

= Virgin Islands at the 2008 Summer Olympics =

The United States Virgin Islands competed in the 2008 Summer Olympics , which were held in Beijing , the People 's Republic of China from August 8 to August 24 , 2008 . The appearance of its 23 @-@ person delegation marked its fifteenth appearance at the Olympic games , and its tenth appearance at the Summer Olympic games . In total , seven athletes participated on behalf of the Virgin Islands (Tabarie Henry and LaVerne Jones @-@ Ferrette in track and field , John and Julius Jackson in boxing , Thomas Barrows III in sailing , Ned Gerard in shooting , and Josh Laban in swimming) in Beijing . Of those , John Jackson and Tabarie Henry progressed to a post @-@ preliminary event , and Henry reached semifinals in his own . There were no Virgin Islander medalists at the Beijing Olympics .

= = Background = =

Between its beginning and the Beijing Olympics , the United States Virgin Islands have participated in fifteen Olympics games , including five Winter Olympics . Of the ten Summer Olympic games , the Virgin Islands have sent a delegation for every game since the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City excluding the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow . The first women in the team participated at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montréal , and the delegation has included women ever since , peaking at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta . The size of its summer Olympic team was largest between 1972 (16 athletes) and 1992 (25 athletes) , and was at its all @-@ time largest in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles when 29 athletes competed for the country . After 1996 , the team carried 15 athletes or less .

In its entire history up to Beijing , there has been one medalist : Peter Holmberg , who medaled silver in the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul . Seven Virgin Islanders participated in the Beijing games , including five men and one woman in five distinct sports . There were no medalists , although boxer John Jackson and runner Tabarie Henry progressed to post @-@ preliminary rounds . Josh Laban was the nation 's flag bearer during ceremonies .

The Virgin Islands ' delegation to Beijing included five executives (among them , Virgin Islands Olympic Committee President Hans Lawaetz) ; the seven Olympians , along with nine assisting staff (coaches , etc .) ; and two youth camp athletes . Overall , 23 people composed the team .

= = Athletics = =

= = = Men 's competition = = =

Then @-@ attendee of the Kansan Barton County Community College Tabarie Henry qualified for the Beijing Olympics when he ran the 400 meter dash in 45 @.@ 42 seconds at the John McDonnell Invitational in Fayetteville , Arkansas in April . His qualifying time passed the Olympic A standard and marked the 15th fastest time in the event 's history and the 10th fastest time set that year in all the world . Henry 's participation in Beijing marked his Olympic debut . At the Olympics , Tabarie Henry participated in round one of his event in August 17 . He was placed in Heat 7 against eventual silver medalist Jeremy Wariner of the United States and Belgian runner Cedric van Branteghem . With a time of 45 @.@ 36 seconds , Henry ranked second of eight in his heat , behind Wariner by 0 @.@ 13 seconds and ahead of van Branteghem by 0 @.@ 18 seconds . Overall , Henry tied Nery Brenes of Costa Rica for 18th place out of 56 athletes . He progressed to semifinals .

At the August 19th semifinal rounds , Henry was placed in Heat 1 , again against Wariner and also versus Brenes and Christopher Brown of the Bahamas , among others . Tabarie Henry ran the event in 45 @.@ 19 seconds , ending seventh out of eight athletes in the heat , at 0 @.@ 13 seconds behind Cuba 's Williams Collazo (6th place) and 0 @.@ 45 seconds ahead of Italy 's Claudio Licciardello (8th place) . Overall , Henry ranked 17th out of 24 athletes , and did not progress to

finals on August 21 .

== = Women 's competition = = =

LaVerne Jones @-@ Ferrette , the only female athlete to participate in the Beijing Olympics on behalf of the United States Virgin Islands , participated in the 100 meters and 200 meters dashes . Her participation in Beijing marked her second Olympic games , as she also participated in the 100 m and 200 m in the Athenian 2004 Summer Olympics .

Jones @-@ Ferrette 's participation in the 100 m dash began with the August 15 first round . Jones @-@ Ferrette was placed in Heat 1 . She placed third behind Jamaica 's Kerron Stewart (1st place) and Norway 's Ezinne Okparaebo (2nd place) with a time of 11 @.@ 41 seconds . Okparaebo was 0 @.@ 09 seconds faster than Jones @-@ Ferrette ; Haiti 's Barbara Pierre was 0 @.@ 09 seconds slower . Jones @-@ Ferrette ranked 20th out of 85 athletes in the first round , and progressed to round two . Jones was placed in Heat 1 during the second round , completing the event in 11 @.@ 55 seconds and ranking fifth of eight athletes . Jones @-@ Ferrette was 0 @.@ 1 seconds slower than Kittitian runner Virgil Hodge and 0 @.@ 1 seconds faster than Cameroon 's Myriam Leonie Mani . Overall , Jones @-@ Ferrette tied Ukrainian Natalia Pogrebniak for 29th place out of 40 athletes . She did not progress further .

LaVerne Jones @-@ Ferrette also participated in the 200 m dash . On August 18 , she was placed in Heat 6 of the first round , completing the event in 23 @.@ 12 seconds and ranking fourth place out of eight athletes . Jones @-@ Ferrette was 0 @.@ 04 seconds behind Cuba 's Roxana Diaz , and was 0 @.@ 29 seconds ahead of Brazil 's Evelyn Santos . Jones @-@ Ferrette ranked 16th overall out of 48 athletes . Jones progressed to the August 19 second round , and was placed in Heat 1 against athletes that included Jamaica 's Veronica Campbell and the Cayman Islands ' Cydonie Mothersill . Jones @-@ Ferrette placed seventh out of eight with a time of 23 @.@ 37 seconds . Overall , LaVerne Jones @-@ Ferrette placed 24th out of 32 athletes . She did not advance to semifinals .

== = Summary = = =

Key

Note ? Ranks given for track events are within the athlete 's heat only