

Extended Media Start List

Women's single scull

Lane 1 : ESP

Nuria's qualification for the final makes rowing history for Spain. The Seville-based rower is the first Spanish woman to ever reach the final at an Olympic games.

Lane 2 : BUL

Began rowing at age 14 and is now one of the best single scullers in the world. Missed the Olympic gold by just 1/100th of a second to Ekaterina Karsten in Sydney. After a year's break in 2001 she has come back very strongly winning the 2002 and 2003 World Championships and setting a World Best Time in this category.

Lane 3 : BLR

She's one of the favourites for this race, having already won two consecutive Olympic gold medals in the women's single scull. She lives and trains in Germany with her German husband.

Lane 4 : GER

She started her career by winning single scull silver at the 1991 World Junior Championships. By the age of 21, she had already won four World Championship titles and a quadruple scull gold medal from the 1996 Olympics. Has won every international race she has entered this year.

Lane 5 : CZE

Started rowing only four years ago and is one of the youngest in this final. Won the World U-23 Regatta in 2002, came fourth at the World Championship in 2003 and has had a medal at every World Cup this year.

Lane 6 : NZL

Competing in her second Olympic Games. Came sixth in Sydney in 2000. In 2001 she won silver at the World Championships in the women's quadruple sculls. She is the wife of the 2000 single sculler Olympic Champion Rob Waddell.

Extended Media Start List

Men's single scull

Lane 1 : BEL

After failing to qualify for the 2003 World Championships in the double scull in Milan, he raced this year in the single scull. Former World Junior Championships bronze medallist (single scull, 1999, Plovdiv). Was a World Cup bronze medallist in Munich (2004) and then qualified for Athens in Lucerne by finishing second in the qualification regatta. At 23, he is one of the youngest of the favourites at this event.

Lane 2 : ARG

Santiago started this Olympic regatta by winning his heat. Qualified last year by finishing seventh at the World Championships in Milan. This year, he was a finalist at the World Cup Finals in Lucerne. Has his home in Buenos Aires.

Lane 3 : NOR

Winner of the overall World Cup title this year and twice a World Champion, Olaf Tufte's ambition is to get gold. Tufte already has an Olympic silver medal from Sydney when he raced in the double.

Lane 4 : EST

Like Chalupa, Jueri has had a very long rowing career. Competing for the former USSR, he won a bronze medal at the 1989 World Championships and the World Championship title in 1990. Finishing out of the medals in recent years, he surprised everybody by winning the first World Cup in Poznan this year.

Lane 5 : CZE

Having rowed at the top international level for 14 years, Chalupa is one of the most experienced rowers in this category. He won gold and bronze at this year's World Cup races. Tough conditions are no problem for him and so his preparation for Athens is complete.

Lane 6 : BUL

Ivo qualified for the Olympic Games by winning the Qualification Regatta this June in Lucerne, Switzerland. He qualified for the final by eliminating one of the favourites, Marcel Hacker of Germany. Fifth at the last Olympics.

Extended Media Start List

Women's pair

Lane 1 : GER

Winning bronze at the World Cup in Lucerne this year gives this German pair hopes of getting an Olympic medal. Sandra came fourth at the World Championships in the women's four last year and Maren won gold in the women's quad in 1999. Both are making their Olympic debuts here.

Lane 2 : CAN

Darcy is making her Olympic Games debut here after only three years in the national squad. Has already won two medals at the World Championships. Buffy also has two silver and two bronze medals from the World Championships as well as well as a bronze in the eight at Sydney Olympic Games. The two athletes were a part of the bronze-medal winning eight at the 2003 World Championships.

Lane 3 : BLR

Currently-ranked second in the world and were silver medallists at the World Cup in Lucerne this year. They have shown their strength throughout the races at the 2004 Olympic Games and they are definitely capable of winning gold.

Lane 4 : ROM

Georgeta is the current Olympic Champion in this category. She and her partner Victoria won 2000 Olympics gold in the eight. Both of these athletes are doubling up into the eight as well.

Lane 5 : GBR

Katherine was in the women's quad at the Sydney Olympics and won the first Olympic medal for Great Britain in women's rowing (silver). Cath was ninth in the pair at the same Olympics. They raced together in 2001 and finished fifth at the World Championships in Lucerne. In 2003, they renewed their partnership and won gold at the World Championship in Milan. They are also World Cup winners from 2004.

Lane 6 : NZL

Both rowers are making their Olympic debuts here and qualified for the Games through the final qualifying regatta in Lucerne in June. The duo came together earlier this season. Juliette, aged 22, has been rowing for 14 years and this is her first year on the national team.

Extended Media Start List

Men's pair

Lane 1 : RSA

Consistently on major medal podiums since 2001, making them the most consistent pair. Sixth at the 2000 Olympics and have the hopes of South Africa pinned on their shoulders being the sole rowing representatives for their country,

Lane 2 : CRO

The Skelin brothers were 2000 Olympic bronze medallists in the eight and World Championships pair silver medallists in 2002 and 2003. This year, they won the World Cup event in Poznan and finished second in Lucerne.

Lane 3 : GER

Won bronze at the World Cup event in Poznan, Poland (2004) and booked their ticket for Athens by winning the qualification regatta. After a modest start at this 2004 Olympic Games (last in their heat), they surprised everyone by winning their semi-final in front of the South African favourites and the Canadians.

Lane 4 : AUS

Fomerly part of the famous "Oarsome Foursome" (Olympic Champions in 1996), they are probably the best-known Australian rowers. Began to race in the pair in 1999 and won the World Championships. Unfortunately, Ginn got injured before the Sydney Olympics. Tomkins raced with Matthew Long and finished with bronze. Back together in 2002, they won the World Championship title a year later in 2003

Lane 5 : SCG

This duo came together just before the World Championships last year after Nikola's partner Djordje Visacki suffered injury. They comfortably qualified for Athens and the more time they spend in the boat the more they improve. Both Mladen and Nikola studied and rowed at American universities and this is their second Olympic Games.

Lane 6 : NZL

Nathan was in the pair that qualified for the Olympics by coming seventh at last year's World Championships. Both Nathan and George are making their Olympic debuts here.

Extended Media Start List

Women's double sculls

Lane 1 : ROM

Camelia and Simona form a very young team. At the beginning of this season Simona was still rowing in the eight and got silver at the first World Cup. Camelia was a bronze medallist at the 2003 World Championships in the lightweight women's double and was still rowing in this event at the World Cups this year.

Lane 2 : BUL

Formed in 2002, this team of young rowers has done well this year. They were fourth at the Poznan World Cup and won the Qualification regatta in Lucerne.

Lane 3 : NZL

It is the first Olympic Games for the twins. They have shown their domination by winning every international race since 2002 and they are two-time World Champions in this event. They have been likened to American 400m runner Michael Johnson because of their domination of this event.

Lane 4 : GER

Peggy was a member of the German quad for the past three years, winning two golds and a bronze medal at the World Championships. Britta was a silver medallist in this category at the World Championships last year. Like the crew from New Zealand they won their heat to qualify directly for the final.

Lane 5 : GBR

Both were members of the quadruple scull which came fourth at last year's World Championships. Won World Cup silver this year in Munich and were finalists in Poznan and Lucerne. Both athletes are at their second Games and are considered possible medallists.

Lane 6 : UKR

This crew has done very well in qualifying for this final which is their first major final this season. Netaliya is a first-time Olympian, but Athens is her Sveltana's third Olympics Games. She won silver in the quad in Atlanta and finished fourth also in the quad in Sydney.

Extended Media Start List

Men's double sculls

Lane 1 : USA

Aquil is the first African-American to have ever won the US Rowing National Championships (1996, single scull). For Aquil, a six-time national team member who is making his Olympic debut, and Henry, who finished eighth in the same event in 2000, the aim here has always been to make the final.

Lane 2 : EST

Even if Leonid is only 23, it is not a surprise to see him at this level. He was twice World Junior Champion in the single scull (1998-1999) and twice World U23 Champion (2000-2001) and ninth at the Sydney Olympics. Tonu rowed with him for the World U23 gold medal in 2001. Both rowed last year in the quad that finished seventh at the World Championships. This year, they won silver at the World Cup event in Poznan.

Lane 3 : SLO

Defending Olympic Champions Iztok and Luka are Slovenian rowing heroes. Since their 2000 victory Iztok has raced the single finishing with bronze at last year's World Championships. But, deciding their gold medal hopes lay in the double, they have reunited. This is Iztok's fourth Olympics and Luka's third. Luka was just 17 years old when he became an Olympian.

Lane 4 : ITA

Rossano and Alessio were members of the quad that won four World Championship gold medals since 1994 and an Olympic title in Sydney. They are now racing in the double scull and were second at the 2003 World Championships. This year they won two of the three World Cups.

Lane 5 : FRA

World Champions in 2003, Adrien and Sebastien have been rowing together since 2001. Sebastien comes from Cannes and this is his third Olympics. He is yet to medal. Adrien is at his second Olympics.

Lane 6 : CZE

These two rowers were already rowing together in the Czech quad in 2001. They successfully switched to the double in 2002 and finished fifth at the World Championships in the same year. Last year, they won a bronze medal at the World Championships in Milan and were also third in Lucerne at the World Cup Finals.

Lane 7 : NOR

Nils-Torolv was the World Best Time holder from 1999 to 2001 in the coxless four. He and his partner started rowing in the double last year and qualified for the Olympic Games by coming second at the Qualification Regatta.

Extended Media Start List

Men's four

Lane 1 : ITA

Raffaello, competing at his fourth Olympic Games, is the most experienced rower in this boat. He has been a member of the Italian four for the last three years and won World Championship bronze in 2002. For his crew members, Athens is the first Olympics. Italy won silver in this event in Sydney.

Lane 2 : AUS

The famous "Oarsome Foursome" was the flagship of Australian Rowing in the 90's - winning gold medals in Barcelona and Atlanta and bronze in Sydney. This team is new. David, Dave and Rob have been in the eight for the past three years. Rob and Tom also won a bronze medal in the coxed pair with at the World Championships in 2002.

Lane 3 : GBR

Matthew and James, after winning the Olympic title in this event, shifted to the pair and won World Championships gold in 2001 and 2002. Now back in the four, they are defending their Olympic title with Ed Coode who already rowed with them in 1999 and with Steve Williams, silver medallist in this event at the last two World Championships. Matthew is attempting to win his fourth Olympic gold medal.

Lane 4 : CAN

They are the reigning World Champions, won this year's World Cup event in Munich and finished second in the World Cup Finals in Lucerne. They are the favourites in this event. Should they win, it will be the second men's Olympic title for Canada in this event, having won the gold in Melbourne in 1956.

Lane 5 : NZL

This is a completely new line-up compared to the crew that finished sixth at Sydney and for all members Athens is their first Olympics. Their average age is 23. They arrived in Europe this year in time to race at the final World Cup Finals in June and have been training in Belgium leading up to the Olympics.

Lane 6 : POL

It is the second season for this crew in this combination. Mariuz and Jaroslaw are making their Olympic debut here. Finishing ninth last year at the World Championships, they have already done very well at the Olympics by qualifying for the final.

Extended Media Start List

Lightweight women's double scull

Lane 1 : CHN

Qian is a former heavyweight rower, she switched to lightweight last year and won the World U23 Regatta in the single scull. That same year she became World Champion in the lightweight quad. Dongxiang was in the double scull that finished 13th at the 2003 World Championships. They qualified for Athens by clearly winning the Asian Olympic Qualification Regatta.

Lane 2 : POL

This crew has been brought together this year. It showed its potential by finishing fourth at the first World Cup in Poznan and by winning the Olympic qualification regatta in Lucerne. Magdalena was still a junior last year and with Ilona's experience they could be on the edge of the medal positions.

Lane 3 : AUS

Amber won World Championships gold in 2002 and silver in 2003 in this event. Sally is competing in her third Games. She won bronze in Sydney and, after taking a break, has made a successful comeback by winning bronze in the lightweight women's quad at the World Championships last year. They started this Olympic regatta by setting the World Best Time during the heats.

Lane 4 : ROM

Romania has tried different combinations during this season to form the fastest boat. Angela and Constanta won silver at the final World Cup in Lucerne and have been very strong at these Olympics Games by winning their heat and their semi-final.

Lane 5 : NED

Rowing is a lot of fun and a passion for this duo who have been regular World Cup medallists in recent years. This year they won World Cup bronze in Munich and silver in Poznan. In 2003 they won world cup gold and two silvers.

Lane 6 : GER

Claudia has been rowing in this event since 1998. She was second at the Sydney Olympics and has two World Championship golds and silvers. It is the first year that she has rowed with her young partner Daniela who won silver in the women's lightweight double scull at the World U23 regatta in 2002 and 2003. They are the overall World Cup winners this year.

Extended Media Start List

Lightweight men's double scull

Lane 1 : JPN

In 2000, Daisaku was part of the lightweight quad that won Japan's first ever World Championships gold. That same year he finished sixth in the double scull at the Sydney Olympics. He is now married and has three children. He has rowed with Kazushige since 2001. They finished ninth last year at the World Championships. They qualified for the final by eliminating Ireland and Italy.

Lane 2 : HUN

This crew was successfully formed in 2003 and, in that year, won two World Cup silvers and finished sixth at the World Championships. This year they won World Cup bronze in Lucerne. They raced the same semi-final as the Japanese and eliminated two favourite boats : Italy and Ireland.

Lane 3 : POL

This duo has rowed together for the past eight years and they have won three gold and three silver medals at international level, including their victory at the Sydney Olympics. They haven't raced in the lightweight category this season at all, reserving the surprise for the 2004 Olympic regatta.

Lane 4 : FRA

Began rowing together in the lightweight double in 2003. Pascal won bronze in this event in Sydney. They qualified for the Olympic Games by coming fourth at the 2003 World Championships. This year, they are the overall World Cup winners.

Lane 5 : GRE

Vasileios raced in both Atlanta and Sydney in the lightweight double sculls. In 2001, he switched to the lightweight quad with Nikolaos and won silver at the World Championships. Since then, they have been racing in the double which was fifth at the last two World Championships. In front of their home crowd, they raced an impressive heat, beating the favourite Italians.

Lane 6 : DEN

Began rowing together in the lightweight double in 2001 and surprised everybody by reaching the final at the World Championships. In 2002 they won World Championship bronze. This year they started the season with a victory at the first World Cup and have given a very good impression by winning their heat at this Olympic regatta.

Extended Media Start List

Lightweight men's four

Lane 1 : CAN

Iain and Gavin were in the Canadian four that finished seventh at the Sydney Olympics. They won bronze at the 2002 World Championships together with Jonathan. Jon, meanwhile, was a member of the lightweight four last year, coming fifth at the World Championships. Gavin with his experience will try to lead this crew to gold.

Lane 2 : AUS

In front of their home crowd, the Australian lightweight four won silver four years ago. Simon and Anthony took a break after the Sydney Olympics and made a successful comeback to the four this year. Together with their partners, Glen and Ben, members of the lightweight coxless four since 2001, they won bronze at the World Cup in Lucerne this year.

Lane 3 : DEN

The reigning world champions and often called the "Golden Four" and remained unbeaten from 1996 to 1999. Eskild, is a six times World Champion and has a gold in this boat class from Atlanta. Thomas joined the four in 1997. He is a five time World Champion and a bronze medallist in this event together with Eskild. With their partners, Thor and Stephan, they won the 2002 and 2003 World Championships.

Lane 4 : ITA

Castello and Salvatore were in the lightweight four finished fourth at the Sydney Olympics. They teamed up with Lorenzo and Bruno and won silver at the 2002 and bronze at the 2003 World Championships. This year they won gold at two of the three World Cups and took the overall World Cup title. This makes them one of the favourites for this event.

Lane 5 : NED

This crew has come together in the last twelve months and won silver at the last World Championships in Milan. This year, they finished fourth at the World Cup event in Munich and fifth at the World Cup finals in Lucerne.

Lane 6 : IRL

With the help of Thor Nilsen, this crew has made consistent progress over the years. They won bronze at the World U23 Regatta in 2000 (with Richard, Eugene and Paul). Niall O'Toole joined them last year. By finishing second and fourth at the 2004 World Cups they have shown that they are capable of getting into the medal positions.

Extended Media Start List

Women's quadruple sculls

Lane 1 : USA

Danika and Hilary were part of the quad which finished sixth at last year's World Championships. This year they are racing with Michelle and Kelly and won bronze at the World Cup Finals in Lucerne. Hilary won a bronze medal in this event at the World Championships in 2001.

Lane 2 : UKR

Olena M. is the only change from the boat that finished fifth at the 2003 World Championships. By beating last year's World Champions, Australia, in the repechage, the Ukrainians have shown medal potential.

Lane 3 : GER

This crew is the German women's flagship. Germany have been Olympic champions ever since the event was added to the Olympic programme in 1988. Kathrin, the most successful woman rower (eight times World Champion, three times Olympic Champion), Kerstin (three times World Champion, Olympic Champion), Meike (twice World Champion, Olympic Champion) together with Manuela (five times World Champion and Olympic Champion) definitely want gold.

Lane 4 : GBR

These rowers have raced over the past years either in the double sculls or the quad. Last year Debbie and Rebecca were fourth in the double at the World Championships. Alison and Frances were also fourth, but in the quad. This year they won the World Cup events in Poznan and Lucerne. They could be Germany's strongest opponent.

Lane 5 : RUS

Larisa and Oksana had teamed up even at the time of the Atlanta Games. With Yulya, they won bronze in Sydney. Last year Larisa won World Championship bronze in the double scull, Oksana and Anna were in the quad that finished eighth and Yulya was sixth in the single scull. They combined together earlier this year and qualified for the Olympics by winning the Qualification Regatta in June.

Lane 6 : AUS

Amber, Dana and Kerry were part of the World Champion quad that ended Germany's unbeaten run of 10 years in 2003. This year they are rowing with Rebecca who has two golds and a World Championship silver medal to her name.

Extended Media Start List

Men's quadruple sculls

Lane 1 : BLR

Tomas, still a junior last year, has joined Pavel, Andrei and Valery in the quad this season. The other three helped qualify the boat last year with an 11th place finish at the World Championships in Milan. This year they won the overall World Cup by winning the Munich event and a silver in Poznan.

Lane 2 : RUS

This is the crew which finished fifth at last year's World Championships. They won a bronze medal in the World Cup event in Poznan and finished fifth at the World Cup Finals in Lucerne. Igor competed at the Atlanta Olympics and Sergeij won a silver medal at the World Junior Championships in 1998 in the quad.

Lane 3 : POL

Rowing in the same combination since 2001, they won bronze at the World Championships in 2003 and silver in 2002. They won silver at the World Cup Finals in Lucerne and have always been in the final this season. They started the 2004 Olympic Games by winning their heat and are looking confident for this final.

Lane 4 : CZE

Bar Thomas who was racing in the eight, this is the crew which won silver at last year's World Championships. This year, they won bronze at the World Cups in Munich and Lucerne and are looked strong here in winning their heat.

Lane 5 : GER

The Germans have been world champions three times in a row in this boat category. After a withdrawal due to health reasons in Munich and after catching a crab in the final at the World Cup Finals in Lucerne, this crew come back to show its strength at this regatta by winning the heat to take them directly to the final.

Lane 6 : UKR

Leonid is competing at his fourth Olympics. Has rowed with Oleg in the quad since 1997 and won bronze and silver at the World Championships in 1997 and 1999 respectively. They finished sixth at the last Olympics. It is not a surprise to see the Ukrainian quad at this level because they were in the World Championships final in 2001 and 2002. After a disappointing 13th place last year, they qualified for Athens by winning the Qualification Regatta.

Extended Media Start List

Women's eight

Lane 1 : CHN

China, like the Dutch, booked passage for the Games through the final Qualification Regatta in June with four rowers from last year's Chinese eight. By taking silver at the Munich World Cup event this year, they showed that they are going to be in the fight for medals.

Lane 2 : GER

This is the line-up that won gold at the 2003 World Championships. Most of them were also in the eight that won World Championships bronze in 2001 and 2002. They also took a gold and a bronze at this year's World Cups.

Lane 3 : USA

In recent years the US eight has always been a finalist at major events. World Champions in 2002, they were fifth in 2003 and are looking very strong this season. The eight also won the 2004 World Cups in Munich and Lucerne. They showed their power during the heats by setting a new World Best Time.

Lane 4 : NED

This crew was only formed this year and qualified for the Olympic Games by winning the Qualification Regatta in June. They surprised everyone by winning their heat at the beginning of this Olympic regatta.

Lane 5 : ROM

Romania has won two consecutive Olympic gold medals in this event. Elisabetha Lipa is, therefore, going for her fifth Olympic Gold medal having won also won a gold in both 1992 and 1984. Five from the eight rowers in this crew have already been gold medallists at the Olympic Games.

Lane 6 : AUS

This is largely the same squad that finished a close fourth at the 2003 World Championships. This year the Australians made their appearance at the last World Cup in Lucerne and rowed to fifth place. Australia was also fifth in this event at the Sydney Olympic Games.

Extended Media Start List

Men's eight

Lane 1 : FRA

This crew only contains one of the eight rowers from the French boat that was fourth at last year's World Championships. This season the French have made many changes to their line-ups in this event.

Lane 2 : NED

The Dutch line-up was established at the beginning of the season and went on to finish fourth in the World Cup event in Poznan and third in Munich. They qualified for Athens by winning the Qualification Regatta in June. The Netherlands were Olympic champions in 1996 and are considered medal contenders here.

Lane 3 : USA

The eight is the USA's flagship boat category but it is an event they have not won since 1964. Many feel that they are capable of taking the gold here in Athens. In their heat, they beat the favourites and reigning world champions Canada and set a new World Best Time in the process.

Lane 4 : AUS

The Australian eight finished fifth at last year's World Championships in Milan. They did not race this year at the World cup but, by winning their heat, they showed their potential to take a medal here. In today's final Australia and France are the only nations never to have won Olympic gold in this event.

Lane 5 : CAN

The Canadian eight won the World Championships in 2002 and 2003 and after their world cup victories over the past two years had begun to seem unbeatable. However, the USA beat them in the heat here and they will have their work cut out to take a third Olympic title since 1984.

Lane 6 : GER

After the disappointing non-qualification of the German eight for the Sydney Olympics, a lot of young rowers came into the crew. The crew that races in Athens is almost the same as the one that won bronze in 2001 and silver in 2002 at the World Championships. This year, they won the World Cup by finishing second in every event.