



**7/14/16**

***Ten Athletes Represent USATF Southern California Association in Rio.***

The end of the Olympic Trials on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> marked the beginning for Gil Roberts, Boris Berian, Conor McCullough, Allyson Felix, Arianna Washington, Brenda Martinez, Brianna Rollins, Dalilah Muhammad, Whitney Ashley, and Barbara Nwaba, who now embark on their Olympic experience in Rio De Janeiro.

Halfway through the trials, Southern California Association (SCA) athletes Felix, Ashley, Roberts, and Berian earned spots on Team USA. Highlights of the second half of the trials were Muhammad, Rollins, Martinez, McCullough, and Nwaba all earning top 3 finishes to punch their tickets to Rio.

Muhammad and Rollins both finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the 400m hurdles and 100m hurdles, respectively, as well as Nwaba, from the Santa Barbara Track Club who took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the women's heptathlon. Martinez grabbed her spot to Rio with a spectacular dive at the finish line to clinch 3<sup>rd</sup> in the women's 1500m. On the men's side, hammer thrower McCullough finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and although he has not met the Olympic qualifying standard, has been invited to participate in the Games by the IAAF to fill the field.

USATF relay pools were announced and included Southern California sprinter Arianna Washington on the women's 4x100m and superstar Allyson Felix on the women's 4x400m relay.

Other notable men's performances from the second half of the Trials included Jason Harrell 4<sup>th</sup> place in the discus and Colin Dunbar's 7<sup>th</sup> place hammer finish. The men's 110m hurdles included good performances from both Aleec Harris and Ryan Wilson who finished in 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Vista Murrieta High School graduate Michael Norman Jr, finished an impressive 5<sup>th</sup> in the men's 200m.

On the women's side, SCA athletes performed well both on the track and in the field. The women's 200m featured 3 SCA females in the final, with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish by Felix, a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish from Washington, and an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish by Jeneba Tarmoh. In the 100m hurdles, Dawn Harper finished 9<sup>th</sup>, just missing advancing to the final. Kori Carter finished 4<sup>th</sup> and Jaide Stepter finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the 400m hurdles. The women's heptathlon featured 4 top 10 finishers from Southern California, including Sharon Day-Monroe in 4<sup>th</sup>, and Santa Barbara Track Club teammates Lindsay Schwartz, 9<sup>th</sup>, and Lindsay Lettow, 10<sup>th</sup>, complimenting Nwaba's 1<sup>st</sup>.

Track and field action in Rio takes place from August 12-21.



**2016 USATF SCA ATHLETES HEADING TO RIO**

**Men**

Boris Berian (800m)

Conor McCullough (Hammer Throw)

Gil Roberts (400m)

**Women**

Allyson Felix (400m, 4x400m)

Arianna Washington (4x100m)

Barbara Nwaba (Heptathlon)

Brenda Martinez (800m)

Brianna Rollins (100m Hurdles)

Dalilah Muhammad (400m Hurdles)

Whitney Ashley (Discus Throw)