



OLYMPICS | WORLD/NATION | UTAH | SPORTS | BUSINESS | OPINION | FRONT PAGE

DESERET NEWS COVERAGE OF THE 2000 SYDNEY SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

EVENTS SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1

U.S. Olympians

- MAIN
- Games coverage
- Lee Benson says...
- Utah Olympians
- U.S. Olympians
- SLOC in Sydney
- on the street
- behind the scenes
- Armchair Guide
- kidstuff
- ask the team

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Whew! U.S. edges Korea, will now play for a medal

By **Lee Benson**
Deseret News columnist

SYDNEY — With plenty of help from onetime Highland High School volleyball standout Logan Tom, the U.S. women's volleyball team lived to play for a medal with a five-set win over Korea in the Olympic quarterfinals Monday night.



Danielle Scott, left, and ex-Highland High star Logan Tom (15) block Korea's Meong-Hee Lee in USA's volleyball win, getting them to the medal round.

Ravell Call, Deseret News

The U.S. team rallied from behind in the decisive fifth set, taking it 16-14 after a series of inspired digs by Kerri Walsh and two well-placed dink shots, one by Danielle Scott and the other by Tom. Tom's finesse shot gave the U.S. a 15-14 lead and set up the conclusive match point.

In the tightest match of the Olympic tournament, the United States opened the see-saw affair with a 26-24 first-set win. Korea then came back with a 25-17 win. The United States countered with a 25-23 win in the third set, which was countered by a 27-25 fourth-set win by Korea.

The 19-year-old Tom, the youngest player on the court on either team by almost a full year, got her team off to a strong start with seven spike winners in the first set. She added five more in the United States' strong third-set win and three more in the lightning-round fifth set. When the 6-foot-1, 176-pound spike artist was at her best, so was the United States.

The U.S. women now join Cuba, Brazil and Russia in the medal round Thursday. Russia and the United States will play in one match, and Cuba will face Brazil in the other. Winners will move on to play for the gold medal, losers for the bronze medal.

"We're in the top four. We're playing for a medal now," said a jubilant Tom after she hugged her Stanford University teammate, Walsh, whose return from injury played a major factor in the victory over the Koreans. "Kerri gives a lot to this team," Tom said. "We knew in our hearts we could pull this off, no matter what anybody said."

The United States has met Russia twice this year, in Russia in January and in a tournament in Switzerland in June. The Russians have won both times, but the Switzerland match went five sets.

"We've had many more months to gel as a team since then," Tom said. "We're a much, much better team."

Russia beat the Chinese — a team the U.S. beat in the preliminaries — in straight sets in their quarterfinal match,



- [Format story for printing](#)
- [Email a copy of this story](#)

[an error occurred while processing this directive]

27-25, 25-23 and 27-25. Brazil and Cuba also won in straight sets, eliminating Germany and Croatia, respectively.

E-mail: benson@desnews.com



Logan Tom hugs teammate Kerri Walsh following U.S. team's victory over Korea.

Ravell Call, Deseret News

[Olympics](#) | [World & Nation](#) | [Utah](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Front Page](#)