

= Dara Torres =

Dara Grace Torres (born April 15 , 1967) is an American former competitive swimmer who is a twelve @-@ time Olympic medalist and former world record @-@ holder in three events . Torres is the first swimmer to represent the United States in five Olympic Games (1984 , 1988 , 1992 , 2000 and 2008) , and , at age 41 , was the oldest swimmer ever to earn a place on the U.S. Olympic team . At the 2008 Summer Olympics , she competed in the 50 @-@ meter freestyle , 4 × 100 @-@ meter medley relay , and 4 × 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay , and won silver medals in all three events .

Torres has won twelve Olympic medals (four gold , four silver , four bronze) , one of three women with the most Olympic women 's swimming medals . She won five medals at the 2000 Summer Olympics when , at age 33 , she was the oldest member of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Swim Team . She has also won at least one medal in each of the five Olympics in which she has competed , making her one of only a handful of Olympians to earn medals in five different Games .

= = Early years = =

Torres was born in Los Angeles , California , the daughter of Edward Torres and Marylu Kauder . Her father was a real estate developer and casino owner , originally from Cuba ; her mother Marylu was a former American model . Torres grew up in Beverly Hills , California , the fifth of six children and the older of two girls . As a 7 @-@ year @-@ old , she followed in the footsteps of her older brothers by joining their community Y.M.C.A. for swimming practice ; afterward , she signed up for the swimming club in Culver City to train . At 14 , she won the national open championship in the 50 @-@ yard freestyle by defeating the then @-@ current champion , Jill Sterkel , a college junior .

She attended the Westlake School for Girls (now Harvard @-@ Westlake School) , and competed for the Westlake swim team under coach Darlene Bible from the seventh grade through her sophomore year in high school . She was also a member of the Westlake basketball , gymnastics and volleyball teams . During her 1983 ? 84 high school junior year , she left home to swim for the Mission Viejo Nadadores in Mission Viejo , California , while training for her first Olympics under coach Mark Schubert . After the 1984 Olympics , Torres returned to the Westlake School to graduate in 1985 .

= = College swimming career = =

Torres accepted an athletic scholarship to attend the University of Florida in Gainesville , Florida , where she swam for the Florida Gators swimming and diving team in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) competition under coach Randy Reese from 1986 to 1989 . In her four years as a Gator swimmer , Torres won nine Southeastern Conference (SEC) individual championships , including the 50 @-@ yard freestyle (1987 , 1988 , 1989) , 100 @-@ yard freestyle (1987 , 1988 , 1989) , 200 @-@ yard freestyle (1987) , and 100 @-@ yard butterfly (1988 , 1989) ; she was also a member of twelve of the Gators ' SEC championship relay teams . Torres won three NCAA individual national championships (50 @-@ yard freestyle , 100 @-@ yard freestyle , 100 @-@ yard butterfly) in 1988 ; and was a member of six of the Gators ' NCAA championship relay teams , including the 400 @-@ yard freestyle relay in 1986 ; the 200 @-@ yard and 400 @-@ yard medley relays , and the 400 @-@ yard freestyle relay in 1988 ; and the 200 @-@ yard and 400 @-@ yard medley relays in 1989 . She was named the SEC Athlete of the Year in 1988 , SEC Female Swimmer of the Year in 1987 and 1989 , and earned twenty @-@ eight All @-@ American swimming honors ? the maximum number possible during a college career . Torres also lettered in volleyball at Florida , playing the sport in her fifth year after having exhausted her NCAA eligibility in swimming .

Torres graduated from the university with a bachelor 's degree in telecommunications in 1990 , and was inducted into the University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame as a " Gator Great " in 1999 . In November 2013 , she was named as a recipient of the 2014 NCAA Silver Anniversary Award ,

presented annually to six distinguished former student @-@ athletes on the 25th anniversary of their final school year of athletic eligibility .

= = International swimming career = =

= = = 1984 , 1988 and 1992 Olympics = = =

At the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles , Torres was a member of the winning U.S. women 's 4 × 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay team , swimming in the first @-@ round qualifying heat and earning a gold medal in the event final . Her winning teammates in that final included Nancy Hogshead , Jenna Johnson and Carrie Steinseifer ; Jill Sterkel and Mary Wayte also swam in the event 's second @-@ round qualifying heat .

For the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul , South Korea , Torres qualified for the U.S. Olympic women 's team in one individual event and two relay events . Torres earned a bronze medal for swimming for the third @-@ place U.S. women 's team in the 4 × 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay final , together with teammates Mitzi Kremer , Laura Walker and Mary Wayte . She also earned a silver medal for swimming the freestyle leg of the 4 × 100 @-@ meter medley relay for the second @-@ place U.S. team in the preliminary heats , but not the final . Individually , Torres also placed seventh in the final of the 100 @-@ meter freestyle event .

Torres qualified for the U.S. Olympic women 's team in a single event for the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona . She swam the second leg of the 4 × 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay for the winning U.S. team that included Nicole Haislett , Angel Martino and Jenny Thompson , and earned a gold medal for her efforts in the event final and first @-@ round qualifying heat .

= = = First comeback : 2000 Olympics = = =

After seven years out of competitive swimming , Torres began to train for an Olympic comeback in 1999 under the guidance of coach Richard Quick . She won five medals at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney , but saved her best for two of the major relay events of the U.S. Olympic women 's team . She swam the second leg for the winning U.S. women 's team in final of the 4 × 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay that included Amy Van Dyken , Courtney Shealy and Jenny Thompson . Torres won a second gold medal for anchoring the winning U.S. team in the 4 × 100 @-@ meter medley relay , together with teammates B.J. Bedford , Megan Quann and Jenny Thompson in the final . Individually , Torres also earned bronze medals ? her first Olympic medals in individual events ? in each of the 50 @-@ meter freestyle , the 100 @-@ meter butterfly and the 100 @-@ meter freestyle , tying teammate and rival Jenny Thompson for third place in the last event . At 33 years old , Torres became the oldest woman to win an Olympic medal in swimming . She was the oldest member of the U.S. Olympic swim team , but won more medals (5) than any other U.S. team member .

= = = Second comeback : 2008 Olympics = = =

On August 1 , 2007 , at age 40 and just 16 months after giving birth to her first child , Torres won the 100 @-@ meter freestyle at the U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis . On August 4 , she set a new American record in the 50 @-@ meter freestyle of 24 @. 53 seconds , breaking her own record of 24 @. 63 seconds set at the 2000 Summer Olympics . She lowered her initial American record by 1 @. 62 seconds . Torres has broken or lowered her own American record in the 50 @-@ meter freestyle ten times , which is the most by any American swimmer in any event .

At the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials , Torres returned to the pool and qualified for a spot in her fifth Olympic Games at the age of 41 , a first for an American female swimmer . She became the oldest U.S. Olympic swimmer in history and the first American swimmer to appear in five Olympic Games .

At the trials , she qualified for the event finals in the 50 @-@ meter freestyle and broke the

American record with a time of 24 @. @ 38 seconds in the semifinal . In the 50 @- @ meter finals , she broke that record for the ninth time , setting it at 24 @. @ 25 seconds and winning the top American women 's spot in the event . Torres also qualified in the 100 @- @ meter freestyle , but later withdrew from the individual 100 @- @ meter freestyle event to focus her efforts on the 50 @- @ meter freestyle and 4 x 100 @- @ meter relay events . On July 30 , at the U.S. swim team 's final training in Singapore , Torres , Amanda Beard and Natalie Coughlin were elected captains of the U.S. Olympic women 's swimming team .

In order to pre @- @ empt any speculation that she might be taking performance @- @ enhancing drugs , Torres volunteered for a new enhanced drug @- @ testing program by the U.S. Anti @- @ Doping Agency (USADA) . " I want to be an open book " , she said . " I want people to know that I 'm 41 , and I 'm doing this right . I 'm clean . " In addition to employing her training team of coach Michael Lohberg , a sprint coach , a chiropractor and two masseuses , Torres used resistance stretching trainers , calling it her " secret weapon " for continued success . Her \$ 100 @, @ 000 @- @ per @- @ year training costs were partially subsidized by her corporate sponsors Speedo , Toyota and Bloomberg L.P.

At the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing , Torres won a silver medal as the anchor swimmer of the second @- @ place U.S. team in the 4 x 100 @- @ meter freestyle relay . It was the fifth time in five tries she earned an Olympic medal in the 4 x 100 @- @ meter freestyle relay . With the American relay team 's second @- @ place finish , she became the oldest swimmer to win a medal in Olympic history , surpassing British swimmer William Robinson , who was 38 at the time of the 1908 Summer Olympics .

On August 17 , 2008 , she won the silver medal in the 50 @- @ meter freestyle , finishing in a new American record time of 24 @. @ 07 seconds , one one @- @ hundredth (0 @. @ 01) of a second behind the winner , Britta Steffen . Her second @- @ place time was a new American record , and 0 @. @ 18 of a second faster than she swam at the U.S. Olympic Trials . Thirty @- @ five minutes later , she won another silver medal swimming the freestyle anchor leg for the second @- @ place U.S. team in the 4 x 100 @- @ meter medley relay . Her split on the 4 x 100 medley relay (52 @. @ 27 seconds) was the fastest 100 @- @ meter freestyle split in relay history . The American record for the women 's 100 @- @ meter freestyle as an individual event was 53 @. @ 39 seconds as of August 2008 , making Torres ' time more than a full second faster .

Torres ' twelve Olympic medals tied the all @- @ time medal record for a female Olympic swimmer set by fellow American Jenny Thompson in 2004 ; American Natalie Coughlin subsequently equaled the record in 2012 .

= = = Aftermath and retirement = = =

At the U.S. National Championships in 2009 , Torres won the 50 @- @ meter freestyle with the fourth @- @ best time in the world for the year (24 @. @ 42) , and she also placed in the 50 @- @ meter butterfly , qualifying her to compete in those events at the 2009 World Championships . This was the first time since 1986 that Torres competed in the World Championships ; she placed eighth in the 50 @- @ meter freestyle and she did not advance beyond the qualifying heats in the 50 @- @ meter butterfly .

Following reconstructive surgery of one of her knees , she began training with the goal of competing in the 2012 Summer Olympics . At the 2012 United States Olympic Trials , she placed fourth in the finals of the 50 @- @ meter freestyle , 0 @. @ 32 of a second behind the winner , Jessica Hardy , and 0 @. @ 09 of a second behind the second qualifier , Kara Lynn Joyce . Only the top two finishers in each trials event qualified for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team , and as a result , Torres concluded her Olympic career . After the 2012 Trials , Torres announced her retirement from competitive swimming , concluding her career with 12 Olympic medals . Her Olympic career spanned twenty @- @ four years from 1984 to 2008 and five Olympic Games (1984 , 1988 , 1992 , 2000 , 2008) .

= = Life outside swimming = =

Torres has worked in television as a reporter and announcer for American networks NBC , ESPN , TNT , OLN and Fox News Channel , and hosted the golf show The Clubhouse on the Resort Sports Network . She has also worked as a model , and was the first elite swimmer to model swimwear in the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue , appearing in the 1994 edition . She was elected to the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 .

After 1992 , she married and subsequently divorced sports producer Jeff Gowen . After 2000 , she converted to Judaism before marrying the Israeli surgeon Itzhak Shasha (her own father had been Jewish) . Torres and Shasha later divorced . Torres and reproductive endocrinologist David Hoffman began dating after her break @-@ up with Shasha , and they became the parents of Tessa Grace Torres @-@ Hoffman , born in 2006 . After the birth of their daughter , Hoffman , a masters swimmer , persuaded her to begin training again .

Torres is a veteran celebrity swimmer for Swim Across America , a charitable organization that raises funds for cancer research in which she has participated for several years . She is the author of two books : Age is Just a Number : Achieve Your Dreams at Any Stage in Your Life (with Elizabeth Weil) , and Gold Medal Fitness : A Revolutionary 5 @-@ Week Program (with Billie Fitzpatrick) .

= = World records = =

Women 's 50 @-@ meter freestyle

Women 's 4 × 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay

Women 's 4 × 100 @-@ meter medley relay

= École L 'Odysée =

École L 'Odysée (French pronunciation : ? [ek?l l?di?se] , English : " Odyssey School ") is a public francophone high school in Moncton , New Brunswick , Canada . It is part of the province 's Francophone Sud School District , offering education to students from grade nine to twelve . The school opened on September 30 , 2005 as part of a \$ 24 @.@ 2 million project , alongside the adjoining middle school , École Le Mascaret . École L 'Odysée was conceived as a way to alleviate the overcrowding problem at École Mathieu @-@ Martin in nearby Dieppe , a problem the district has had in the past . The Odysée @-@ Mascaret project , as well as the future Carrefour de l 'Acadie middle school , replaced the former École Beauséjour and École Vanier complexes . This move allowed the Moncton Hospital to expand , while the Vanier establishment made way for medical offices . On September 9 , 2009 , the school was given permission to begin an \$ 884 @,@ 000 expansion for its far side , allowing for a larger space to be reserved for its infirmary and orientation center .

As of September 2010 , the school holds 767 students out of its capacity of 850 , compared to 971 students at École Mathieu @-@ Martin . It is the only French high school in Moncton .

= = History = =

As Moncton 's population grew over the years , overcrowding in high schools soon became a problem : in the 2004 ? 05 school year , École Mathieu @-@ Martin ? the sole francophone high school in the area ? had an enrolment of 1 @,@ 609 students , well above the 2009 ? 2010 enrolment of 1 @,@ 025 . When the city 's growth rate climbed from 5 % in the years 1991 ? 96 to 6 @.@ 5 % in the years 2001 ? 06 , the problem became even more apparent . In fact , prior to construction , the idea of a second francophone complex had been in the minds of the New Brunswick Department of Education since as early as December 20 , 2002 . This idea was later confirmed in New Brunswick 's record @-@ breaking \$ 809 million budget for the 2003 ? 04 fiscal year , where \$ 100 @,@ 000 was allocated to " develop the educational specifications " of the

complex . Originally , the project was code named " Moncton School Complex " (French : Complexe Scolaire de Moncton) .

On January 12 , 2004 , the two schools were revealed to be attached side @-@ to @-@ side , occupying a combined area of 16 @,@ 000 square meters (170 @,@ 000 square feet) about 2 @.@ 5 kilometres (1 @.@ 6 miles) from the nearby Université de Moncton . When commenting on the new facility , New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord said that " [this] project offers numerous advantages , from several points of view " , and that " it reflects [the government 's] commitment to equipping New Brunswick with a high @-@ calibre education system . " The names for the two schools were picked from submissions sent by the education councils of District 01 and District 03 on March 14 , 2005 . Both schools were announced to be replacing École Beauséjour and École Vanier , two francophone middle schools , which made way for the expansion of the Moncton Hospital and for medical offices , respectively .

A final \$ 11 @.@ 2 million was allocated on January 6 , 2005 , which was 23 @.@ 3 % of the \$ 48 million Department of Education budget for that fiscal year . On July 15 , 2005 , the school was awarded a \$ 60 @,@ 000 federal fund for energy efficiency 39 % below the national energy threshold ; this would save the New Brunswick government \$ 115 @,@ 193 per year , or an eventual \$ 2 million over 20 years . The province 's educational minister , Madelaine Dubé , said : " It is good to know that our schools can also contribute to protecting our environment . " The school held its inauguration ceremony with Bernard Lord present on September 30 , 2005 , despite its delayed opening a few days after the beginning of the 2005 ? 06 school year . Lord spoke of his government 's intention to add schools to the growing number of Francophone institutions in New Brunswick , as well as advancing the state of the province 's education . " Today 's inauguration represents an historic moment for Moncton 's Francophone community , " he said in his speech . " Parents , students and teaching staff now have modern , state of the art facilities . I feel very proud about this project and I am delighted that it is now a reality . " On September 9 , 2009 , a new , \$ 884 @,@ 100 permit was awarded to extend L 'Odyssée 's total area by 390 m2 (4 @,@ 200 sq ft) for the expansion of its new infirmary and orientation center .

The city went under scrutiny after the death on November 30 of Erika Frenette , a student at L 'Odyssée , who was struck by a car after crossing an intersection near the school in poor weather conditions . Parents began petitions to install street lights near what they deemed to be a " dangerous [street corner] " , and on May 4 , the request was approved .

= = Academics = =

= = = Curriculum = = =

The school 's curriculum is based on a 30 @-@ credit system , requiring a student to receive all 17 mandatory credits and seven optional credits to graduate . Examples of notable courses are law , Esperanto , German , Auto mechanics , carpentry , entrepreneurship , world religions , cooperative education , and leadership . L 'Odyssée also offers exclusive courses in work @-@ life development and speaking Acadian .

A partnership with the Université de Moncton and CCNB Dieppe allows students to take and be credited for select courses off @-@ campus one period per semester at no cost during their senior year . Additionally , Cisco offers a course in server and information sustainment , and the school offers access to ten online courses , including astronomy and world geography . Sports programs are available and credited , including hockey and soccer .

There are two curricular programs , called " Volets " , for students wishing to graduate with honours in science and engineering or art and social sciences . The main differences between the standard curriculum and the two " Volet " programs are the addition of mandatory courses in the domain of the chosen program , and the requirement to complete thirty hours of volunteer duty . A student must gain an average of 80 % in the additional mandatory courses to graduate with honours .

== Schedule ==

École L 'Odyssee operates on a modified version of the controversial concept of block scheduling . Instead of the traditional seven- or eight @-@ period school day , every day students attend four out of the five classes for that semester . The following semester , students attend their remaining five courses in the same fashion , totalling ten courses per year . School days are labelled 1 to 5 , instead of Monday to Friday , with each " day " having a predetermined layout . This type of scheduling prevents courses being cancelled for holidays and school vacations , since in such a case , the schedule resumes with the days shifted forward by the length of the school break . For example , if Monday was designated as Day 1 , and Tuesday was a holiday , Wednesday would be Day 2 , and Thursday would be Day 3 . This type of scheduling , however , does not cover unexpected school cancellations (for example , school closure due to poor weather) , due to problems it would cause with the predetermined calendar .

Wednesdays , regardless of the " day " , are cut by one hour throughout the district to compensate for Community of Practice (French : Communauté d 'apprentissage professionnelles , or " CAP ") meetings between teachers at the end of the day , to " direct [the district 's efforts] towards the educational success of students . " Study hall (known as the " PAAQ " period , which stands for " Preoccupation de l 'Affectif et de l 'Apprentissage de Qualité ") is reserved between the first and second period of the day , except for Wednesdays , where the period is removed to compensate for the CAP meetings .

Another difference between L 'Odyssee and other schools is the amount of time allotted between classes . Instead of the usual five @-@ minute intermission , students are given 14 minutes between every period ? except for the intermission between the first period and PAAQ , and between lunch and the third period , where students are given five minutes . They receive 57 minutes for their lunch every day , except for Wednesdays , when they get a 55 @-@ minute lunch (both excluding the five @-@ minute intermission) .

Although the schedule is identical throughout the school , students must fill in their courses ? A through E ? as defined by their schedule :

== Rankings ==

Outside rankings for the school have been low compared to the district 's average . In 2010 , a report published by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies put L 'Odyssee at the bottom of the district 's 22 @-@ school list overall (one school being unranked) , based on data from 2005 to 2008 .

In 2005 , the province began including the school in their reports on student dropout rates . At the time , its rates were the highest in the province , with a total of six dropouts for every 100 students enrolled . In contrast , the district average was 0 @.@ 9 dropouts per 100 enrolments , and the provincial average was 2 @.@ 4 dropouts . The following year , the school 's rate dropped to 5 @.@ 4 , remaining three percentage points above the provincial average . In 2007 , it fell 2 @.@ 2 points , down to 3 @.@ 2 dropouts per 100 students , and finally settled at 2 % , 0 @.@ 2 percentage points below the provincial average of 2 @.@ 2 % .

In terms of academic performance , the province releases report cards based on yearly exams to track the progress toward a goal set for 2013 . The exams are held for English classes in the tenth grade , for French classes in the eleventh grade , and for mathematics in the eleventh grade . The report card rates schools based on how many students pass each exam , instead of rating on the average mark on the exam . L 'Odyssee , according to the report , is below both the district and the provincial success rate :

== Athletics ==

L 'Odyssee offers spots in nearly every NBIAA @-@ organized sport . Players participating under the school 's name are given the nickname " Olympien " (English : Olympian) .

=== Hockey ===

The hockey teams , male and female , are required to practice every first period of the first semester in a credited course . Students participate in up to three tournaments before the provincials and over 30 games in total . The 2009 ? 10 female team finished second in the provincial finals versus the Riverview Blackhawks .

=== Soccer ===

The school has four soccer teams : two juniors and two seniors . The male junior team placed first in the 2009 provincial championships .

=== Track and field ===

The track and field team at L 'Odyssée has been the recipient of several provincial titles since 2006 . Team members have included Geneviève Lalonde (7 @-@ time champion with six provincial records in the 800 m , 1 @,@ 500 m , and 3 @,@ 000 m from 2006 to 2009 and represented Canada at the 2010 World Junior Championships in Athletics) , Jessica Chamberland (6 @-@ time champion with one provincial record in the shot put from 2006 to 2009) , and Alexandre Coholan (2 @-@ time champion in the 100 m and 200 m , as well as a silver medal in the triple jump) .

Asterisk (*) denotes NBIAA record holding score as of 2012 .

=== Other sports ===

L 'Odyssée is home to a cross @-@ country team , a softball and baseball team , two Basketball teams , a golf team , a football team , a swimming team , three curling teams , a badminton team , and a rugby union team . In 2010 , the school 's wrestling team featured a provincial winner in the girls ' 60 kg class . The senior female volleyball team took the silver medal in the 2010 provincial tournament .

== Activities ==

=== Jazz / Harmony ===

The Jazz and Harmony teams , led by instructor Charles Arseneau , act as a side project for the school 's existing music course and has participated in every yearly Heritage Festival since 2005 . The team won a competition in New York in 2009 and six Maestro awards , including the " Outstanding Band Award " , and " Best Solo " . The following year , the team placed second and garnered one Maestro award in Washington .

=== Improvisation ===

L 'Odyssée participated in the regional Improvisation competitions in the 2009 ? 10 season . The team also participated in the " Gougoune Dorée 2010 " competition , a provincial tournament , and took first place . Sebastien Richard earned the " Most Starred Player " award , while captain Julie Frigault won MVP .

=== Debate club ===

The school was among the first to participate in the debut of the provincial debate championship in Caraquet . The team of three received the gold prize on March 22 , 2010 against École Mathieu

@-@ Martin in the finals .