



TONY AZEVEDO

American star, Brazilian ambassador

USA Olympic water polo team captain and Olympic silver medalist Tony Azevedo is one of the best water polo players of all time.

Come 2016 in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, he aspires to fight once again with the United States in his fifth consecutive Olympic games. Tony was raised in the United States, but was born in Rio de Janeiro, the son of a top player on the Brazilian National Team. Thus, Tony's participation in the 2016 Games marks a full-circle return to his birthplace, and a chance to further connect with Brazil—a nation close to his heart despite his strong leadership with Team USA. While remaining a backbone of support for his American colleagues, Tony has currently chosen to play professionally in Brazil. A member of the club team SESI, he has become a powerful figure both inside and outside the pool. As part of SESI's leadership, he travels to open new school branches in different cities across Brazil. His inspirational talks at these institutions have led many children off the streets and into water polo programs that foster teamwork and development. It follows that while Tony will always be an American water polo star, he has become one of the most prominent athlete ambassadors to Brazil. Both the USA and Brazil will follow him with great interest as he begins his journey towards the 2016 Games.

QUICK STATS

POSITION	Attacker
HEIGHT	6'1"
WEIGHT	206 lbs
BIRTHDAY	November 21, 1981
HOMETOWN	Long Beach, CA
BIRTHPLACE	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

EXPERIENCE

OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE	2000 SYDNEY (6th Place) 2004 ATHENS (7th Place) 2008 BEIJING (SILVER) 2012 LONDON (8th Place)
FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP	2001 JAPAN (7th place) 2003 SPAIN (6th Place) 2005 MONTREAL (11th Place) 2007 MELBOURNE (9th Place) 2009 ROME (4th Place) 2011 SHANGHAI (6th Place) 2013 BARCELONA (9th Place) 2015 KAZAN (7th Place)
FINA WORLD LEAGUE SUPER FINALS / WORLD CUP	2002 YUGOSLAVIA (7th Place) 2003 NEW YORK WL (BRONZE) 2006 GREECE WL (5th Place) 2007 GERMANY WL (5th Place) 2008 GENOA WL (SILVER) 2009 MONTENEGRO WL (4th Place) 2010 SERBIA WL – (5th Place) 2010 ROMANIA (4th Place) 2011 FLORENCE WL – (4th Place) 2012 ALMATY WL – (4th Place) 2015 BERGAMO (4th Place)
PAN AMERICAN GAMES	1999 CANADA (GOLD) 2003 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (GOLD) 2007 BRAZIL (GOLD) 2011 MEXICO (GOLD) 2015 CANADA (GOLD)
EDUCATION	B.S. International Relations, Stanford University, 2005



HIGHLIGHTS



TEAM USA HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 Olympic Games including a Silver Medal in Beijing 2008
- 5 Pan American Game Gold Medals (1999, 2003, 2007, 2011 & 2013)
- 8 World Championships
- 4 Fina World Cup Tournaments
- 12 World League Super Finals



PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 Champions League Final Four appearances (2 silvers, 1 bronze)
- 2x Croatian champion
- Montenegrin champion
- Brazilian champion
- Italian league leading scorer 2006



WATER POLO FAMILY DYNASTY

- Dad Ricardo was a member of the Brazilian National Team and currently coaches the Chinese Women's Olympic Water Polo Team
- Sister Cassandra was a star water polo player at Long Beach State University (recently inducted into the Hall of Fame). She also played professionally in Hungary and Italy for four years.
- Mom Libby started one of the first Mom's water polo teams and helped grow the league nationally. She is also a leader of the Kahakai Outrigger Team, based in Long Beach.



MENTOR/ACTIVIST/ROLE MODEL

- Voted PAC 12 Athlete of the Century for water polo
- Named World's 7th Best Athlete by Men's Journal
- Founder & President of the first Water Polo Players' Organization (WPO)
- Lead ambassador for the SESI Brazilian sports organization
- Voted for Jovem Brasileiro award by Brazilian youth (most popular athlete in Brazil)
- Active Animal Activist & Volunteer (in the US & Brazil)



TONY AZEVEDO

4x Olympian & Silver Medalist

Tony was born in Rio de Janeiro, but his family moved to Long Beach, CA a month after his birth. When he was four, he suffered a near death experience after a fall that severed his trachea and esophagus. Although his heart stopped beating on the operating table for several minutes, doctors were eventually able to revive him. His parents Ricardo and Libby were told he would never be able to play sports due to his sustained injuries at such an early age.

Unwilling to accept this prognosis, Tony pushed against all odds to become a great player and strong leader. During high school and his time at Stanford University, he won 4 CIF State Championships and 2 NCAA titles and became the youngest member of the US Olympic water polo team in 2000 at the age of 18. At Stanford he set NCAA scoring records with an astonishing 332 goals (the past leader had 235) and was the first player to win the prestigious Peter

Cutino Award (the Heisman trophy of water polo) four years in a row.

After graduating from Stanford with a degree in International Relations, Tony signed a series of professional water polo contracts in Europe and abroad, leading each team to numerous championship titles.

While he is a pro, he also serves as Captain of the US National Team and competes in international competitions throughout the year. He has been a member of the past four US Olympic Teams, culminating in a silver medal in Beijing 2008. Team USA had not won a Men's water polo medal since the Silver in the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul.

Tony's current goal is to lead Team USA to a Gold Medal at the 2016 Olympics in his birthplace, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

TEAM USA

(1998-present)

Tony is the Captain of the USA National Team. He has been a member of the team since 1998 and has competed in four Olympics Games.

Because there is no professional water polo league in the United States, Tony and many of his teammates go abroad each year to play for a European or foreign team, with a season that usually runs from September through June (seasons outside of Europe are shorter). This means Tony only trains full-time with the USA National Team during the summer, but he also meets up with his American teammates several times during the season to compete in various competitions.

Tony's Team USA Highlights

4

OLYMPIC GAMES

including a Silver Medal in 2008 in Beijing

5

PAN AMERICAN GAMES

Gold Medals (1999, 2003, 2007, 2011 & 2013)

8

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

4

FINA WORLD CUP TOURNAMENTS

12

WORLD LEAGUE SUPER FINALS





PROFESSIONAL CAREER

SESI (2013-present)

Returns to his roots to help build the water polo program in Brazil. Leads team to the Paulista League Title and to the Brazilian League Championship Title for the first time in club history.



VK JUG (2012- 2013 & 2008-2009)

Helps team reach the European Championship Final Four both seasons. Leads team to gold medal in Croatian Championship in 2013.



FLUMINENSE (2011)

Returns to his birthplace and leads team to the National Title as Brazilian champions.



J.K. PRIMORAC (2009-2011)

Leading scorer in the Montenegrin league. Helps team reach European Championship Final in 2010.



CAN BISSOLATI (2005-07)

First contract out of college, considered one of the best in the world. Becomes the leading scorer in the Italian league during his first season.



NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB (2008-present)

Helps lead the team to six National Titles. Named Premier League Championship Offensive Player of the Tournament in May 2008. Inducted into the Hall of Fame, April 2015





FAMILY

Tony Azevedo comes from a family of athletes. Thirteen relatives play or have played sports at the highest level, including professional soccer, basketball, baseball and participation in numerous Pan American and Olympic competitions.

Tony's immediate family form what many have called a water polo dynasty. His father, Ricardo, a member of the Brazilian National Water Polo team in his youth, has led Tony as both a coach and a mentor throughout his development in the sport. He has coached around the world and is currently the coach of the Chinese National Team.

His sister Cassie was a star player at Long Beach State University and spent several seasons abroad playing professionally in Italy. Not to be left out, his mother Libby started the first "Mom's" water polo team and league in the United States. And his 2.5 year old son Cruz is already constantly spotted walking around with a mini Mikasa water polo ball.

NOTABLE FEATURES

Professional Resume (outside of the pool):

- Founder & President, **Water Polo Players' Organization (WPO)**
- Partner/Executive Vice President, **DJ Global Wave Inc.**
- Teacher & Mentor, **Tony Azevedo Specialized Water Polo Clinics**
- USOC Team for Tomorrow **Athlete Ambassador** (since 2012)

Current Sponsors:

- **HardCore**
- **Mikasa**

Notable Features:

- Anderson & Lowe CHAMPIONS for **Elton John Aids Foundation**
- Featured Athlete, **The New York Times**, July 2012
- "What Do You Carry", **PC Magazine**, July 2012
- Featured athlete for **ESPN Magazine** Body Shot, May 2012
- "Olympic Training Secrets", **Details Magazine**, August 2012
- "The Hungry Crowd: Tony Azevedo", **Food & Wine Magazine**, August 2012
- Featured in **Teen People** Magazine & **US Weekly** Magazines, 2004 & 2006
- "World's Greatest Athlete", **St. Petersburg Times**, February 2004
- "Young American Having a Ball in the Pool", **USA Today**, August 2004
- "The Polo Prodigy", **The Stanford Magazine**, October 2004
- Named World's 7th Best Athlete, **Men's Journal**, 2003
- Featured in **Sports Illustrated Magazine**, 2003 & 2012

Animal Activism:

- Featured on **PETA** online, July 2012
- Featured on **Petside.com**, July 2012
- Featured as a contributor to "**A Letter to my Cat**" book, May 2015
- Featured in "**Sports Souls**" book, to be published December 2015



AWARDS & ACCOLADES

2000

- Century Club Player of the Year
- CIF Player of the Year (3rd time)
- Youngest Water Polo Athlete Ever (@Sydney Olympics)

2001

- NCAA MVP
- NCAA Highest Scorer
- Stanford Freshman MVP
- MPSF Player of the Year
- All-American Player of the Year
- Pete Cutino Award (equivalent to Heisman Trophy in football)
- American Water Polo Coaches Association Player of the Year

2002

- NCAA MVP
- NCAA Highest Scorer
- Stanford Sophomore MVP
- MPSF Player of the Year
- Pete Cutino Award
- American Water Polo Coaches Association Player of the Year
- USA National Team Leading Scorer

2003

- NCAA Highest Scorer
- MPSF Player of the Year
- Pete Cutino Award
- American Water Polo Coaches Association Player of the Year
- Pan American Games MVP (and Gold Medal)
- Named World's 7th Best Athlete by Men's Journal

2004

- NCAA All-time scorer
- MPSF Player of the Year
- American Water Polo Coaches Association Player of the Year
- Named Stanford's All-time Top Scorer with 332 goals
- USA National Team Leading Scorer

2005

- USA National Team Leading Scorer

2006

- Italian League Leading Scorer with 89 goals
- USA Leading Scorer

2007

- Leading Scorer @ World Championships (Melbourne)
- Pan American Games MVP (and Gold Medal + 19 goals)

2008

- Silver Medal @ Olympic Games (Beijing)
- Named to All Star Team

2009

- Croatian Champion with JUG Dubrovnik

2010

- Leading Scorer in Montenegrin League

2011

- MVP for Brazilian Championships (and Gold Medal)
- Pan American Games 4th Gold Medal (first water polo athlete in history)

2012

- Signs with 'Dream Team' JUG

2013

- Croatian Champion
- Brazilian Vice Champion

2014

- Brazilian Trophy Vice Champion
- Paulista League Champion
- Brazilian League Champion

2015

- Voted PAC 12 Athlete of the Century for water polo
- First player to attend 8 World Championships
- All time leader in scoring in World Championships
- Leading Scorer at World League Super Finals
- Named MVP with NYAC for US Open Tournament
- Brazilian Trophy Vice Champion
- Brazilian League Vice Champion

TIMELINE

2000

Olympic Games, Sydney Australia	6th Place	Youngest US water polo player in history; scores 13 goals, 4th highest in the world
Signs with Stanford University	Redshirts Freshman Year	International Relations Major

2001

NCAA Championship	1st Place	MVP
World Championships, Fukuoka Japan	7th Place	USA leading scorer with 14 goals despite playing with broken ear drum

2002

NCAA Championship	1st Place	MVP
1st World League, Los Alamitos, USA	3rd Place	USA leading scorer with 29 goals (7 vs. Croatia in opening match)
Fina World Cup, Belgrade Serbia	7th Place	2nd leading scorer in tournament

2003

NCAA Championship	2nd Place	Loses in double overtime to USC; MVP
Pan American Games, Dominican Republic	Gold Medal	Scores a tournament high 33 goals
World Championships, Barcelona Spain	5th Place	USA leading scorer
Fina World League, New York USA	3rd Place	Tournament top scorer with 13 goals
French International Tournament	1st Place	Scores 12 goals in 4 games

2004

Olympic Games, Athens Greece	7th Place	USA leading scorer with 15 goals
NCAA Championship	2nd Place	Loses in overtime against UCLA
Fina World League, Long Beach USA	6th Place	1st major tournament held in hometown

TIMELINE

2005

Signs first professional contract with Cremona Bissolati		Considered one of the best contracts for a young water polo player
Italian League Championship	4th Place	Team leading scorer and 3rd in scoring in all of Italy
World Championships, Montreal Canada	11th Place	Team leading scorer with 13 goals
Fina World League, Belgrade Serbia	7th Place	Team leading scorer with 18 goals

2006

Italian League Championship	5th Place	Italian league leading scorer
Fina World Cup, Athens Greece	4th Place	1st major event with father as coach

2007

Italian League Championship	4th Place	Team also reaches Len Cup Semifinal
World Championships, Melbourne Australia	10th Place	Tournament leading scorer with 19 goals
Fina World League Super Final, Berlin Germany	5th Place	Scores 4 goals in last game
Pan American Games, Rio de Janeiro Brazil	Gold Medal	Scores 15 goals

2008

Olympic Games, Beijing China		First Olympic Medal in 20 Years; Named to All- Star Team
Fina World League Super Final, Genova Italy	Silver Medal	Scores 16 goals including 7 in victory over China
Signs professional contract with JUG Dubrovnik	2nd Place	Joins team halfway through season

TIMELINE

2009

Croatian Championship	1st Place	Adriatic league first team
Champions League	3rd Place	Scores 3 goals in bronze medal game
Signs professional contract with Primorac Kotor		Considered one of top contracts in the world
World Championships, Rome Italy	4th Place	Team leading scorer with 12 goals in 6 matches, 8 steals and 6 field blocks

2010

Montenegrin Championship	2nd Place	Team leading scorer
Champions League	2nd Place	Loses to powerhouse Recco in final
Fina World Cup, Oradea Romania	4th Place	Scores at least 1 goal in every game with 11 total
Fina World League Super Final, Nis Serbia	5th Place	Team leading scorer with 13 goals

2011

Montenegrin Championship	1st Place	Leading scorer in Montenegrin league
World Championships, Shanghai China	6th Place	Scores 11 goals
Pan American Games, Guadalajara Mexico	Gold Medal	Injured- only plays in final and scores 3 goals to win; flag bearer for the USA
Final World League Super Final, Florence Italy	4th Place	Team leading scorer with 8 goals
Signs professional contract with Fluminense Brazil		First time back playing in his birthplace
Brazilian League Championship	1st Place	Named league MVP

TIMELINE

2012

Olympic Games, London England	8th Place	Scores winning goal in first game vs. Montenegro
Pan Pacific Games, Melbourne Australia	1st Place	Scores 6 goals in USA vs. Australia Final for 11-10 win
Fina World League Super Final, Almaty Kazakhstan	4th Place	Scores 5 goals in last game
Re-signs with JUG Dubrovnik		Joins other international stars to form 'super team'

2013

Croatian Championship	1st Place	Wins the championship the night before his first son Cruz is born
Champions League	2nd Place	Loses to home team Red Star in Belgrade
Signs professional contract with SESI Brazil		Hopes to help build water polo in Brazil leading up to Rio 2016
Brazilian League Championship	2nd Place	Helps lead SESI to the first final in team history
World Championships, Barcelona Spain	9th Place	USA leading scorer

2014

Brazil Trophy	2nd Place	First Brazilian Trophy in club history
Paulista League	1st Place	Boosts team to win local league title
Brazilian League Championship	1st Place	Leads team with 6 goals to first championship title in club history

2015

Brazil Trophy	2nd Place	Loses to Brazilian powerhouse Pinheiros
Brazilian League Championship	2nd Place	Scores 5 goals in the final game
US Open	1st Place	Named Tournament MVP

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