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## A capsulized look at Brandon Brooks

Former Quad-Citian Brandon Brooks is the starting goalie for the United States men's water polo team that begins play today in the 2004 Olympics. Here is a look at U.S. men's water polo through the years:

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-- **USA schedule:** Today, 2:15 p.m. - Croatia; Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - Kazakhstan; Thursday, 2:45 a.m. - Hungary; Saturday, 2:15 p.m. - Russia; Aug. 23, 1 p.m. - Serbia-Montenegro; Aug. 25 - quarterfinals; Aug. 27 - semifinals; Aug. 29 - finals.

-- **Olympic outlook:** The first team sport in the modern Olympics, water polo was introduced to the world in 1900. Hungary, the defending Olympic and world champion, has dominated the Olympics by capturing seven gold medals. The men's competition comprises two groups of six nations, followed by quarterfinal contests, semifinal games and medal-round matches. The sixth-rated USA men's team will face a tall task when the Olympic water polo tournament starts today in Athens, Greece. The USA will compete in Group A with top-ranked Hungary, No. 3 Serbia-Montenegro (formerly Yugoslavia), No. 9 Croatia, No. 10 Russia and unranked but highly competitive Kazakhstan. Wolf Wigo, returning for a third consecutive Olympics, is the captain of the USA men's squad.

-- **USA Olympic finishes:** **1904:** first (three USA teams were the only competitors); **1916:** no Olympics because of World War I; **1920:** fourth; **1924:** third; **1928:** third; **1932:** third; **1936:** ninth; **1940 & 1944:** no Olympics because of World War II; **1948:** 11th; **1952:** fourth; **1956:** fifth; **1960:** seventh; **1964:** ninth; **1968:** seventh; **1972:** third; **1976:** USA didn't qualify; **1980:** USA boycotted the Olympics; **1984:** second; **1988:** second; **1992:** fourth; **1996:** seventh; **2000:** sixth.

-- **USA World Cup finishes:** **1979:** second; **1981:** fourth; **1983:** fourth; **1985:** second; **1987:** fourth; **1989:** eighth; **1991:** first; **1993:** fourth; **1995:** fourth; **1997:** first; **1999:** sixth; **2002:** seventh.

-- **USA world championships finishes:** **1973:** fifth; **1975:** eighth; **1978:** fifth; **1982:** sixth; **1986:** fourth; **1990:** fourth; **1994:** sixth; **1998:** seventh; **2001:** seventh; **2003:** sixth.

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