**Favourite film:** Notting Hill**Favourite food:** My mother's food**Languages spoken:** English**Previous results:**

Silver medal, UEFA European Championship 2005

4th place, FIFA World Cup 2007

3 Norwegian League Championships with Kolbotn IL 2002, 2005, 2006

Debut National Team: 23.01.03 vs USA (1-3)**National Team Matches (goals):** 70 (2)



5

Nordby, Siri

Club: Røa IL

Born: 04.08.78 - Bærum

Residence: Bærum

Height: 166 cm

Civil Status: Cohabitant

Occupation: Soccer player

Hobbies: Golf

Favourite music: All kind

Favourite film: Shawshank redemption

Favourite book genre: Crime - especially Stieg Larsson

Favourite food: Homemade pizza

Greatest sport moment: When Røa won the double in 2004.

Sport idol: Tiger Woods

Languages spoken: English, some French

Previous results:

4th place, FIFA World Cup 2007

Silver medal, UEFA European Championship 2005

2 Norwegian Cup Championships with Røa IL 2004, 2006

2 Norwegian League Championships with Røa IL 2004, 2007

Debut National Team: 21.07.04 vs Germany (1-0)

National Team Matches (goals): 39 (1)



6

Knutsen, Marie

Club: Røa IL

Born: 31.08.82 - Trondheim

Residence: Oslo

Height: 167 cm

Civil Status: Married

Occupation: Student

Hobbies: Reading, music and movies

Favourite music: Everything that makes me happy

Favourite film: Dirty dancing

Favourite book genre: Novels

Favourite food: Taco

Greatest sport moment: When Røa IL won the Cupfinal in 2006

Sport idol: Steven Gerrard

Languages spoken: English

Previous results:

4th place, FIFA World Cup /2007

Silver medal, UEFA European Championship 2005

1 Norwegian Cup Championship, with Røa IL 2006

2 Norwegian League Championships with Trondheims-Ørn 2003 and with Røa IL 2007

Debut National Team: 19.02.05 vs France (0-2)

National Team Matches (goals): 50 (6)



7

Rønning, Trine**Club:** Kolbotn IL**Born:** 14.06.82 - Trondheim**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 164 cm**Civil Status:** Engaged**Occupation:** Soccer player and coach**Hobbies:** Family**Favourite film:** Pirates of the Caribbean**Favourite food:** Pizza**Languages spoken:** English**Comments:** If you don't believe in yourself, no one else will...**Previous results:**

4th place – FIFA World Cup 2007

Silver medal – UEFA European Championship 2005

5 Norwegian Cup Championships with Trondheims-Ørn 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002 and with Kolbotn IL 2007

4 Norwegian League Championships with Trondheims-Ørn 2000, 2001 and with Kolbotn IL 2005, 2006.

Debut National Team: 23.01.99 vs Portugal (4-0)**National Team Matches (goals):** 85 (15)

8

Gulbrandsen, Solveig**Club:** Kolbotn IL**Born:** 12.01.81 - Lørenskog**Residence:** Oppegård**Height:** 169 cm**Civil Status:** Married, one child (Theodor 2 years old)**Occupation:** Football and Marketing**Hobbies:** No time for hobbies!**Favourite music:** I like everything**Favourite film:** Love actually**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Steak**Greatest sport moment:** Norway defeated Brazil in FIFA World cup 1998**Sport idol:** Zinedine Zidane**Languages spoken:** English**Previous results:**

Gold Medal – Olympic Tournament 2000 Sydney

4th place, FIFA World Cup 1999

4th place, FIFA World Cup 2007

Silver medal, UEFA European Championship 2005

3 Norwegian League Championships with Kolbotn IL

1 Norwegian Cup Championship with Kolbotn IL

Debut National Team: 17.06.98 vs Germany (3-2)**National Team Matches (goals):** 123 (39)



9

Herlovsen, Isabell Lehn

Club: Kolbotn IL

Born: 23.06.1988 - Germany

Residence: Fredrikstad

Height: 170 cm

Civil Status: In a relationship

Occupation: Soccer player

Hobbies: Friends and family

Favourite music: Pop

Favourite film: A Walk To Remember

Favourite food: Taco

Greatest sport moment: Goal against France and Sweden in the UEFA European Championship 2005 and goal against China in FIFA World Cup 2007

Sport idol: Cesc Fabregas

Languages spoken: English

Previous results:

4th place, FIFA World Cup 2007

Silver medal, UEFA European Championship 2005

1 Norwegian Cup Championship with Kolbotn IL 2007

2 Norwegian League Championships with Kolbotn IL 2005 and 2006

Debut National Team: 11.03.05 vs Germany (0-4)

National Team Matches (goals): 36 (5)



10

Wiik, Lindy Melissa

Club: Asker

Born: 07.02.85 - Oslo

Residence: Oslo

Height: 165 cm

Civil Status: Boyfriend

Occupation: Football player, student

Favourite film: PS! I love you

Hobbies: Taking pictures, making movies, travelling, shopping, cinema, training

Favourite music: Justin Timberlake, Rihanna, E-type, Michael Jackson

Favourite book genre: Drama, Romantic

Favourite food: All my mother's vegetarian food

Greatest sport moment: U19 European championship in 2003 when we won the silver medal. 4 cup finals with my team Asker and World cup in China 2007.

Sport idol: My boyfriend and football player Peter Kovacs

Languages spoken: English, German

Previous results:

4th place, FIFA World Cup, 2007

Silver medal WU19 UEFA European Championship 2003

1 Norwegian Cup Championship with Asker 2005

4th place in the NCh in troup gymnastics 2005.

NCh in Beach football 2005.

Top goal scorer in the national league 2007

Debut National Team: 02.10.04 vs Spain (2-0)

National Team Matches (goals): 32 (12)



11

Kaurin, Leni Larsen**Club:** 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam (Germany)**Born:** 21.03.1981 - Ålesund**Residence:** Potsdam, Germany**Height:** 165 cm**Hobbies:** Snowboard, inline skating, surfing, Nintendo, travelling, poker and music.**Favourite music:** Newton Faulkner, Brandi Carlile, Colbie Caillat, Da Buzz, No Doubt, Beth Hearter.**Favourite film:** Pay it forward, pretty woman, dirty dancing, G.I Jane, American History X.**Favourite book genre:** "Hva skal vi med stjerner nå" by Espen Olafsen.**Favourite food:** Taco and sushi.**Greatest sport moment:** Norwegian cup final in 2000.**Sport idol:** David Beckham, John Arne Riise and Cristiano Ronaldo**Languages spoken:** English, German.**Previous results:**

4th place, FIFA World Cup 2007

2 Norwegian Cup Championships with Asker 2000 and 2005

1 Norwegian League Championship with Asker 1999

Debut National Team: 11.03.01 vs Finland (5-1)**National Team Matches (goals):** 46 (3)

12

Christensen, Marit Helene Fiane**Club:** Røa IL**Born:** 11.12.80 - Lørenskog**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 176 cm**Civil Status:** Boyfriend**Occupation:** Lawyer**Hobbies:** skiing, shopping, friends and family**Favourite music:** top 20, boyband, etc.**Favourite film:** Love actually**Favourite book genre:** crime novels**Favourite food:** Seafood, beef**Languages spoken:** English**Previous results:**

4th place, FIFA World Cup 2007

Silver medal, UEFA European Championship 2005

2 National Cup Championships with Røa IL, 2004 and 2006

2 National League Championships with Røa IL, 2004 and 2007

Debut National Team: 16.03.03 vs USA (0-1)**National Team Matches (goals):** 59 (7)



13

Storløyken, Lene Glesåen

Club: Team Strømmen FK

Born: 20.06.81 - Lørenskog

Residence: Løvenstad

Height: 162 cm

Civil Status: Cohabitant

Occupation: After school activity assistent

Hobbies: Watch movies, go to concerts, spend time with my family and friends

Favourite music: U2, Unni Wilhelmsen and

much more

Favourite film: Cinema Paradiso

Favourite book genre: Detective stories

Favourite food: Taco, Norwegian meatballs

Greatest sport moment: Norway-Brazil 2-1, FIFA World Cup 1998

Sport idol: Hege Riise, Ole Gunnar Solskjær

Languages spoken: English

Previous results:

4th place, FIFA World Cup China 2007

Debut National Team: 20.01.06 vs China (1-3)

National Team Matches (goals): 36 (5)



14

Knutsen, Guro

Club: Røa IL

Born: 10.01.85 - Trondheim

Residence: Oslo

Height: 167 cm

Civil Status: In a relationship

Occupation: Student

Hobbies: Books, movies, dancing, playing around with football

Favourite music: hip hop, gospel

Favourite film: "The notebook"

Favourite book genre: Crime books and novels

Favourite food: Taco

Greatest sport moment: Norwegian Cup Championship with Røa IL 2006

Sport idol: Messi

Languages spoken: English

Previous results:

4th place FIFA World Cup 2007

1 Norwegian Cup Championship with Røa IL 2006

1 Norwegian League Championship with Røa IL 2007

Debut National Team: 02.08.06 vs Denmark (2-1)

National Team Matches (goals): 10 (2)



15

Lund, Marita Skammelsrud**Club:** Team Strømmen FK**Born:** 29.01.89 - Lørenskog**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 172 cm**Civil Status:** In a relationship**Occupation:** Student**Hobbies:** Water- and winter sports.**Favourite music:** All kind**Favourite film:** Blood Diamond**Favourite food:** Taco**Greatest sport moment:** Ole Gunnar Solskjær's goal in the Champions league final 1999**Sport idol:** Ole Gunnar Solskjær**Languages spoken:** English**Previous results:**

Bronze medal, UEFA WU19 Championship 2007

Debut National Team: 27.10.07 vs Russia (3-0)**National Team Matches (goals):** 8 (0)

16

Thorsnes, Elise Hove**Club:** Arna Bjørnar**Born:** 14.08.1988 - Lærdal**Residence:** Bergen**Height:** 174 cm**Civil Status:** Single**Occupation:** Student**Hobbies:** Skiing**Favourite music:** Lifehouse, Simple Plan, James Blunt**Favourite film:** American History X**Favourite food:** Pizza**Greatest sport moment:** My first national match**Sport idol:** Ingrid Camilla Fosse Sæthre – football player**Languages spoken:** English**Previous results:**

Bronze medal, UEFA WU19 Championship 2007

Debut National Team: 10.05.06 vs Serbia (3-0)**National Team Matches (goals):** 18 (1)



17 Mykjåland, Lene

Club: Røa IL
Born: 20.02.87 - Kristiansand
Residence: Oslo
Height: 162 cm
Civil Status: Single
Occupation: Soccer player
Hobbies: Telemark skiing, fashion design, music, film
Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite music: Missy Higgins, Joshua Radin, Michael Jackson

Favourite film: Shawshank Redemption, Crash, The Notebook, Moulin Rouge

Favourite food: Home made taco pizza

Greatest sport moment: Manchester United - Bayern Munchen Champions League finale 99

Sport idol: Ole Gunnar Solskjær – soccer player

Languages spoken: English

Previous results:

4th place, FIFA World Cup 2007

Silver medal WU19 UEFA European Championship 2003

Silver medal Nordic WU21 Championship 2006

Norwegian Cup Championship with Røa IL, 2006

Norwegian League Championship with Røa IL, 2007

Debut National Team: 07.03.07 vs Germany (2-1)

National Team Matches (goals): 19 (5)



18 Colombo Nilsen, Christine

Club: Kolbotn IL
Born: 30.04.82 - Moss
Residence: Oslo
Height: 184 cm
Civil Status: Single
Occupation: Football player
Hobbies: Painting
Favourite music: RnB
Favourite film: A Beautiful Mind

Favourite book genre: Biographies

Favourite food: Chinese food

Sport idol: Edwin van der Sar

Languages spoken: English

Previous results:

4th place, FIFA World Cup 2007

Silver medal, UEFA European Championship 2005

1 Norwegian Cup Championship with Kolbotn IL 2007

2 Norwegian League Championships with Kolbotn IL 2005 and 2006

Debut National Team: 11.03.06 vs Finland (0-0)

National Team Matches (goals): 6 (0)



RESERVES



19

Vikestad, Runa**Club:** Kolbotn IL**Born:** 13.08.1984 - Finsnes**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 172 cm**Civil Status:** Single**Occupation:** Personal trainer**Hobbies:** Snowboard, Orienteering**Favourite music:** Pink, Jason Mraz/ R&B, light music**Favourite film:** Silence of the Lambs, Shawshank Redemption**Favourite book genre:** Crime books**Favourite food:** Porridge, tacos**Greatest sport moment:** Norwegian Cup Champion with Kolbotn 2007**Sport idol:** None**Languages spoken:** English, some German**Previous results:**

Silver medal WU19 UEFA European Championship 2003

1 Norwegian Cup Championship with Kolbotn IL 2007

Debut National Team: 14.02.08 vs England (1-2)**National Team Matches (goals):** 6 (0)

20

Giske, Anneli**Club:** IF Fløya**Born:** 25.07.85 - Salangen**Residence:** Tromsø**Height:** 174 cm**Civil Status:** Single**Occupation:** Med School and soccer**Hobbies:** Telemark skiing, cross country skiing, snowboard**Favourite music:** Pop, Rock...and I love

Jason Mraz

Favourite film: Haven't got any favourite but I think there are lots of good films**Favourite book genre:** Paulo Choelo and Jo Nesbøs books**Favourite food:** Taco**Greatest sport moment:** When I played football at the 1st division team Medkila and we bet Kolbotn 2-1 in the cup final in 2003.**Sport idol:** Steven Gerrard**Languages spoken:** English**Previous results:**

1 Norwegian Cup Championship with Medkila 2003

Silver medal junior cross country skiing free style in 2001

Debut National Team: -**National Team Matches (goals):** 0 (0)



21

Lie, Kristin

Club: Trondheims-Ørn

Born: 13.12.78 - Namdalseid

Residence: Trondheim

Height: 168 cm

Civil Status: Single

Occupation: Ergo therapist

Hobbies: Sport, film

Favourite music: All kind

Favourite film: Dance movies

Favourite food: Homemade pizza

Greatest sport moment: Olympic Gold Medal, Norwegian National Women's Team, Sydney 2000

Languages spoken: English

Previous results:

Silver medal, Nordic WU21 Championship 1999

3 Norwegian Cup Championships with Trondheims-Ørn, 1999, 2001, 2002

3 Norwegian League Championships with Trondheims-Ørn, 2000, 2001, 2003

Debut National Team: 31.05.07 vs Finland (1-1)

National Team Matches (goals): 8 (0)



22

Hjelmseth, Ingrid

Club: Asker Fotball Kvinner

Born: 10.04.80 – Lørenskog

Residence: Oslo

Height: 172

Civil Status: Single

Occupation: Chartered engineer

Hobbies: Skiing (Telemark), Books

Favourite music: Pop/Rock – Minor Majority, REM, Bo Kaspers Orkerster

Favourite film: The Notebook

Favourite book genre: Novel – "A thousand splendid suns" by Khaled Hosseini

Favourite food: Meat fondue

Greatest sport moment: Bjørn Dæhlie – Gold medal on the 50km in OG 98.

Sport idol: Kjetil Andre Aamodt – alpine skier

Languages spoken: English

Previous results:

Silver medal, UEFA European Championship 2005

3 Norwegian Cup Championships with Trondheims-Ørn, 1999, 2001, 2002

3 Norwegian League Championships with Trondheims-Ørn, 2000, 2001, 2003

Debut National Team: 23.01.03 vs USA (1-3)

National Team Matches (goals): 17 (0)


NATIONAL INDOOR STADIUM


Venue: Handball – **Location from Olympic Village:** 0,5 km – ≤ 5 min –
Total land surface: 80.900 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 18.000

Great expectations for the handball girls

The Norwegian handball girls leave for Beijing with great expectations and a powerful hunger for medals. It was a crushing disappointment for the Norwegian team when they failed to qualify for the Athens Olympics in 2004. This championship is the only OL, WC or EC since 1986 in which Norway has not participated. The story of the Norwegian handball girls reads like a genuine fairy-tale. Their big breakthrough came during WC in the Netherlands in 1986, when they took the bronze. Since that time, Norway has won 15 out of 22 possible championship medals. The high point was winning WC gold on home territory in 1999. The WC gold medals won in 1998, 2004 and 2006 also rank high. In the Olympics, Norway won the silver in 1988, the silver in 1992, fourth place in 1996, and the bronze in 2000. They didn't participate in 2004. In Beijing, their goal is to win a medal, but the girls are allowed to say that they are hungry for the gold medal....

The trainer of the Norwegian handball girls is Marit Breivik. She has led the team since 1994, winning an impressive 11 championship medals along with the girls. The most exclusive win was the WC gold on home territory in 1999. Breivik, who played in 140 international matches, is missing only the OL gold in her collection. The Norwegian trainer commands great respect in Norwegian athletics, and has twice been named "Trainer of the Year."



HANDBALL

OLYMPIC SPORTS CENTRE GYMNASIUM



Venue: Handball Preliminary – **Location from Olympic Village:** 1 km – ≤ 5 min
– **Floor area:** 47.410 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 5.000 – **Temporary seats:** 2.000

The Norwegian handball girls are quite popular in Norway. When there is a championship, the whole country ensconces itself in front of their TV sets. When Norway played the WC finals in 1999, 1.5 million out of a total population of 4.5 million Norwegians were watching the telecast. The media writes a lot more about women's handball than they do about men's handball. The men's team has never achieved the same results or degree of popularity as the women's team.

The Norwegian Handball Federation has approximately 100,000 members spread throughout more than 700 clubs. Nearly 70% of these are women. The women's dominance in the Federation has always been pronounced. Even the very first international handball game held in Norway was a women's match. In 1946, Norway and Sweden faced off in an international match at Bislett Stadium, known today as the venue for Golden League athletic (track and field) rallies. The game was witnessed by a whopping 10,000 spectators.

More info: www.handball.no.



Breivik, Marit

Born: 10.04.55 – Levanger

Residence: Oslo

Head Coach

3rd OG as Head Coach

140 matches national team as player, national coach since 1994. 4th OG 1996, 3rd OG 2000. 1 WCh gold, 3 WCh silver, 3 ECh gold.

**Hergeirsson, Thorir****Born:** 27.04.64 – ISL**Residence:** Kleppe**Assistant Coach**

1st OG as Coach

Coach national team women since 2001,
2 gold ECh, 2 silver WCh.**Olsson, Mats Åke****Born:** 12.01.60 – SWE**Residence:** Santander, ESP**Goalkeeper Coach**

1st OG as Coach

**Graff, Geir****Born:** 02.08.74 - Oslo**Residence:** Jessheim**Team Administrator**

1st OG as Team official

**Sand, Ola****Born:** 10.05.55 - Oslo**Residence:** Bekkelaget**MD, Medical Officer**

1st OG as MD, Medical Officer

Team doctor since 2002



HANDBALL



Drummond, Christopher James

Born: 09.11.70 – ENG

Residence: Oslo

Physiotherapist

1st OG as Physiotherapist



Longe, Tania

Born: 04.04.74 – Hamilton, Bermuda

Residence: Oslo

Massage therapist

1st OG as Massage therapist



Stensrud, Wenche Halvorsen

Born: 26.04.55 – Fredrikstad

Residence: Torp

Video Analysis

2nd OG as Video Analyst

91 international matches for Norway



Høgdahl, Mia Hermansson

Born: 06.05.65 – SWE

Residence: Trondheim

Video Analysis

1st OG as Video Analyst



1

Grimsbø, Kari Aalvik**Club:** Byåsen**Born:** 04.01.85 – Bergen**Residence:** Trondheim**Height:** 180 cm**Civil Status:** Married**Occupation:** Student/handball player**Hobbies:** Photographing, studying, sports**Favourite music:** U2**Favourite film:** Arn – Tempelridderen**Favourite book genre:** Historic novels**Favourite food:** Grilled food**Greatest sport moment:** Gold medal ECh 2006, Norwegian championship 2007**Sport idol:** Steinar Ege, Ole Erevik**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****WCh 07:** 2 **WCh jr 04:** 2**ECh 06:** 1 **ECh jr 03:** 2

16

Haraldsen, Katrine Lunde**Club:** Viborg HK, DEN**Born:** 30.03.80 – Kristiansand**Residence:** Viborg, DEN**Height:** 181 cm**Civil Status:** Married**Occupation:** Handball player**Favourite book genre:** Novels**Favourite food:** Salmon with potatoes and cheese sauce**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, Danish**Previous results:****WCh 03:** 6 **WCh 05:** 9 **WCh 07:** 2**ECh 02:** 2 **ECh 04:** 1 **ECh 06:** 1



3

Nyberg, Katja

Club: Ikast-Bording, DEN

Born: 24.08.79 – Stockholm

Residence: Ikast, DEN

Height: 183 cm

Civil Status: Cohabit with Gro

Occupation: Handball player

Hobbies: Pontus and his friends

Favourite music: A Little boy

Favourite film: Along came Polly

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite food: Grandmothers meatballs

Greatest sport moment: Gold medal ECh 2004

Sport idol: Michael Jordan, Ole Einar Bjørndalen, Ronaldinho

Languages spoken: Finish, Swedish, Norwegian, English

Previous results:

WCh 02: 2 **WCh 07:** 2

ECh 04: 1

NCh: 5

Other: EHF gold with Larvik HK 2005



4

Aamodt, Ragnhild

Club: Ikast-Bording, DEN

Born: 09.09.80 – Sarpsborg

Residence: Ikast, DEN

Height: 163 cm

Civil Status: Unmarried

Occupation: Handball player

Hobbies: Movies, friends, family

Favourite music: Pop/rock

Favourite film: Time to kill

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite food: Mexican

Greatest sport moment: European champions 2006

Sport idol: Tiger Woods

Languages spoken: Norwegian, Danish, English, German

Previous results:

WCh 07: 2

ECh 04: 1 **ECh 06:** 1



5

Snorroeggen, Gøril**Club:** Byåsen**Born:** 15.02.85 – Trondheim**Residence:** Trondheim**Height:** 177 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabit**Occupation:** Student/medicine**Hobbies:** Sport activities**Favourite music:** All kind of music**Favourite film:****Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Salmon, steak**Greatest sport moment:** Norwegian championships victory 2007**Sport idol:** Alexander Lund Hansen**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, English**Previous results:****WCh 07:** 2 **WCh jr 04:** 2**ECh 04:** 1 **ECh 06:** 1 **ECh jr 03:** 2**NCh:** 1

6

Else-Marthe Sørlie**Club:** Nordstrand IF**Born:** 11.09.78 – Gjøvik**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 177 cm**Civil Status:** Married**Occupation:** Student**Hobbies:** Golf**Favourite music:** Coldplay**Favourite book genre:** Crime, John Irving**Favourite food:** Mexican, Italian**Greatest sport moment:** World champion 1999 in Norway**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, German, English**Previous results:****OG 00:** 3**WCh 99:** 1 **WCh 01:** 2 **WCh 07:** 2**ECh 98:** 1 **ECh 02:** 2 **ECh 04:** 1 **ECh 06:** 1**NCh:** 1**Other:** 3 times German cup champion and one time German champion.



7

Nøstvold, Tonje

Club: Ikast-Bording, DEN

Born: 07.05.85

Residence: Ikast – DEN

Height: 178 cm

Civil Status: Unmarried

Occupation: Handball player

Hobbies: Family, friends

Favourite music: Robbie Williams

Favourite film: Lucky Number Slevin

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite food: Tacos, salmon

Greatest sport moment: Gold ECh 2006

Sport idol: Lance Armstrong

Languages spoken: Norwegian

Previous results:

WCh 07: 2

ECh 06: 1

NCh: 1



8

Breivang, Karoline Dyhre

Club: Larvik HK

Born: 10.05.80 – Oslo

Residence: Larvik

Height: 172 cm

Civil Status: Unmarried

Occupation: Law student

Hobbies: Friends, family, café, shopping, relaxing

Favourite music: All kinds of music

Favourite film: Notting Hill, Music and Lyrics, Sex and the city

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite food: Mexican

Greatest sport moment: ECh gold 2004/2006, Gold European cup winner cup 2008

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English, French

Previous results:

WCh 07: 2

ECh 04: 1 **ECh 06:** 1

NCh: 2

Other: Gold European cup winners cup 2008



9

Lunde, Kristine**Club:** Viborg HK, DEN**Born:** 30.03.80 – Kristiansand**Residence:** Viborg, DEN**Height:** 183 cm**Civil Status:** Unmarried**Occupation:** Handball player**Hobbies:** Friends, family, shopping, reading**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Mexican**Greatest sport moment:** Gold medal, ECh Hungary 2004**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****WCh 01:** 2**ECh 04:** 1 **ECh 06:** 1**NCh:** Danish Championship 2008

10

Hammerseng, Gro**Club:** Ikast-Bording, DEN**Born:** 10.04.80 – Gjøvik**Residence:** Ikast, DEN**Height:** 180 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabit with Katja**Occupation:** Handball player**Hobbies:** Our dog, Pontus, enjoying life with friends and family**Favourite music:** A Little Boy**Favourite film:** Danish drama films**Favourite book genre:** Different genres**Favourite food:** Homemade burgers**Greatest sport moment:** ECh gold medal 2004, my first gold with the national team**Sport idol:** Inspired by so many**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****WCh 01:** 2 **WCh 07:** 2**ECh 02:** 2 **ECh 04:** 1 **ECh 06:** 1**Other:** Gold Cup winners cup 2004 with Ikast



11

Johansen, Kari Mette

Club: Larvik HK

Born: 11.01.79 – Fredrikstad

Residence: Sandefjord

Height: 172 cm

Civil Status: Cohabit

Occupation: Teacher, handball player

Hobbies: Shopping, friends

Favourite music: Rhythm & blues

Favourite film: Grease

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite food: Tacos

Greatest sport moment: ECh final 2006 in Sweden

Sport idol: Tiger Woods

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Previous results:

WCh 07: 2

ECh 04: 1 **ECh 06:** 1

Others results: 2 goldmedals in European cup with Larvik HK



13

Frafjord, Marit Malm

Club: Byåsen

Born: 25.11.85 – Tromsø

Residence: Trondheim

Height: 182 cm

Civil Status: Cohabit

Occupation: Student

Hobbies: Knitting, alternative training (tennis, volleyball), shopping

Favourite music: All kinds, from Thomas

Dybdahl to Metallica

Favourite film: Godfather 1, 2, 3

Favourite book genre: Historic novels

Favourite food: Grilled food

Greatest sport moment: ECh gold 2006, NCh gold 2007

Sport idol: Frank Løke, Bjarte Myrhol

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Comments:

Previous results:

WCh 07: 2 **WCh jr 04:** 2

ECh 06: 1 **ECh jr 03:** 2

NCh: 1



14

Larsen, Tonje**Club:** Larvik HK**Born:** 26.01.75 – Tønsberg**Residence:** Sandefjord**Height:** 185 cm**Civil Status:** Unmarried**Occupation:** Handball player**Hobbies:** Skiing**Favourite music:** U2, Madonna**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Tacos**Greatest sport moment:** Gold medal World Championships 1999, Norway**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****OG 96:** 4 **OG 00:** 3**WCh 99:** 1**ECh 98:** 1**NCh:** 8 national cup/10 national championships

18

Riegelhuth, Ullevoldsæter Linn-Kristin**Club:** Larvik HK**Born:** 01.08.84**Residence:** Sandefjord**Height:** 175 cm**Civil Status:** Boyfriend**Occupation:** Nurse**Hobbies:** Baking, extreme sport**Favourite music:** Party music, listens to anything**Favourite film:** The Pelican Brief, 61 lane**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Tacos**Greatest sport moment:** Gold medal ECh 2004**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, German**Previous results:****WCh 07:** 2 **WCh jr 03:** 3**ECh 04:** 1 **ECh 06:** 1



RESERVE



12

Pedersen, Terese

Club: Randers, DEN

Born: 27.04.80 – Tønsberg

Residence: Randers – DEN

Height: 183 cm

Civil Status: Unmarried

Occupation: Nurse student

Hobbies: Friends, family, café, shopping, relaxing

Favourite music: Madonna, Abba

Favourite film: Sex and the city

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite food: Tacos, Mexican

Greatest sport moment: ECh Gold medal 2004 and 2006

Sport idol: Ole Einar Bjørndalen

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English, German

Previous results:

WCh 07: 1

ECh 04: 1 **ECh 06:** 1

NCh: 1



**SHUNYI OLYMPIC
ROWING-CANOEING PARK**

Venue: Kayak – **Location from Olympic Village:** 36 km – ≤ 30 min –
Floor area: 31,850 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 1,200 – **Temporary seats:**
 25,800 (10,000 for standing seats).

Title defender as challenger

During the Athens Olympics, we won the gold in the K-1 1000m. In Beijing, Eirik Verås Larsen is looking to repeat the feat. Since Knut Holmann, our double master from the Sydney Games and gold medal winner from the Atlanta OL, retired after a memorable career, the Flekkefjord paddler Eirik Verås Larsen has been at the forefront of Norwegian kayaking. In Beijing, he will be the sole Norwegian competitor in the discipline.

The goal was to get a canoe entered in the K-2 as well; unfortunately, Mattis Næss became ill during the last qualifying round, and the Norwegians were one measly placement shy of a ticket to the Olympics. In Athens, we took the bronze in the K-2 1000m, and Eirik [mangler det noe i originalen???

A Norwegian paddler clearly on the offensive will be challenging his competitors in Beijing. So far this season he has only won two second places in the World Cup. Without a single international victory so far in 2008, our 32-year-old is itching for revenge.

In Norway, Eirik Verås Larsen is in a class of his own in the K-1, which is why he chose to go to our neighbour, Sweden, to make his final preparations before OL together with former WC and OL winner Marcus Oscarsson. Even though training with one of your fiercest competitors while preparing for the Olympics might not be the smartest thing to do, Eirik firmly believes it has benefited him, and that it will pay off in the end.



KAYAK

To be in the top echelons in the Olympics, you have to maintain top speed during training sessions. That's why it's important to seek out those who are best in the world. After his stay in Sweden, Marcus will pay a visit to Norway before the two men part company in the very last run-up before the Beijing Games.

It's not certain what will happen with Eirik Verås Larsen after the Olympics in Beijing. For this veteran, kayaking is a lifestyle; but whether or not he chooses to continue competing at the top is an open question.

In terms of championships, Norwegian kayaking has five Olympic gold medals to its credit, and 16 gold medals in the world championships. It all started with the historic 4-way gold medal when Steinar Amundsen, Egil Sjøby, Tore Berger and Jan Johansen won the OL 1000m in Mexico City in 1968.

The Norwegian Canoe Association was founded in 1943, and continues to grow. Today, membership stands at around 14,000 distributed throughout around 100 clubs all over the country.

More info: www.padling.no



Ivarsen, Morten

Born: 19.11.66

Residence: Hammarö, SWE

Head Coach

2nd OG as Coach



Selvik, Tom

Born: 16.05.70 – Bergen

Residence: Drammen

Coach

1st OG as Coach

**Grefberg, Kristin****Born:** 16.11.59 – Buenos Aires, ARG**Residence:** Asker**MD, Medical Officer**

1st OG as MED, Medical Officer

**Meinseth, Marius****Born:** 18.07.74**Residence:** Lier**Physiotherapist**

1st OG as Physiotherapist

ATHLETE**Larsen, Eirik Verås****Club:** Flekkefjord Kajakklubb**Born:** 26.03.76 - Flekkefjord**Residence:** Lysaker**Height:** 182 cm**Civil Status:** Girlfried**Occupation:** Kayak paddler**Hobbies:** Hunting**Favourite film:** Lord of the Rings**Favourite book genre:** Fantasy**Favourite food:** Game**Greatest sport moment:** Olympic gold Athens 2004**Sport idol:** Knut Holmann**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, some German**Previous results:**

OG 00: 9/K-2 1000 m **OG 04:** 1/K-1 1000 m, 3/K-2 1000m, 4/K-1 500 m **WCh 01:** 1/K-2 Marathon, 1/K-2 100m m, **WCh 02:** 1/K-2 Marathon, 1/K-1 1000 m, 2/K-2 1000 m, **WCh 05:** 1/K-1 1000 m, **WCh 07:** 3/K-1 1000 m **ECh 00:** 1/K-2 1000 m, **ECh 01:** 1/K-2 1000 m, 3/K-1 1000 m, **ECh 02:** 3/K-2 1000 m, **ECh 04:** 1/K-1 1000 m, 1/K-2 1000 m, **ECh 05:** 1/K-1 1000 m, **ECh 07:** 1/K-1 1000 m **NCh:** 12 Gold – 1 Silver – 4 Bronze



NATIONAL STADIUM



Venue: Race Walking – **Location from Olympic Village:** 0,5 km – ≤ 5 min
– **Total land surface:** 258.000 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 80.000 –
Temporary seats: 11.000

Three Norwegian outsiders on the streets of Beijing

Norway will be represented in race walking by three outsiders during the Beijing Games. Kjersti Tysse Plätzer (36) and Erik Tysse (27), who are siblings, are eager to place as high up in the final results as they possibly can. So is the indomitable Trond Nymark (31), who will be competing in the five-mile race.

Kjersti took the silver in Sydney eight years ago, and is itching to reach the top this time, too. The pre-season results were quite good, so the team is guardedly optimistic. Tysse Plätzer won top spot on the podium this year in no less than four World Challenge competitions. Kjersti is being trained by her husband, the German Stephan Plätzer.

Plätzer is also trainer for Kjersti's brother Erik, which so far this year has been his best season ever. He, too, won in the World Challenge this year. In the World Championships in Osaka last year he also made his mark among the world elite with a 5th place finish in the 50 km race, and with an 8th place finish in the 20 km race. Actually, the 20 km race is Tysse's favourite distance, but there is every indication that he will also double in Beijing. In the five-mile race, he will be competing against Trond Nymark, who placed fourth in the 2005 World Championships and achieved the same placement in the 2006 European Championships. Nymark is itching to become a medallist. During the previous Olympic Games he was number 13 in the 50 km race.



Race walking is a very old sport in Norway. The first competitions were held as far back as 1880. It became an Olympic sport in 1908, and has remained on the programme ever since. The first Norwegian to participate in an OL in race walking was Edgar Bruun, who ended in 5th place in the 50 km race in 1936. In 1948, he was number four in the same distance. This remained Norway's best Olympic race walking result until Kjersti Tysse Plätzer took the silver in Sydney in 2000.

Until Tysse Plätzer's silver medal from 2000, Norway had participated in the Olympics race walking competition with seven men. In addition, Trond Nymark competed in Athens. Erik Tysse was chosen to compete in 2004, but never got to start because he came down with infectious mononucleosis. Thus a total of nine Norwegian race walkers have competed in the Olympic Games down through the years.

For many years, race walking was the exclusive preserve of men. Only in 1992, after many years of struggle, were women race walkers allowed to compete in the games. In 1992, the distance was 10 km. Today, women go for 20 km.

About 70 nations compete internationally in race walking. Among the most prominent are Russia, Mexico, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal and Tunisia. And during the Games in Beijing, there is no doubt that the Chinese are going to give everyone a run for their money in the pursuit of medals.

More info: www.mosjon.com



RACE WALK



Plätzer, Stephan

Born: 12.09.66 – Oldenburg, GER

Residence: Søfteland, Os

Coach – Erik Tysse and Kjersti Tysse Plätzer
3rd OG as coach

Former runner. Personal best 800 m: 1.46.53,
1500 m: 3.40.26, 4 times German champion
relays



Gjelsvik, Roger

Born: 21.09.68 - Bergen

Residence: Bergen

Coach – Trond Nymark
2nd OG as coach



WOMAN

**Plätzer, Kjersti Tysse****Club:** IL Norna Salhus**Born:** 18.01.72 – Bergen**Residence:** Søfteland**Height:** 173 cm**Civil Status:** Married**Occupation:** Athlete**Hobbies:** Reading and cooking**Favourite music:** Tina Turner, Ole Edvard Antonsen, Micheal Bubl **Favourite book genre:** Crime, romantic**Favourite food:** "Raspeballer" and Tacos**Greatest sport moment:** Olympic silver Sydney 2000**Sport idol:** Grete Waitz**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, German, English, Spanish**Comments:** Younger brother is international race walker Erik Tysse. Coached by husband and former middle distance runner Stephan Pl tzer (GER)**Previous results:****OG 00:** 2/20 km race walk **OG 04:** 12/20 km race walk**WCh 93:** 39/10 km **WCh 95:** 39/10 km **WCh 99:** 9/20 km**WCh 07:** 4/20 km**ECh 86:** 11/10 km **ECh 94:** 16/10 km **ECh 98:** 9/10 km**ECh 06:** 4/20 km**NCh:** 41 NCh and 8 King Trophies**Other:** 5th World Cup 2002, 2nd European Cup, 2nd overall IAAF Race Walk Challenge 2003 and 2007**Personal best:****Track:**

1500 m: 5.47,03 (world best/record) (2002), 1 mile: 6.16.45 (world best/record) (2001), 3000 m: 12.01.9 (2002), 5000 m: 20.37.7 (2001), 10.000 m: 43.21.1 (2000), 3000 m indoors: 11.59.3 (2004)

Road:

3 km: 11.41 (world best/record) 2003, 5 km: 19.46 (world best/record) 2006, 10 km: 41.16 (2002), 15 km: 1.05.02 (2000), 20 km: 1.27.41 (2007)



RACE WALK – ATHLETES

MEN

**Nymark, Trond****Club:** TIF Viking**Born:** 28.12.76 – Bergen**Residence:** Bergen**Height:** 180 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabit**Occupation:** Athlete**Hobbies:** Food and cars**Favourite music:** Peeping Tom**Favourite film:** The Gladiator**Favourite book genre:** Wilbur Smith**Favourite food:** "Brosme"**Greatest sport moment:** 2nd place WC La Coruna 2006**Sport idol:** The roughness of rower Olaf Tufte**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, German, Spanish**Previous results:****OG 04:** 13/50 km**WCh 05:** 4/50 km**ECh 06:** 4/50 km**NCh:** 17**Other:** 2/WC La Coruna 2006, 2/EC Leamington**Personal best:** 3.41.30/50 km (La Coruna 2006)**Tysse, Erik****Club:** Norna Salhus**Born:** 04.12.80 – Bergen**Residence:** Søfteland**Height:** 190 cm**Civil Status:** Married**Occupation:** Electrician**Hobbies:** Computer, X-box, control systems, movies, MC**Favourite film:** Schindler's list**Favourite book genre:** Criminal and true stories**Favourite food:** Chicken and fish**Greatest sport moment:** OG gold medal Vebjørn Rodal (800 m) 1996**Sport idol:** Jefferson Perez**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, German**Previous results:****WCh 07:** 5/50 km, 8/20 km**ECh 06:** 7/20 km**NCh:** 26, 6 The Kings pokal**Personal best:** 20 km racewalking 1.19.11, 50 km racewalking 3.51.52



SHUNYI OLYMPIC ROWING-CANOEING PARK



Venue: Rowing – **Location from Olympic Village:** 36 km – ≤ 30 min – **Floor area:** 31,850 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 1,200 – **Temporary seats:** 25,800 (10,000 for standing seats).

Olaf Tufte – reigning champion and challenger

The rower Olaf Tufte (32) is one of Norway's brightest medal prospects in Beijing. He has been world class in singles culls since he switched boats after the Sydney Games, when he took the silver in doubles culls along with Fredrik Bekken. Tufte became world champion in singles culls in 2001 and 2003, and has been one of the world's leading rowers in singles culls the past seven years. The last three world championships after his OL gold in 2004 have given him a placing of 2, 4 and 3.

On a day-to-day basis, Olaf Tufte is a farmer and a fireman. He lives at home on his family farm in Nykirke outside Tønsberg. He combines his farm work with his efforts to become the world's best rower. Tufte lives with Aina; they have one child together. Olaf Tufte is one of Norwegian athletics' best-trained athletes; he trains up to 1,200 hours a year. He is trained by Bjørn Inge Pettersen ('the BIP') and Tore Øvrebø working as a team.

Olaf Tufte has a lot of irons in the fire, and he arranges the Tufte Farmer Challenge on Tufte Farm – which has become a fixed tradition in Norwegian athletics. This is a competition between some of Norway's leading top athletes. Some very untraditional sports are represented, such as tractor tyre flipping, sawing, axe throwing, car pulling and shotgun shooting.



ROWING – ATHLETES

Norway has a long tradition of winning Olympic medals in rowing. Norwegian rowers have won OL medals in every game since 1972 (with the exception of 1980, when Norway didn't participate on account of a boycott). Norway has 14 Olympic medals in rowing, the two finest achievements being the gold won by brothers Alf and Frank Hansen in doubles culls in Montreal and Olaf Tufte's gold won in the singles culls in 2004. Of OL medals, two were gold, six were silver and six were bronze.

The Norwegian Rowing Federation, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2000, is one of Norway's oldest special federations. There are about 3,500 registered members spread throughout 52 clubs in the Federation.

More info: www.roing.no



Emblem, Kjell

Born: 13.03.43 – Bergen

Residence: Spikkestad

Team leader

7th OG as Team official

ATHLETE



Tufte, Olaf

Club: Horten Roklubb

Born: 27.04.76 - Tønsberg

Residence: Horten

Height: 193 cm

Civil Status: Nearly married, 1 child

Occupation: Farmer, fireman

Hobbies: Moto cross

Favourite music: Garth Brooks, Johnny Cash, ACDC

Favourite film: Any Given Sunday

Favourite book genre: Western, crime

Favourite food: "Flesk i duppe"

Greatest sport moment: Olympic gold Athens 2004

Sport idol: Steve Redgrave, James Tomkins

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Comments: "It ain't over until the fat lady sings"

Previous results:

OG 96: 8/M4- **OG 00:** 2/M2X **OG 04:** 1/M1X

Wch 99: 2/M2X **Wch 01:** 1/M1X **Wch 02:** 3/M1X

Wch 03: 1/M1X **Wch 05:** 2/M1X **Wch 07:** 3/M1X



QINGDAO OLYMPIC SAILING CENTER



Venue: Sailing – **Location from Olympic Village in Qingdao:** 2 km –
 ≤ 5 min – **Total land surface:** 450.000 sq m – **Temporary seats:** 9.000 –
Distance from Beijing and travel time: 550 km, 1 hour and 10 minutes
 by air

Can this Yngling keep up Norwegian sailing traditions in the Olympics?

Siren Sundby (25) won the gold in E-dinghy in Athens in 2004. In Beijing, she will be at the helm in the Norwegian Yngling. The crew are Lise Birgitte Fredriksen and Alexandra Koefoed. At the age of 25, Siren Sundby is participating in her third Olympics. At the age of 17 she sailed with an E-dinghy in Sydney and ended up in 19th place. Apart from the OL gold in 2004, 2001 was her big season, when she became world champion, European champion and World Cup winner. In addition, she was honoured as the world's best female sailor by the International Sailing Federation.

This past year, the three girls in the Yngling have committed themselves flat out for the upcoming Olympics. They qualified with their 10th place in the World Championship in Florida in February. Their achievements have been variable, but their first place in the World Cup in Hyeres this spring brightens the hope that the Yngling can hold their own among the best in Beijing.

Sailing has been Norway's "showcase sports" in the Olympic games down through the years. Norway has won a total of 16 gold medals. It has also won 11 silver and three bronze medals. Perhaps the best known Norwegian gold medal in sailing was the one that his majesty, Kong Olav, won in his Olympics debut in 1928 in the 6 metre class. The then crown prince, who later became King Olav, was dubbed "the Sailor King" in Norway.



SAILING

Norwegian Olympic sailing history is also replete with fine family traditions. In 1912, four Norwegian brothers won the OL gold in the 12 metre class. Ole, Henrik, Kristian and Jan Øster-vold sat in the same boat. The Norwegian Lunde family has also left its mark in Norwegian sailing history, with four generations representing Norway in the Olympics. The last was Jeanette Lunde, who sailed 470 in Sydney in 2000. Her father, Peder Lunde jr., won the Olympic gold in Flying Dutchman in 1960, and the silver in the Star class in 1968. Jeanette's grandfather Peder and grandmother Vibeke took the silver in the 5.5 metre class in 1952, while great-grandfather Eugen became Olympic champion in the 6 metre class in 1924.

The Norwegian Sailing Federation has about 24,000 members distributed throughout 107 clubs. The most popular and famous Norwegian regatta is "Færder regatta," which attracts about 1,000 boats and 4,000 participants each spring.

More info: at www.seiling.no.



Lofterød, Bjørn

Born: 17.06.49 - Oslo

Residence: Son

**Team Leader (Coach and MD,
Medical Officer)**

2nd OG as Team Official

Athlete in 2 OG (5th in OG1968, 3rd in
OG 1972)



Guttormsen, Espen

Born: 31.05.68 - oslo

Residence: Moss

Sports Chief/Coach

4th OG as Coach

**Jørstad, Frode****Born:** 22.03.71 - Arendal**Residence:** Engelsviken, Fredrikstad**Coach** – Kristian Ruth

1st OG as Coach

**Strahovnik, Luka****Born:** 02.02.84 – Ljubljana, SLO**Residence:** Ljubljana**Coach** – Peer Moberg

1st OG as Coach

**Telje, Trym****Born:** 10.06.66 – Oslo**Residence:** Oslo**Physiotherapist**

3rd OG as Physiotherapist



WOMEN



Sundby, Siren

Club: Soon SF

Born: 02.12.82 - Lørenskog

Residence: Oslo

Height: 165 cm

Civil Status: Cohabit with Christopher Gundersen

Occupation: Sailor, student
(civ. Engineering, Copenhagen)

Hobbies: Windsurfing, cooking, painting

Favourite music: Ralph Myerz & The Jack Herren Band

Favourite film: Spy Game

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite food: Seafood

Greatest sport moment: Winning the gold medal in Europe Dinghy Athens 2004

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Previous results:

OG 00: 19/Europe Dinghy **OG 04:** 1/Europe Dinghy

WCh jr 00: 1/Byte Class **WCh 02:** 2/Europe Dinghy

WCh 03: 1/Europe Dinghy **WCh 04:** 1/Europe Dinghy

ECh jr 99: 1/Europe Dinghy **ECh jr. 00:** 1/Europe Dinghy

ECh 02: 3/Europe Dinghy **ECh 03:** 1/Europe Dinghy

NCh: 8 individual, 4 team

Personal best: Unbeaten for 16 months before OG Athens 2004.


Fredriksen, Lise Birgitte Vaksdal
Club: Kongelig Norsk Seilforening

Born: 24.10.79 - Bærum

Residence: Bærum

Height: 180 cm

Civil Status: Single

Occupation: Molecular microbiologist

Hobbies: Aerobic, mountain biking, music

Favourite music: R&B, Soul

Favourite film: Lord of The Rings, The Gladi-

ator, The Kite Runner

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite food: Seafood, lasagne

Greatest sport moment: 1st Hyeres WC 2008

Sport idol: Kjetil André Aamodt

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English, German

Previous results
OG 04: 9th Yngling **WCh 04:** 15/Yngling) **WCh 08:** 10/Yngling

ECh 07: 7/Yngling **ECh 08:** 12/ Yngling **Other:** 3/WC Miami

2004/Yngling, 4/WC Medemblik 2004/Yngling, 1/WC

Hyeres 2008/ Yngling, 4/WC Medemblik 2008/Yngling


Koefoed, Alexandra
Club: Kongelig Norsk Seilforening

Born: 25.03.78 - Oslo

Residence: Bærum

Height: 173 cm

Civil Status: Cohabit

Occupation: Master of Science, Engineer

Hobbies: Skiing, water sports

Favourite music: Anything that suits my mood

Favourite film: Any movie that is unpredictable and makes me cry or laugh

Favourite book genre: Fiction, novels set in a historical setting

Favourite food: Fresh seafood

Greatest sport moment: Winning World Cup in Hyeres, april 2008

Sport idol: Anyone that conquer their inner doubts and employ their willpower to achieve what might seem impossible

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English, French, German

Previous results:
WCh 05: 11/Yngling **WCh 08:** 10/Yngling **ECh 07:** 7/Yngling

ECh 08: 12/Yngling **Other:** 1/WC Hyeres 2008/Yngling, 4/

 WC Medemblik 2008/Yngling **NCh:** 1 (Drake)



SAILING – ATHLETES

**Stålstrøm, Jannicke****Club:** Horten Seilforening**Born:** 07.09.69**Residence:** Horten**Height:** 168**Civil Status:** Boy friend**Occupation:** Olympic sailor**Hobbies:** Windsurfing, surfing, skiing**Favourite music:** a mix of all kind of music**Favourite film:** Surfs up!**Favourite book genre:** Training diary**Favourite food:** I eat all kinds of food, but will recommend Chinese food I China. My dads cooking is fantastic!**Greatest sport moment:** Olympics in Athens**Sport idol:** Olympic gymnastic athletes impress me**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, German**Gjerpen, Cathrine M.****Club:** Kongelig Norsk Seilforening**Born:** 18.09.87 - Oslo**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 173 cm**Civil Status:** Single**Occupation:** Sailor, student**Hobbies:** Skiing, golf, hunting**Favourite music:** Coldplay**Favourite film:** Så som i himmelen**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Steak, thai, sushi**Greatest sport moment:** World Cup Kiel 2008, qualified for Beijing in Norwegian trial**Sport idol:** Kjetil André Aamodt**Languages spoken:** English, Norwegian



MEN

**Bovim, Frode****Club:** Soon SF**Born:** 22.08.77 - Oslo**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 181 cm**Civil Status:** Engaged**Occupation:** Sailor**Hobbies:** Skiing, windsurfing**Favourite music:** Coldplay, Kent**Favourite food:** Barbeque**Greatest sport moment:** 4th OG Athens 2004 and 2nd World championships 2003**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, German**Previous results:****OG 04:** 4/49er**WCh 03:** 2/49er**ECh 02:** 3/49er**Gundersen, Christopher****Club:** Vestfjordens SF**Born:** 16.10.83 - Oslo**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 175**Civil Status:** Cohabit with Siren Sundby**Occupation:** Athlete - sailor**Hobbies:** Skiing, running, cooking, wine**Favourite music:** Daft, punk**Favourite film:** Transformers**Favourite book genre:** Modern Philosophy**Favourite food:** Tapas**Greatest sport moment:** Winning World Championship, Europe Dinghy 2004**Sport idol:** Look up to everyone who knows better than me**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****WCh 01:** 10/Europe Dinghy **WCh 02:** 10/Europe Dinghy**WCh 03:** 3/Europe Dinghy **WCh 04:** 1/Europe Dinghy**ECh 01:** 2/Europe Dinghy **ECh 02:** 4/Europe Dinghy**NCh:** 2/Europe Dinghy



SAILING – ATHLETES

**Moberg, Peer****Club:** Kongelig Norsk Seilforening**Born:** 14.02.71 - Oslo**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 180 cm**Civil Status:** Married, 2 children**Occupation:** Sailor**Hobbies:** Skiing, sailing**Favourite music:** Bryan Adams**Favourite film:** Terror on board**Favourite food:** Italian**Greatest sport moment:** Olympics 1996 Atlanta, 3rd in Laser**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****OG 96:** 3/Laser **OG 00:** 9/Laser **OG 04:** 21/Laser**WCh 08:** 9/Finn **ECh 07:** 9/Finn **NCh:** 13, 4 Kings Cup**Ruth, Kristian****Club:** Asker Seilforening**Born:** 23.07.85**Residence:** Asker**Height:** 179 cm**Civil Status:** Single**Occupation:** Sailor**Hobbies:** Biking, hiking, sports like soccer, squash etc.**Favourite music:** 80's and 90's rock, glam

rock, rock'n roll, bands like Nirvana, Oasis, Queen

Favourite film: The Rock, The Gladiator**Favourite book genre:** Thrillers, historical novels**Favourite food:** Pancakes**Sport idol:** Ole Einar Bjørndalen**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English, German**Previous results:****Other:** 1/WC Melbourne 2007/Laser, 5/WC Hobart 2007/laser, 6/WC Hyeres 2008/laser **NCh:** 5

**BEIJING SHOOTING RANGE HALL**

Venue: Shooting – **Location from Olympic Village:** 19 km – ≤ 20 min –
Total land surface: 45.645 sq m – **Permanent Seats:** 6.500

Two recent EC winners aim for more medals

Spearheaded by two recent European champions, a Norwegian team of shooters – five men and two women – are heading for Beijing with the highest of hopes. They are aiming to bring home OL medals in both rifle and skeet.

This spring, 26-year-old Are Hansen from Moss made it all the way to the top in the European championships in the 10m Air Rifle. And just a few weeks ago, 38-year-old Tore Brovold from Stange approached the world record with a maximum 150 shots and won the EC gold – one shot more than his fellow countryman Harald Jensen, who landed the silver medal. This is the same Harald who was world champion in 2002 and who will be competing in his fifth OL.

The fact that a small country such as Norway has managed to win seven quota positions in the Beijing Olympics is an impressive feat. In fact, in recent years, Norway has never gone to the Olympics with a team as primed as this one.

The USA is the largest shooter nation ever in the Olympics with 90 medals of which 45 are gold. Sweden is the second best nation with 55 medals of which 13 are gold. Norway has most gold medals (16) after the USA and 37 medals in total, which puts us as no. 6 on the medal statistics. It should also be mentioned that Norway did extremely well in events that no longer are in the Olympic program; free rifle and deer shooting. Norway has



SHOOTING

BEIJING SHOOTING RANGE (CTF)



Venue: Shooting (skeet) – **Location from Olympic Village:** 19 km – ≤ 20 min
– **Floor area:** 6.170 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 1,000 – **Temporary seats:** 4,000

medals in today's miniature shooting as well; Willy Røgeberg's 300 of 300 possible points is legendary, Erling Kongshaug won gold in Helsingfors 52 and Harald Stenvåg pinched the silver medal in 60 shots prone in Barcelona 92 and bronze in 50 m rifle prone 3 positions in Sydney 2000.

The greatest Norwegian Olympic shooter is G. G. Skatteboe. He won three gold medals in the anniversary games in 1906; free rifle standing, prone and overall in three positions as well as team silver.

He participated in the golden team in 1908, won team silver in 1912 and returned in 1920 and won silver again with the Norwegian team. In total 7 Olympic medals, of which 4 were gold. It should also be mentioned that Ole Lilleboe-Olsen has 5 gold medals in different deer shooting events and that Albert Helgerud has 8 medals in total, with a gold medal in free rifle in 1908 as his best.

The Norwegian Shooting Association was founded in 1946 and has today app. 25.000 members. The Association has 5 participants in the Olympic Games in Athens.

More info: www.skyting.no

**Lilleng, Christian****Born:** 16.11.72 – Fredrikstad**Residence:** Råde**Coach rifle**

1st OG as Coach

Coach for Sweden 1997-99, for Norway from 2004.

**Moen, Per Bjørnar****Born:** 10.05.50 – Moss**Residence:** Oslo**Coach skeet**

4th OG as Coach

He has been an active skeet shooter with his best WCh placement in 1982 – 7th place. He is ISSF Judge Class A and ISSF certified Sports Shooting Coach Class A and teacher at ISSF Sport Skeet Academy.

WOMEN**Olssen, Gyda Ellefsplass****Club:** Stange Sportskyttere**Born:** 16.11.78 – Elverum**Residence:** Bærum Verk**Height:** 164 cm**Civil Status:** In a relationship**Occupation:** Officer/Captain**Hobbies:** Skiing, mountain biking, running**Greatest sport moment:** My first international individual medal:

ECh in 3x20 (300m) in 2002

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English**Previous results:****WCh 06:** 6 in 3x20 (300 m) **ECh 03:** 1 in 3x20 (300 m),

ECh 03: 2 in 60 prone, ECh 07: 1 in 3x20 (300 m)

WC (best places): 6 in Air Rifle (2007 and 2008)**NCh:** 19 individual Gold medals **Personal best:** Air Rifle (10 m) – 399, 3x20 (50 m) – 594 (indoor range) and 587 (outdoor range)



SHOOTING – ATHLETES

**Vestveit, Kristina****Club:** Vestre Bærum Salongskytterlag**Born:** 24.08.86 – Bærum**Residence:** Asker**Height:** 170 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabit**Occupation:** Student**Hobbies:** Wilderness, cinema**Favourite music:** Pop and rock**Favourite film:** Everything with Bruce Willis**Favourite book genre:** "Se og Hør" and my school books**Favourite food:** Wok**Greatest sport moment:** Sonja Pheilschifter sat two new World records in Munich 2006**Sport idol:** Harald Stenvaag and Sonja Pheilschifter**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****WC:** 3 in 50 m Rifle 3 positions in 2008 **WCh jr 06:** 2 in 50 m Rifle 3 positions, **ECh jr 04:** 3 in 50 m Rifle 3 positions, **NCh:** 2 individual Gold medals
Personal best: 50 m Rifle 3 positions – 588, 10 m Air Rifle – 399

MEN

**Brovold, Tore****Club:** Østlandske Sportskyttere**Born:** 12.06.70 – Hamar**Residence:** Stange**Height:** 176 cm**Civil Status:** Cohabit**Occupation:** Database Administrator**Hobbies:** Hunting, shooting**Favourite music:** Nightwish, Return, TNT, StageDolls**Favourite film:** Many good films...**Favourite book genre:** Criminal novels**Favourite food:** Meat**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****WCh 06:** Skeet/2 **ECh 08:** Skeet/1 **WC:** 2 x 1st place, 1 x 2nd place, 2 x 3rd place **NCh:** 20 individual Gold medals
Personal best: Skeet with final (ECh 08) – 150 (World record)

**Jensen, Harald****Club:** Asker Jeger- og Fiskerforening**Born:** 18.12.66 – Asker**Residence:** Røyken**Height:** 190 cm**Civil Status:** Married – two children**Occupation:** Electrician**Hobbies:** Hunting, wilderness**Favourite music:** Hellbillies**Favourite film:** "Lange Flate Ballær" 1 & 2**Favourite book genre:** Kurt Wallander and Jo Nesbø**Favourite food:** Pinnekjøtt (Salted and dried ribs of mutton) and rib**Greatest sport moment:** Gold medal in WCh 2002**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****OG 92:** Skeet/33, **OG96:** Skeet/26, **OG 00:** Skeet/18,**OG 04:** Skeet/6 **WCh 02:** Skeet/1, **WCh 05:** Skeet/1 (team)**ECh 93:** Skeet/1, **ECh 02:** Skeet/1 (team), **ECh 03:** Skeet/3,**ECh 04:** Skeet/1 (team), **ECh 08:** Skeet/2 **WC:** 4 x 1st place**NCh:** 16 Gold medals **Personal best:** Skeet with final – 150 (World record)**Berg, Vebjørn****Club:** Stange Sportskyttere**Born:** 01.04.80 – Hamar**Residence:** Sørumsand**Height:** 177 cm**Civil Status:** Married**Occupation:** Engineer of Construction**Hobbies:** Big bore shooting**Favourite music:** Bon Jovi, U2**Favourite film:** Sniper**Favourite book genre:** Crime**Favourite food:** Christmas food**Greatest sport moment:** World Cup victory Gouangzou in China 2006**Sport idol:** Kjetil André Aamodt**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:****WCh 06:** 2 in 3x40 (300 m) and 3 in 3x20 (300 m)**ECh 03:** 3 in 60 Prone (300 m), **ECh 05:** 2 in 3x20 (300 m) and 3 in 3x40 (300 m) **WC:** 1 in 50 m 3x40 in 2006, 2 in 50 m 3x40 in 2006, 3 in 50 m 3x40 in 2007 and 2008 **NCh:** Approx 15-20 individual Gold medals **Personal best:** 50 m 60 Prone – 600, 50 m 3x40 - 1181



SHOOTING – ATHLETES



Berg-Knutsen, Espen

Club: Nordstrand

Born: 02.10.69 – Oslo

Residence: Oslo

Height: 186 cm

Civil Status: Cohabit with Cecilie

Occupation: Chief Scientist

Hobbies: Skiing, surfing and shooting

Favourite music: Pop and rock

Favourite film: Mission Impossible

Favourite book genre: Crime novels

Favourite food: Norwegian food

Greatest sport moment: World record 300 m rifle in Zagreb 2006

Sport idol: Myself

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Previous results:

OG 00: 12 in 50 m Rifle 3 Positions, **OG 04:** 16 in 60 Rifle Prone **WCh 98:** 1 in 3x20, **WCh 02:** 3 in 60 Prone, **WCh 06:** 1 in 3x40 **WCh:** 6 medals in team **ECh:** 20 medals in individual and team (1195 – 2007) **WC:** 1 in World Cup Final 50 m 60 Rifle Prone in 2002 **NCh:** Approx 25 individual Gold medals **Personal best:** 50 m 60 Prone – 599, 50 m 3x40 – 1178



Hansen, Are

Club: Krapfoss Sportsskytterlag

Born: 16.01.82 – Fredrikstad

Residence: Moss

Height: 179 cm

Civil Status: Single

Occupation: Student

Hobbies: Race boats, water skiing, sports, movies

Favourite music: Rock

Favourite film: Old School

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite food: My grandma homemade food...

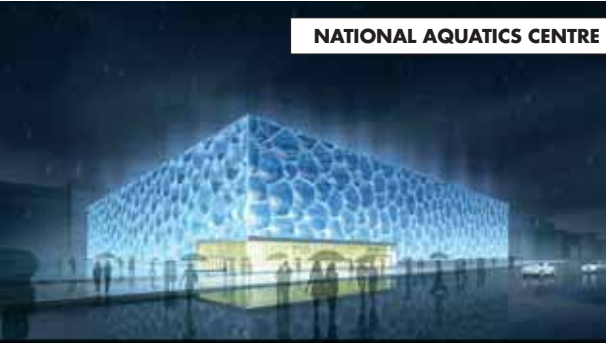
Greatest sport moment: Bjørn Dæhlie in Olympic Games in Albertville 1992 – backwards over the finish line in relay

Sport idol: Cato Zahl Pedersen and Harald Stenvaag

Languages spoken: Norwegian and English

Previous results:

WCh 06: 49 in 10 m Air Rifle (590 p) **ECh 05:** 2 in 10 m Air Rifle Team, **ECh 08:** 1 in 10 m Air Rifle **WC 06:** 2 in 10 m Air Rifle **NCh:** 10 individual Gold medals **Personal best:** 10 m Air Rifle – 600 (60 shots)


NATIONAL AQUATICS CENTRE


Venue: Swimming – **Location from Olympic Village:** 0,5 km –
 ≤ 5 min – **Total land surface:** 79,532 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 6,000
 – **Temporary seats:** 11.000

Time more important than medals ...

Four years ago, he went to the Olympics in Athens as an "apprentice" – on a so-called youth quota. A mere 19-year-old, he was the sole Norwegian competitor in the swimming pool. He ended up in 21st place in the 100m breaststroke.

In Beijing, he is amongst the medal hopefuls in both the 100m and 200m breaststroke. But he doesn't want to talk about medals. For this powerful swimmer from Bergen, the only things that count are personal records. Since the Athens Games, his development curve has pointed almost exclusively upwards. Two years ago he made his international breakthrough with a WC silver medal in the 100m breaststroke (25m). Since then he has accumulated five EC medals.

The high point of his career came during this year's EC (50m) in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. He racked up a new European record in the 100m breaststroke with a time of 59.74 – the third best time ever! And he took the silver in the 50m and 200m breaststroke as well.

This time Alexander won't be the only Norwegian swimmer in the Olympic pool. Accompanying him will be Sara Nordenstam and Ingvild Snildal – two swimmers who have had a remarkable development this year.



SWIMMING

Norwegian swimming is coming into its own. During this season alone there have been 50 Norwegian senior records. There is greater breadth at the top, and far more candidates are qualifying for the finals. For the juniors, too, the standard is quite high, even though there remains a lot of unfulfilled potential. The biggest challenge is to get these talented youngsters to buckle down and do what it takes to make it to the top internationally. Alexander Dale Oen has done just that! Many are saying that he is capable of winning Norway's first ever OL medal in swimming.

The Norwegian Swimming Federation was founded as early as 1910, but many years would pass before the first championship medal resulted.

Lene Jenssen's 1978 World Championship silver medal in the 100 m freestyle made history. The first Norwegian European Championship medal was won by Irene Dalby in the 800 m freestyle in 1989. In 1991 she also won European Championship gold medals at both 400 m and 800 m freestyle.

The Norwegian Swimming Federation numbers 45.000 members spread over an estimated 235 clubs. There are around 1000 pools in Norway, but unfortunately too few 50-metre pools – only five pools outdoor and five pools indoor.

More info: www.svomming.no



Løvberg, Petter
Born: 31.07.59 – Vadsø
Residence: Oslo
Head Coach
2nd OG as Head Coach



Leganger-Hansen, Stig
Born: 07.12.76 - Bergen
Residence: Bergen
Coach
2nd OG as Coach



WOMEN

**Nordenstam, Sara****Club:** Lambertseter Svømmeklubb**Born:** 28.02.83 – Lycksele, SWE**Residence:** Oslo**Height:** 169 cm**Civil Status:** Single**Occupation:** Working part time at the club team while training for the Olympics**Hobbies:** Snowboarding and painting**Favourite music:** Rock**Favourite film:** Braveheart**Favourite book genre:** I love true stories, crime romance and adventure**Favourite food:** Mexican**Greatest sport moment:** June 2008. Personal best with 3 seconds and making the Olympic team**Sport idol:** Kjetil André Aamodt**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English and some German**Previous results:**

WCh 02: 8 in 400 m Ind. Medley (25 m), 12 in 200 m Ind. Medley (50 m) **ECh 00:** 4 in 200 m Ind. Medley (25 m), ECh 01: 4 in 200 m Ind. Medley and 200 m Breast (25 m), **ECh 02:** 4 in 200 m Ind. Medley (50 m) **WC:** 2 x 1st place in 400 m Ind. Medley in 2001 and 2002 **ECh jr 98:** 2 in 200 m Butterfly and 400 m Ind. Medley **NCh:** 16 individual Gold Medals **Personal best:** 200 m Ind. Medley – 2.17.29, 400 m Ind. Medley – 4.45.41, 200 m Breast – 2.27.13

**Snildal, Ingvild****Club:** Asker Svømmeklubb**Born:** 25.08.88 – Oslo**Residence:** Slependen**Height:** 163 cm**Civil Status:** Boyfriend**Occupation:** Student**Favourite music:** Dance**Favourite film:** What happens in Vegas**Favourite book genre:** Crime, adventure**Favourite food:** Fajitas**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, English**Previous results:**

WCh 08: 15 in 100 m Butterfly (25 m) **ECh 08:** 11 in 50 m Backstroke and 100 m Butterfly (50 m) **NCh:** Approx. 20-25 individual Gold medals for senior and junior **Personal best:** 100 m Butterfly – 59.90, 200 m Butterfly – 2.13.85, 100 m Backstroke – 1.03.42



SWIMMING – ATHLETES

MEN



Dale Oen, Alexander

Club: Vestkantsvømmerne

Born: 21.05.85 – Bergen

Residence: Bergen

Height: 191 cm

Civil Status: Single

Occupation: Swimmer

Hobbies: Photo, vintage

Favourite music: Foo Fighters, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin

Favourite film: Top Gun, Gladiator

Favourite book genre: History

Favourite food: Meatballs

Greatest sport moment: Becoming European Champion and record holder

Sport idol: People who succeed over all expectations

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English and some German

Previous results:

OG 04: 21 in 100 m Breast **WCh 06:** 3 in 100 m Breast (25 m)

ECh 06: 2 in 100 m Breast (50 m) and 3 in 100 m Breast (25 m),

ECh 08: 1 in 100 m Breast (50 m), 2 in 200 m Breast and 50 m

Breast (25 m) **Personal best:** 100 m Breast – 59.74 (European record), 200 m Breast – 2.09.74



Kvale, Gard

Club: Bergen Svømmeklubb

Born: 06.05.84 – Bergen

Residence: Bergen

Height: 183 cm

Civil Status: Single

Occupation: Student

Hobbies: Movies, TV-series, hanging around buddies playing xbox and so on...

Favourite music: Rock

Favourite film: Braveheart

Favourite book genre: Fantasy and crime

Favourite food: My mum's pizza!

Greatest sport moment: The day I found out I'm going to Beijing...!

Sport idol: Ian Thorpe and Kjetil André Aamodt

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English and some German

Previous results:

WCh 02: 11 in 1500 m Freestyle (25 m), **WCh 05:** 20 in 200 m

Medley (50 m) **ECh 03:** 11 in 1500 m Freestyle (25 m), **ECh 06:** 11

in 100 m Medley (25 m) **NCh:** Around 70 Gold medals

Others: 12 Norwegian records long- and short course



BEIJING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM



Venue: Taekwondo – **Location from Olympic Village:** 8 km –
 ≤ 10 min – **Floor area:** 24.662 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 4.000 –
Temporary seats: 4.000

Nina Solheim ready once again for the Olympics

Nina Solheim has again qualified for the Olympics. Born in South Korea, Nina will be competing in Beijing in the +67 kg class on Friday, 23 August. Norway has entered contestants in every OL after Taekwondo was given official status during the Games in Sydney in 2000, when Trude Gundersen took the silver medal. During OL in Athens, Nina Solheim struggled her way to the quarterfinals in the -67 kg class, but had to withdraw because of an injury.

Translated literally, Taekwondo means "foot," "hand" and "art/road." It is a Korean self-defence martial arts sport and competitive sport with roots that go back thousands of years. The Korean Taekwondo Association was founded with the South Korean government's support in 1959, and Taekwondo was declared the national sport in 1965. The first world championships were held in 1973. In Norway, Taekwondo is organized in the Norwegian Martial Arts Federation.

In Taekwondo, it is nearly harder to qualify for the Olympics than it is to perform during the Games. Participation is limited to 62 men and 62 women. In addition, there are four wildcards, bringing the total number of contestants to 128. Each nation has only two chances to qualify, and each nation is allowed to enter no more than two women and two men. The competition during the Games is divided into four weight classes for both sexes, while the World Championships have eight weight classes per sex.



TAEKWONDO – ATHLETES

In Taekwondo matches, athletes compete directly against one opponent according to the cup principle. Taekwondo is the only Olympic sport permitted to award two bronze medals to those who lose to the gold and silver medal winners. The two who lose to the finalists are in the bronze medal finals, while the two who lost their preliminary rounds to the finalists must compete to reach the bronze finals on both sides of the draw. So there is no decisive match for the bronze medal, but rather for two medals. Contestants receive points for foot technique and blows with clenched fist. The one who gets in the most hits on his opponent wins the match. Illegal techniques include holding, shoving, hitting below the belt, blows to the head, avoiding engagement and poor conduct in general.

More info: www.kampsport.no



Kramer, Stig

Born: 20.01. 67 - DEN

Residence: Oslo

Head Coach

1st OG as Head Coach

Assistant coach in Denmark for four years.

Trained and studied in Korea for ten years.

ATHLETE



Solheim, Nina

Club: Mudo Team Namsos

Born: 04.08.79 – South Korea

Residence: Oslo

Height: 172 cm

Civil Status: Single

Occupation: Top sport athlete and student

Favourite music: Depends on my mood

Favourite book genre: Crime

Favourite film: The Pursuit of Happiness,

Seven, Color Purple, The 300 and more

Favourite food: Mum's homemade pizza, taco, Chinese food

Favourite "thing": My Ipod and Samsung Phone

Greatest moment in sport: Qualification Paris 2003

Sports idol: Carolina Klüft

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Previous results:

OG'04: DNF, **Olympic test event'04:** 1, **WCh 01:** 3, **ECh 06:** 3 **08:** 3, **WC 06:** 1, **US Open 06:** 1, **Dutch Open 04:** 1, **WCh Universities 06:** 1, **Nordic Ch:** Champion 7 times, **NCh:** Champion 6 times



BEIJING UNIVERSITY OF AERONAUTICS & ASTRONAUTICS GYMNASIUM



Venue: Weightlifting – **Location from Olympic Village:** 3 km –
 ≤ 10 min – **Floor area:** 28.000 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 3.400 –
Temporary seats: 2.600

First Norwegian female weightlifter ever in the Olympic Games

Ruth Kasirye will be the first female Norwegian weightlifter ever to participate in the Olympics when the Beijing Games begin. Not only that, but she will be the only Nordic weightlifter of either sex to represent the sport during the Games. In 1997, the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), along with the IOC, ruled that women could also participate in the Olympics. In 2007, Ruth Kasirye took the silver in the European Championships and became a prime OL candidate for Norway. This good development continued, and this year she ended in fourth place overall in the European Championships, taking a splendid bronze medal in the snatch. Ruth, who originally hails from Uganda, lifts in the 63 kg weight class, which is one of the toughest in competition, since many girls are in this weight class.

Weightlifting was one of the first sports to be included in the Olympic programme, and today's events are the snatch and the clean and jerk. In the snatch, the weightlifter takes a wide grip, often from a kneeling position, and lifts the weight over the head in one movement. In the clean and jerk, the weightlifter turns the barbell towards the chest – here too usually from a kneeling position, and then lunges from the legs until the barbell is held on locked arms. For men, the barbell weighs 20 kg; the weight for women is 15 kg.



WEIGHTLIFTING

People have different builds and don't weigh the same. Therefore it isn't fair that a lightweight lifter should have to compete against someone who is heavier. This problem is solved by establishing different classes for women and men, with winners declared in each respective class. Declaring the best lifters, regardless of weight class, is done according to a specific formula that takes into consideration the fact that a heavy weightlifter has to lift more than a lightweight lifter. In practice, this means that the weightlifters are weighed two hours before a competition and are assigned a coefficient in accordance with an itemized table called "Sinclair." Those who weigh the least are given a higher coefficient, and the total number of kilos lifted is multiplied by the coefficient, which yields a total number of points. The person with the highest individual number of points is the best overall contestant. There are different point tables for men and women.

Apart from Leif Jensen, who was Olympic champion in Munich in 1972, Stian Grimseth from Naustdal has performed best internationally. Stian won the European Championships in the snatch in 1996 and 1997.

More info: www.vektlofting.no

**Grostad, Arne****Born:** 02.07.1952 - Trondheim**Residence:** Trondheim**Team Leader/Coach**

1st OG as Team Official

Former international weightlifter for Norway.

ATHLETE**Kasirye, Ruth****Club:** Tønsberg-Kameratene**Born:** 10.06.82 – Kampala, Uganda**Residence:** Tønsberg**Height:** 159 cm**Civil Status:** Single**Occupation:** Student**Hobbies:** Norwegian, English, Ugandan**Favourite music:** Hip Hop, Classic**Favourite film:** Lord of the rings**Favourite book genre:** Lord of the rings**Favourite food:** Taco**Favourite "thing":** Cell phone**Greatest sport moment:** 101 in snatch in ECh 2008**Sport idol:** Mathias Stainer, Weightlifter**Languages spoken:** Norwegian, French, English**Previous results:****WCh'07:** 9 – 58kg**ECh'07:** 2 – 58 kg 08: 4 - 63kg, 3 in snatch



CHINA AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM



Venue: Wrestling – **Location from Olympic Village:** 5 km –
≤ 5 min – **Floor area:** 23.950 sq m – **Permanent seats:** 6.000 –
Temporary seats: 2.500

A sport with long traditions

Wrestling has long traditions in Norway. The first organised event was in 1909. Before that, wrestling had in the main been circus attraction. Carl Nordbeck had been a circus wrestler for many years, and had fought many hard matches with the Dane, Beck-Olsen. In 1908, Nordbeck became trainer for Ørnulf Athletics Club, and the club arranged Norway's first amateur event in 1909. The club also had the honour of arranging the very first Norwegian Athletics Championships in April, 1910. The Norwegian Athletics Federation was founded on December 20th 1913. The Federation changed its name to The Norwegian Wrestling Federation in 1920, when boxing and weightlifting became separate federations.

Wrestling is a hard but worthy sport, where great demands are placed on its participants. Extensive and varied training is must if one is to reach the top. Norwegian wrestlers have shown good results through the years, and have brought home points in almost all Olympic Games they have taken part in. Norway's best known wrestler is Jon Rønningen, who achieved two Olympic golds, the first in 1988 and the second in 1992. Jacob Gundersen took silver in 1908 (he had emigrated to the USA, arrived with the American team and competed in free-style) and Åge Eriksen took his silver medal in 1948. In 1920, Fritjof Andersen took an Olympic bronze.



Norway is entering one wrestler in the Beijing Olympics – 24-year-old Stig-André Berge – in the 60 kg class. This is a wrestler full of self-confidence. Four years ago he told his girlfriend that missing even one training session while preparing for the Olympics was out of the question.

Ever since he was a little boy, an Olympic medal has been his goal. Both his father and brother were wrestlers. Both are Norwegian champions, but retired as 19-year-olds. Even though wrestling is not exactly a moneymaking machine, our hotshot from Oslo has never been in doubt: "If you want to be the best in the world, you have to sacrifice a lot."

The highlight of his career was no doubt last year's European championships, when he took the silver medal. He also has six gold medals from Grand Prix tournaments on his CV and is looking to crown his career with an OL medal.

More info: www.bryting.no



WRESTLING – ATHLETES



Steen, Frank

Born: 07.06.55

Residence: Stenungsund, SWE

Head Coach

1st OG as Head Coach

ATHLETE



Berge, Stig-André

Club: Oslo Bryteklubb

Born: 22.07.83 – Oslo

Residence: Oslo

Height: 166 cm

Civil Status: Co-habitee

Occupation: Wrestler

Hobbies: Wrestling and all kind of sports

Favourite music: Boyband

Favourite film: Rocky collection

Favourite book genre: Thriller

Favourite food: Hamburger, pizza

Greatest sport moment: Jon Rønningen – Golf medal in Seoul 1988


Sport idol: Matti Nykänen

Languages spoken: Norwegian, English

Previous results:

WCh 99: 7/Greek Roman **ECh 07:** 2/Greek Roman

NCh: 16 individual Gold medals **Grand Prix:** 6 x 1st place



17.mai-tog: May 17th is Norway's National Day, and celebrates the adoption of the Constitution on the same date in 1814. May 17th is a major event in Norway, and almost all Norwegians take part in the celebrations. All Norwegian school-children take part in Constitution Day parades, all of them dressed in their own local version of the national costume or their Sunday best. The forest of Norwegian flags leaves little doubt it's Norway's Constitution day that's being celebrated. Tourists from all over the world stream into Oslo to see the Children's Parade.

Binders: A small twist of metal wire – better known to you as a paper clip. Invented by the Norwegian Johan Vaaler in 1899. In use world-wide.

Brunost: A sweet, brown cheese made from cow's milk and / or goat's milk. Originally made in the mountain dairy farms, it's now found on most Norwegian breakfast tables, and is used by hundreds of thousands of people daily as a filling for their lunchtime sandwiches. More than a quarter of all cheese eaten in Norway is Brunost!

Bunad: National costume with its origins in peasant clothing. The various regions and districts in Norway have their own versions, and the designs indicate family or geographical ties. Almost everyone who has one wears their 'Bunad' on May 17th, Constitution Day.

Harald Hårfagre: According to the history books Harald Fairhair was the first King over a united Norway. (Approx. 865-933). The Viking Chieftain who united Norway at the Battle of Hafsfjord near Stavanger in around 885. It is claimed that all those who have claimed the throne of Norway since are descendants of Harald Fairhair. Fairhair named Eirik Blodøks – the famous Eirik The Red – as his heir to the Throne of Norway.

Hardingfele: A uniquely Norwegian form of violin or fiddle with eight strings, four above and four under. The Harding Fiddle dates from around 1650, and quickly spread throughout the Norwegian valleys, gaining popularity as a folk music instrument. The fiddle can be tuned in 30 different ways.



BEST OF NORWAY

Lofot-fisket: An annual fisheries event from February to April for Cod and Spring Cod in the Vestfjord at Lofoten in the County of Nordland. The Vestfjord has been the most stable spawning grounds for Spring Cod for time beyond memory, and has therefore been a winter fairy tale for fishermen for more centuries than the history books can count. The Lofot Fisheries are the basis for a number of both small and large fishing boats along the coastline of Norway.

Lusekofte: A knitted pullover with its origins in Setesdalen in Norway. Mainly used by men since the mid-1800's. The pullover is usually "Sheep-wool-black" with a white pattern. The pattern is the "lice". Around 1920, tourists began to notice this uniquely Norwegian garment, and since then it has been one of the popular purchases made by tourists in Norway.

Midnattsol: Norway is often called «The Land of the Midnight Sun». The Midnight Sun literally means that the sun never dips under the horizon, as is the case in Northern Norway during a period in the summer. There is daylight for a full 24 hours and the sun never sets. This phenomena attracts many tourist to Norway's Northern Regions. In strong contrast is the winter darkness, where the sun never shows her face, and the days are as dark as the nights.

Ostehøvel: A Norwegian invention in use all over the world. A tool for slicing cheese, invented by the furniture-maker Thor Bjørklund from the Olympic Town of Lillehammer. He patented the cheese slicer in 1925 and started production in 1927. Since then, his cheese slicer has enjoyed world-wide success that we Norwegians are proud of!

Smalahove: A traditional Norwegian dish originating from the villages and hamlets of the West Country. 'Smale' is a dialect word for sheep, and "Smalahove" means sheep's head. The head is singed and/or smoked prior to boiling before being served with boiled potatoes and mashed swede. Not all Norwegian's find the dish so very appealing, with the sheep staring up at you from your plate....



Thor Heyerdahl: Norwegian ethnographer and zoologist, who has carried out much research into the origins of the peoples of Polynesia. Heyerdahl believed that Polynesia was settled by peoples from America and not from south-east Asia as was the common theory at the time. To prove that American Indians could have sailed the Pacific he carried through the famous Kon-Tiki expedition in 1947. The film of the expedition was awarded the Oscar for best documentary in 1951. Heyerdahl is also famous for the Ra, Ra II and Tigris expeditions.

Tran: Norwegian health drink based on liver-oil from mainly cod or saithe. 'Tran', or cod-liver oil, was traditionally used both as lamp-oil and as nature's medicine against a number of debilitating illnesses. Nowadays, it is highly valued due to its high percentage of non-saturated fatty acids. Many Norwegians start their day with a dessert spoon of cod-liver oil to keep healthy and in good form. Not very popular with the kids due to its somewhat special flavour....

Tørrfisk: Fisk that is not salted, but dried naturally in the wind- you may have met it as Stockfish or Bacalao. Dried either on special frames or direct on the rocks. Smells VERY strong, is re-hydrated prior to cooking. One of the oldest fish products in Norway and has been of great importance to the coastal regions. Exported in great quantities to among other countries Portugal - Bacalao.

Vikingskip: Norwegian/Nordic vessel from the Viking Era and early middle ages. The ships were used by the Vikings in both war and peace, in the latter as trading vessels. The Vikings were Nordic traders who carried out both trading missions and raids in West and Eastern Europe between 800-1050. The best known Viking Ships, The Gokstad, Tune and Oseberg can all be seen at the Viking Ship Museum at Bygdøy in Oslo.

How to pronounce it:

17.mai-tog: Sitt-enda mei tawg

Binders: Bin-durs

Brunost: Broon oost

Bunad: Buu nadd

Harald Hårfagre:

Harald haw-fargra

Hardingfele: Harding fea-la

Lofot-fisket: Loaf-fott fiska

Lusekofte: Loose a koffta

Midnattsol: Mid natt sool

Ostehøvel: Oost-a hoevell

Smalahove: Smahla-hovva

Thor Heyerdahl: Tor Hei-a-dal

Tran: Trahn

Tørrfisk: Toerr-fis

Vikingskip: Veeking ship



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