

*it is time to bring the world's greatest athlete.*

NBC News TODAY SHOW 7:00 AM EST

August 19, 2016 Friday

Copyright 2016 ASC Services II Media, LLC  
All Rights Reserved

Copyright 2016 National Broadcasting Co. Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Domestic

**Length:** 2890 words

**Byline:** MATT LAUER, NATALIE MORALES

**Highlight:** Of course, we're talking about none other than that Ashton Eaton who won the decathlon on Thursday night in Olympic Stadium, becoming just the third athlete in history to join the so called back-to-back club. And he also happens to be one half of the world's fittest couple, the other half, his beautiful Canadian wife, Brianne Theisen-Eaton, who took home bronze for the heptathlon here in Rio.

## **Body**

---

NATALIE MORALES: it is time to bring in--okay, wait for it--the world's greatest athlete. Of course, we're talking about none other than that Ashton Eaton who won the decathlon on Thursday night in Olympic Stadium, becoming just the third athlete in history to join the so called back-to-back club. And he also happens to be one half of the world's fittest couple, the other half, his beautiful Canadian wife, Brianne Theisen-Eaton, who took home bronze for the heptathlon here in Rio. Congratulations to both of you.

ASHTON EATON: Very much.

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: Thank you.

NATALIE MORALES: This is probably the first time you guys actually get to really hang out a little bit because you're a little bit of a house divided. You're staying in the USA with, and your roommate is Kerron--

ASHTON EATON: Yeah.

NATALIE MORALES: --right, Clement? And Brianne, you're over in the Canada area, right?

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: Yeah.

ASHTON EATON: It's a long haul.

NATALIE MORALES: So what's it like getting reunited finally and having a chance made to enjoy Rio?

ASHTON EATON: It's nice.

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: Yeah. We got-- we got to stay in a hotel last night. I think that's the first time in a month that we like--

it is time to bring the world's greatest athlete.

NATALIE MORALES: Wow.

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: --yeah, spent the night together--

ASHTON EATON: Yeah.

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: --in a long time.

NATALIE MORALES: Oh.

BILLY BUSH: You guys are so tight one success is the other. How has it affected competition to be apart? Has it allowed you to be a little more focused in what you're doing or would it have been more helpful to be together to break everything down, you debrief on everything?

ASHTON EATON: That's a good question. In between the two days we did kind of take care of each other like they- - it's all about managing time with these things. And so, you know, I got her dinner. She helped carry all my bags and stuff in between just to conserve every little ounce of energy because you never know how much you'll need.

AL ROKER: Do you-- I mean as-- as the-- I mean you're both these terrific athletes. Do you really complement each other? Because I know sometimes when I'm not feeling up to trying to get out and working out, my wife says, come on, let's go, let's do this. Do you help each other along in that way?

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: I think so. But I don't-- it's very rare that we don't feel like going to practice, which is how we know that we love it. You know, we're-- we always feel like there's some-- a bigger gain to be made like every single day. So it's the best part of our day is going to train.

ASHTON EATON: Yeah. It's-- it's the times, too, when we're feeling down and frustrated with ourselves that the other one really steps in and says, look, and like puts things into perspective because--

NATALIE MORALES: Yeah.

ASHTON EATON: --we've been there and it's good that I trust in what she thinks because I know she's gone through it.

NATALIE MORALES: Mm-Hm.

ASHTON EATON: And then hopefully, she trusts in what I'm saying because she knows I've gone through it.

BILLY BUSH: Guys, you-- you met in Oregon in 2008. The first date was Valentine's Day--

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: Yeah.

BILLY BUSH: --right? But you said you took five months, Ashton, to get the courage to approach Brianne. When you finally did, where did you take her? What was the date?

ASHTON EATON: So, you know--

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: I don't think he had to get courage. Ashton's just like oblivious to things sometimes, I think.

ASHTON EATON: Come on.

NATALIE MORALES: Were you into him?

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: Yeah.

NATALIE MORALES: And he didn't know.

it is time to bring the world's greatest athlete.

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: Yeah. Yeah.

ASHTON EATON: I couldn't tell.

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: Yeah.

BILLY BUSH: Where did you guys, was it a little pizza, was it a walk, was it a movie?

ASHTON EATON: So I was a sophomore in college, she was a freshman.

NATALIE MORALES: Oh.

ASHTON EATON: We were on, you know, the college budget. We went to Olive Garden, had the full spread.

ASHTON EATON: Breadsticks?

AL ROKER: Oh.

ASHTON EATON: Full spread.

NATALIE MORALES: All you can eat salad.

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: Yeah, salad, but--

ASHTON EATON: She drove.

BILLY BUSH: Tonight-- we're going all the way to have big, big meals tonight together.

ASHTON EATON: Yeah, it was--

NATALIE MORALES: You've got a gold and a bronze, so Tokyo, are you guys going to try to complete and-- compete and keep going?

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: We have dedicated or thought about up until last night.

NATALIE MORALES: Yeah.

BRIANNE THEISEN-EATON: And now it's, like, we're in new territory. We don't even know what tomorrow is going to bring. Ashton said do we just sit down at the kitchen table when we get home and be like what are we doing with our lives? I don't know, we have to think about it.

ASHTON EATON: Yep. I-- I think, regardless, if we're not there as athletes, be there as spectators would be cool.

AL ROKER: Well, congratulations. And thank you so much for what you guys have done. We really appreciate it.

NATALIE MORALES: Ashton Eaton and Brianne Theisen-Eaton, guys, thank you so much. Congratulations, again. Amazing.

Coming up next, will Usain Bolt do it again before he signs off from the Olympics? He's going for a three-peat, three for three in three consecutive Olympics. The athletes to watch before the Rio Olympics come to a close, right after this.

BILLY BUSH: The Olympics may be winding down but the competition is not. So pop-- some popcorn, make your own caparenias, get comfy on the couch. There is a lot of action, a lot of great Olympians to watch this weekend.

AL ROKER: That's right. Billy and Natalie's top picks are featured in today's issue of USA Today, but since we admit we're-- we're no experts, we decided to recruit one USA Today's sport columnist. Nancy Armour is back with her top tune in picks. Nancy, good morning.

it is time to bring the world's greatest athlete.

NANCY ARMOUR: Hello, how are you?

AL ROKER: All right. I'm doing great. So let's get started. Billy's pick, Usain Bolt, of course, dominating the two hundred meter last night.

NANCY ARMOUR: Yeah.

AL ROKER: So what's next?

NANCY ARMOUR: He has one more race. He swears this is it. He and the rest of the Jamaicans are running in the four by hundred relay tonight. They set the Olympic record and the world record in London. And this would be his ninth gold medal. It would be trifecta times three. I think that--

BILLY BUSH: He would tie Carl Lewis. Of course, he was also a long jumper and not just the sprinter.

NANCY ARMOUR: Right.

BILLY BUSH: Do we really think that Usain Bolt is going to call it quits after this? They're going to win this. They are the heavy favorite.

NANCY ARMOUR: Yes. Yes.

BILLY BUSH: It seems.

NANCY ARMOUR: His-- his coach says that he would like to see him come back for Tokyo. So, I don't know, maybe there could be some twisting as (unintelligible). He certainly-- it looks like he could run forever, but--

AL ROKER: Yeah.

NANCY ARMOUR: --at least for another four years.

AL ROKER: Wow.

NATALIE MORALES: Like he's still so young. I mean--

NANCY ARMOUR: Yeah.

NATALIE MORALES: --he got it in him. He's beating everybody by a long shot. All right. Let's-- let's turn to next, my pick, which is the U.S. men's basketball team.

NANCY ARMOUR: Yes.

NATALIE MORALES: They've been cutting it close in their games up until the Argentina game the other night when it was a blowout. So what do we have to look forward to? They're playing Spain.

NANCY ARMOUR: They play Spain in the semifinals. And this is big because Spain has been the silver medalists the last two Olympics. So this should be tight. But there's a possibility Pau Gasol does not play for Spain. He's got a calf injury. But the Americans have won fifty-seven consecutive games, including twenty-three at the Olympics. So if they get through this, they'd be playing for their third--

BILLY BUSH: It's a-- it's a national black eye if they don't win this, don't you think?

NANCY ARMOUR: It-- it really is.

BILLY BUSH: I mean these guys--

NANCY ARMOUR: I mean people are horrified. Yes, if they don't win the gold.

it is time to bring the world's greatest athlete.

NATALIE MORALES: Yeah.

AL ROKER: Mm-Hm.

NANCY ARMOUR: Yeah.

AL ROKER: What about women's basketball?

NANCY ARMOUR: Women's basketball, they are on a--

BILLY BUSH: They're even more dominant.

NANCY ARMOUR: They're even more dominant.

NATALIE MORALES: They're playing Spain, too.

NANCY ARMOUR: They're playing Spain, too. They are for the gold medal tomorrow.

NATALIE MORALES: Yes.

NANCY ARMOUR: And this would be their sixth gold medal which there-- there really is not a question that they're going to win. They've won all of their-- their previous seven games by close to forty points each, or averaging almost forty points each. And they have won forty-eight consecutive games just in the Olympics.

AL ROKER: Wow.

NATALIE MORALES: (unintelligible) Sue Bird in the girls. They have dominated, ever since UConn. So to see--

NANCY ARMOUR: Yep.

NATALIE MORALES: --them still have this-- this career here, it's incredible.

All right. Let's turn to more girl power. And I love Gwen Jorgensen.

NANCY ARMOUR: Yep.

NATALIE MORALES: U.S. women's triathlete. And she's got a good shot at gold I hear.

NANCY ARMOUR: She does. She is the only woman favorite. She had an incredible streak. She went almost two years without losing an individual race. And she's actually only lost two individual races since 2014. Set a record with thirteen consecutive victories in the international, the world triathlon series. And she won the test event last year here.

NATALIE MORALES: Yeah.

NANCY ARMOUR: So she knows the course. She's obviously done very well on it.

NATALIE MORALES: She had a blown tire in London.

NANCY ARMOUR: In London, just thirty-eighth.

NATALIE MORALES: She ended up thirty-eighth.

NANCY ARMOUR: Yeah.

NANCY ARMOUR: So that was such a disappointment.

NANCY ARMOUR: It was. But it also-- it-- it forced her to change her training and it really set her on the path that she's been on these last couple years. So this would really cap it off with a gold.

it is time to bring the world's greatest athlete.

AL ROKER: Wow. You know, one of the things this afternoon at three-thirty, I mean I'm just throwing this in there, speaking of girl power, U.S. women's polo, water polo--

NANCY ARMOUR: Water polo, yes.

AL ROKER: --with Ashley Johnson who is considered one of the best goalies out there.

NATALIE MORALES: Yeah.

AL ROKER: They are going for the gold today.

NANCY ARMOUR: Yep. And they have been-- their defense has been incredible. They have really been dominant this Olympics. So it should be a--

NATALIE MORALES: Good shot at gold.

NANCY ARMOUR: Yes.

NATALIE MORALES: Al is going to be there.

AL ROKER: I'm going there on the way--

NATALIE MORALES: Yeah, their number one fan.

AL ROKER: --on the way to the airport.

NANCY ARMOUR: You're stopping in.

AL ROKER: I'm stopping and watching. Nancy Armour, thank you so much. We really appreciate it. To see Billy, Natalie and Hoda's full picks of athletes, to watch, pick up a copy of USA Today on your newsstand.

BILLY BUSH: And just ahead, what do you get when you mix soccer, gymnastics, and volleyball all together?

NATALIE MORALES: Well, with us--

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

MAN: Next week meet our new family member, someone little, who will make a big difference, Monday on TODAY.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

SHEINELLE JONES: Taking a look at the headlines.

This morning health officials are investigating new cases of Zika for possible links to Miami Beach. Until now Zika infected mosquitos in Florida have been concentrated in Miami's Wynwood neighborhood. Pregnant women were advised not to visit there. Officials are considering whether a similar travel advisory should be issued for Miami Beach which has a twenty-four- billion-dollar tourism industry.

To politics now, sources tell NBC News that Hillary Clinton told the FBI that former Secretary of State Colin Powell recommended that she use a private e-mail account for unclassified communication. Clinton says Powell made the suggestion, both, at a dinner party shortly after Clinton took over at the State Department in 2009 and also in an e-mail exchange around the same time. Sources say that Clinton gave that account to investigators last month.

Uber passengers, get ready for driverless cars. The ride service is planning to add self-driving cars within the next couple of weeks to ferry customers around Pittsburgh. Uber will use specially equipped Volvo SUVs and Ford Fusions. They will have two employees sitting in the front seat of each vehicle as emergency backups.

it is time to bring the world's greatest athlete.

And the pressure of being the family breadwinner may take a toll on a man's health. Researchers at the University of Connecticut studied income contribution of married couples. As men took on more financial responsibility, their mental and physical health declined. Their worst health problems came when they were the family's sole breadwinner. On the other hand, women's mental health improved as they made greater financial contributions.

Now let's head back to Al, Natalie, Billy in Rio. It's almost time for you guys to come home.

AL ROKER: It is.

NATALIE MORALES: I know.

AL ROKER: We'll see you soon, Sheinelle.

NATALIE MORALES: Miss you.

BILLY BUSH: (unintelligible), though.

AL ROKER: That's right.

BILLY BUSH: (unintelligible).

AL ROKER: That's right. Well, thirty-year-old American track and field star Kerron Clement left the Beijing games with a gold and a silver, and now here in Rio scoring another gold for the men's four hundred meter hurdles on Thursday. Kerron, congratulations.

KERRON CLEMENT: Thank you. Thank you so much.

AL ROKER: I know.

BILLY BUSH: You had the first track and field gold for men-- for our men here in Rio.

KERRON CLEMENT: Yes.

BILLY BUSH: So congrats on that, too.

NATALIE MORALES: Gold medal, that's right.

KERRON CLEMENT: Thank you. Thank you.

AL ROKER: What does this feel like? You know, when you-- you-- you're just - I mean you're up there on that podium. You're standing there and you've just-- you've-- you've achieved this dream.

KERRON CLEMENT: Honestly, it's surreal feeling. You know, you've been working very hard. I've been working very hard for 2016. And I mean it's just an honor--

NATALIE MORALES: Yeah.

KERRON CLEMENT: --just to stand on the podium and receive that gold medal and know that all of the hard work is paying off.

NATALIE MORALES: You got silver in Beijing. You were injured unfortunately during London. So it was really a comeback for you to come back and get gold.

KERRON CLEMENT: Of course I had a lot of adversities throughout the years, you know, but I kept believing and I kept fighting and just believing in myself and know that each year I'd get better.

NATALIE MORALES: Yeah.

it is time to bring the world's greatest athlete.

KERRON CLEMENT: And 2016 was my, you know, redemption year and I had one goal in mind is to come to Rio and to get a gold medal.

BILLY BUSH: Let me ask you this, who runs the world? Does any of this measure up to being in Beyonc's 2011 music video? Girls run the world. Come on.

KERRON CLEMENT: Oh, my goodness! That's pretty funny. I was just daring-- I'm supporting a friend and I got chose to be in the video. That's really funny.

NATALIE MORALES: That happens.

AL ROKER: That's not bad.

BILLY BUSH: What is she like-- what is she like working with her? She's intense, right?

KERRON CLEMENT: She is very-- she is very talented artist.

AL ROKER: Good answer.

KERRON CLEMENT: I've got an honor.

NATALIE MORALES: Yeah, I know.

AL ROKER: Yeah, good answer. Are you running for office after this?

KERRON CLEMENT: I think I am.

NATALIE MORALES: But--

BILLY BUSH: He's a good runner.

NATALIE MORALES: --you are truly a Mariah Carey fan, right?

KERRON CLEMENT: I love Mariah Carey. I'd love to meet her one day.

AL ROKER: Oh.

KERRON CLEMENT: So that's my dream.

NATALIE MORALES: Mariah.

AL ROKER: Mariah.

NATALIE MORALES: Come on, Mariah, make his dreams come true.

BILLY BUSH: I think we can-- may probably help with that, too.

AL ROKER: That's it. And you know you're-- you are rooming with Ashton. I mean you-- what do you guys talk about? I mean how fast-- the gold medals, how fast you're running?

KERRON CLEMENT: You know, it was great to be his roommate. You know, he-- he gives me motivation as well, you know, and we feed off of each other. You know, I got a gold and-- and he was second. So this is great.

BILLY BUSH: His wife, of course, across the village right there when he got you instead of her. An arm just accidentally dropped on your shoulder there just out of habit?

AL ROKER: I think they had separate beds.

NATALIE MORALES: Yes.



it is time to bring the world's greatest athlete.

KERRON CLEMENT: That's right.

AL ROKER: I think it worked out okay.

BILLY BUSH: Down the bunk.

AL ROKER: Okay.

NATALIE MORALES: Bunk.

BILLY BUSH: Who was on top? Did you guys get bunks or separate beds?

KERRON CLEMENT: No. It's separate beds.

AL ROKER: Okay, I think we've taken a bit of a turn here.

KERRON CLEMENT: We're not in college.

BILLY BUSH: I think you've been (unintelligible) something else.

NATALIE MORALES: All right. How about a check of the weather, Al?

AL ROKER: Kerron Clement, again, thank you. Congratulations.

KERRON CLEMENT: Thank you, guys.

NATALIE MORALES: Congrats.

BILLY BUSH: Thank you.

AL ROKER: That's what's going on around the country. Here's what's happening in your neck of the woods.

(Weather follows)

AL ROKER: That's your latest weather.

BILLY BUSH: All right. We figured it was a little late in the game for us to try our hand at any major Olympic sport. So we headed down the beach and, boy, you wouldn't believe what we found. Access Hollywood's Kit Hoover was with us to see if we could find something a little more our speed.

**Load-Date:** August 26, 2016