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Former Purdue All-American David Boudia is making his second trip to the Olympics. BY KEVIN JAIRAJ/US PRESSWIRE

A change in PERSPECTIVE

From 2008 failure, former Purdue star becomes face of U.S. diving

By Sam King
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David Boudia is not the same naive 19-year-old who traveled to Beijing, China, four years ago. In his first appearance in the Olympic Games, Boudia selfishly envisioned himself on the podium, medal draped around his neck as the fans cheered for the American diver.

That was the wrong approach, one of several lessons Boudia took from 2008.

"What I was chasing after in 2008 was trying to get this medal and trying to get fame and get recognition," said Boudia, surrounded by reporters earlier this month at the Boilermaker Aquatic Center.

Boudia finished fifth in the 10-meter synchronized diving event with partner Thomas Finchum and 10th in the in-

dividual platform. He'll compete in both events again in London, this time with Duke University's Nick McCrory in the synchro.

He left China devastated and questions continued about Team USA diving, which hasn't earned an Olympic medal since Laura Wilkinson won gold in the individual platform in 2000.

Now 23 years old and the face of the United States diving team, Boudia is not chasing medals, though several have projected him in the running to end America's medal drought at the 2012 Olympics, which open Friday in London.

He's a veteran. He's not as nervous. He realizes he doesn't need fame and fortune, although it seems to have found him since he declared himself a professional by signing with PMG

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MORE INSIDE

Meet three locals with Olympic ties.



Kelci Bryant
A former state champion diver from Harrison.



Kara Patterson
A former Purdue All-American competing in the javelin.



Jeanne Vaughan
A Lafayette resident who competed in the 1948 Olympics.

MORE ONLINE

See more photos of David Boudia and Kara Patterson at jconline.com.

Successful prisoner re-entry program suspended

Dip in volunteers dooms court that was 'good while it lasted'

By Sophia Voravong
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During its prime, Tippecanoe County's re-entry court — created in October 2005 to help recently released prisoners, many of whom had difficulty transitioning to normal lives after serving lengthy sentences, from committing more crimes — consistently served its maximum of 20 participants at any given time.

But today? There only are two. And presiding Judge Les Meade of Tippecanoe Superior Court 5 said Friday that it has been a challenge for the past year to sign up more.

For that reason, re-entry court will come to an end in early 2013, after the program's current two participants graduate.

"It wouldn't be fair to them to end it midway and say, 'Sorry, you're going back to prison.' We will see it through," said Meade, who took over re-entry court when Judge Don Johnson of Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 retired in December 2008.

"It's awfully disappointing. This was one of the most effective re-entry programs that I've ever found in any state."

Meade said that while the number of applications and requests from inmates remained steady, approval from their individual sentencing judges waned for unknown reasons.

He's hopeful that the closing will be only temporary.

"Part of the benefit is that participants can learn from the mistakes that other participants made," Meade said. "There's also the emotional support between participants, which helped keep them on

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Nation's changing landscape

Minority babies are becoming the majority. **Etc., D1**



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David Boudia dives off the 10-meter platform during the U.S. Olympic Diving Team Trials at Federal Way, Wash. BY JOE NICHOLSON/US PRESSWIRE

Sports following his junior season at Purdue in 2011.

"I think one of the biggest differences for David, in '08 he was chasing after a lot of things he thought would bring him happiness and satisfaction, fame and glory and all that kind of stuff," said Purdue diving coach Adam Soldati, who Boudia says is like a second father. "I think he realized after '08 that that doesn't satisfy. He really has a redefined purpose."

The personable Boudia is now older and wiser but still possesses the same drive, determination and work ethic that has catapulted him from upstart diver in 2000 to the best in the country. He is, by all accounts, a different person.

A lot has changed in the past four years for several reasons.

The Purdue impact

Boudia didn't compete as a college freshman while preparing for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

After falling short of a medal at the Olympics, Boudia smashed the competition in three years competing with the Boilermakers.

"Competing for the university and being on the NCAA level just helps build everything," Boudia said. "It's all a building block. We're all learning. We're all growing constantly. The moment we feel like we've arrived is the moment we are definitely going to start to falter and start to deteriorate. You look at every opportunity and build and grow and learn from that."

Boudia is 30 credits shy of graduating but guarantees he will receive a diploma from what he calls "the finest university." He just doesn't know exactly when that will be.

Purdue University helped transform the Noblesville native, who was born in Abilene, Texas. Until joining the Boilermakers, Boudia was coached by John Wingfield. Soldati offered a different perspective.

"Not that either one was better than the other," Boudia's mother, Sheilagh, said. "Moving away from home and coming under the tutelage of Adam Soldati, he was a different set of eyes. Adam helped his growth in spiritual beliefs and really matured him. It's quite amazing."

"I almost look at it as John was a parent. His role was more parenting because of David's adolescence. At Purdue (Boudia) was an adult and it was a



Former Purdue diver David Boudia practices earlier this month at the Boilermaker Aquatic Center. BY MICHAEL HEINZ/JOURNAL & COURIER

more mental relationship. That's kind of how I see this transitioning."

Boudia's transition to college life was not easy.

He had been home-schooled in Noblesville while training at the IU Natatorium on IUPUI's campus.

Purdue forced him to juggle class schedules, practices and living away from home.

"Your freshman year, you have no idea what to expect," Boudia recalls. "You're on a college campus, you're taking college classes, and you're trying to juggle your athletic schedule. That's what's really helped is being able to have that support. I am able to learn time management, able to learn how to schedule, learn how to get things in priority."

Soldati's calming influence encompassed Boudia. He accepted that he did not need trophies or medals to be a great diver. Boudia was a gifted workhorse athlete and his greater good would be serving others as well as himself.

That embrace is more important to the tandem than any individual honors received.

"One of my philosophies in coaching has always been, 'It's not my job to make a champion, but it's my job to create the environment where one can become a champion,'" Soldati said. "One of the key elements to that envi-

ronment is the people involved in that environment. What a special person in David Boudia to come in and not just have the ability at such a high level for everybody to watch him, but also to watch him grow in character. He is right there in the mix during practice, helping his competitors."

Renewed faith

During Boudia's sophomore year, he allowed his love of God to guide him. Results are predetermined, he says, and his future already has been written.

In 2008, Boudia went to the Olympic Games desiring a reward for his hard work and endless hours spent training. In actuality, he has been rewarded far more than the youngster who once desired to be an Olympic gymnast ever could imagine.

"Ten years ago I never would have expected being in this position," said Boudia, who began to take diving more seriously after finishing third in the 10-meter synchronized platform in the 2004 Olympic trials. "You look at this and you've got to be thankful for this opportunity. It's not something a lot of people get to experience. ... I am extremely thankful that God has put me in this position to have a platform that is created for him."

Sonnie days

Mutual friends thought Boudia would mesh well with Sonnie Brand, a 2007 graduate of Faith Christian High School on the east end of Lafayette, three years ago.

Boudia and Brand, who double majored in dietetics and nutrition, fitness and health at Purdue, went out for coffee and hit it off. They're engaged to be married in October.

"She has been supportive throughout this whole journey," Boudia said. "She definitely doesn't stress me out, and I absolutely love having her there to share this experience with."

On the diving board, Boudia is focused and flies through the air seemingly nonchalantly. He's performed each dive thousands of times and even more in his mind. Away from the pool, Brand spends time with a goofy, yet highly active everyday 23-year-old male.

His packed schedule, especially as the Olympic Games grow near, makes him anything but an everyday young adult however.

"He is not a normal college student," Brand said. "We don't sit around and hang out at night."

"It's definitely special to me and important to make it count with the quality time. It's important both of us be selfless with our love of God and love of each other."

London calling

As Boudia approaches his second go-around with the Olympics, he's certain he'll be much more appreciative this time.

He'll take in other events, stroll through the Olympic village and try not to get caught up in all the hoopla that can be impossible to do for a first-time participant.

"It's definitely a different journey this time around," Boudia said. "In 2008, it was a different experience. I didn't know what to expect going into Beijing. It was my first Olympic Games. Since coming to Purdue University and going through the NCAA ranks and just getting more experience internationally, my confidence level with my diving has grown a lot and just the character behind it has just totally changed as far as perspective."

Last time, the high point possibly came during the opening ceremonies.

This time, the same pres-

5 QUESTIONS

Question: What is your toughest dive?

Answer: All six are challenging. I don't know if there is one specific hard dive. One day it could be my very first dive. The next day it could be the fourth dive. All six of my dives on my individual list and then all six dives in my synchronized, they are all good and all have the ability to score 10s. On any given day, it could be any one of them.

Q: How close is the relationship between you and Purdue diving coach Adam Soldati?

A: Adam and I have a great dynamic and that helps transfer into the pool because we know what each other are thinking. I am really close with his family. Having that when my family is an hour away has helped a lot just for our relationship in and out of the pool.

Q: When did you realize you had Olympic talent?

A: It's always been a goal of mine since '96. I actually thought I would go in gymnastics. Gymnastics didn't really work out for me and so I started diving a little more. Next thing I knew, I was at the 2004 Olympic trials. That is when I started to really train and commit to this sport.

Q: Were you scared of heights when you started diving?

A: Yeah. Go up there and look down. It's three stories high, then another two-and-a-half from the bottom of the pool. You have to be crazy to jump off of something like that.

Q: Do you plan to compete in the Olympics in 2016?

A: Yeah. I am thinking about doing another event as well, not diving. We'll have to stay tuned for that.

DAVID BOUDIA

Meet David Boudia, 23, a former gymnast turned diver when injuries accumulated in the house and on the playground supplied a break from gymnastics. The gymnastics teacher recommended diving, and Boudia made the transition in 2000.

Initially afraid of jumping off the platform, Boudia quickly conquered his fear, but it took some coaxing.

"One of the things we talked about was, it wasn't that he had to do this and conquer this fear. It was more, 'David, you have to make a decision because you can't keep going to practice and not jumping off the platform,'" his mother, Sheilagh, said.

Boudia decided to jump off the platform, and it's worked out well ever since. Check out his accomplishments:

- » 16-time national champion.
- » Silver medalist at 2011 World Games in 10-meter platform, the first American to medal in the event in 25 years.
- » Fifth place at 2008 Olympic Games in 10-meter synchronized platform with partner Thomas Finchum and 10th in the 10-meter individual platform.
- » 2008, 2010 and 2011 USA Diving Athlete of the Year.
- » American record holder with a score of 605.40 at the 2010 AT&T National Diving Championships.
- » Eight-time Big Ten champion.
- » 2009 NCAA 3-meter and platform diving champion, 2010 NCAA 1-meter and 3-meter champion, 2011 NCAA 1-meter and 3-meter champion.
- » 2009, 2010 and 2011 Big Ten and NCAA Diver of the Year.
- » 2011 Big Ten Athlete of the Year.

tures of winning a medal that plagued Team USA the past two trips are still there.

Boudia chooses not to focus on winning medals. However, he knows eyes are on him to bring one back.

"Obviously, you have to get real with yourself. Bringing home an Olympic medal would be the ultimate achievement for my sport," Boudia said. "But I pictured it so many times in my head. Six months ago is really when you had to take that goal,


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put it on a shelf, put it behind you and then focus on one baby step at a time.”

Like many accomplished pupils, Boudia's approach mimics his coach's.

One of Soldati's slogans comes from another Boilermaker legend, John Wooden.

“He says, ‘If you focus on the things that you cannot control, it will adversely affect the things you can control,’” Soldati said, referencing the 10-time NCAA championship men's basketball coach.

“I am going to continue to say it's one step at a time,” Boudia said. “As much as you guys want to hear me talk about a gold medal and what that would be like, it won't happen.”

Greg Louganis is considered the best diver in United States history. Louganis won four Olympic gold medals and a silver medal. He was favored to medal in 1980 when the United States boycotted the Olympic Games in Moscow.

Louganis watched Boudia last year at UCLA.

“He's got all the tools,” Louganis told the Los Angeles Times. “And now he's acquired some belief. That's a big component in a dive list. Belief. Let's wait and see.”

That's sort of become Boudia's mantra. Wait and see.

Getting caught up in the competition can ruin a diver, Soldati said. You can only control yourself, he said. There is no control over the judges or how well competitors perform their dives.

Winning family

Deep down, though, winning is ingrained in Boudia whether he'll publicly admit it or not.

His mother and father met in the Air Force in the early 1980s. They competed against each other then, although not openly. Jim Boudia was a football player at Hillsdale College in Michigan. Sheila's background was in dance and gymnastics.

“From the get go, competitiveness is deeply laced in our family,” Sheila Boudia said.

Boudia and his sisters, Shaila and Shauni, were born when their parents were stationed in Abilene, Texas.

Boudia's faith tells him everything happens for a reason.

If Boudia's purpose was to become an Olympic-level diver, one can see how everything fell into place.

Boudia's family relocated to Indiana when he was in first grade. His father, originally from Fort Wayne, found a job closer to family. Forest Park in Noblesville was a facility close to home where the kids would go.

“They had a full set of platforms and diving boards, and I think that sparked an interest,” Sheila said.

He grew up within short driving distance to the IU Natatorium and a short drive to Purdue University, two locations that would be instrumental in becoming a two-time Olympian who already



David Boudia dives off the 10-meter platform during the U.S. Olympic Diving Team Trials at Federal Way, Wash. BY JOE NICHOLSON/US PRESSWIRE

“It's definitely a different journey this time around.”

DAVID BOUDIA

has ambitions of a third trip in 2016, perhaps in the springboard.

Fast forward to 2011. Boudia won the silver medal at the world championships and firmly solidified himself as one of the best international divers.

“The silver at world championships definitely set me up,” Boudia said. “The judges see you as more of a contender. They see you are able to go through the adversity throughout the competition. Being around the judges, being around the different high-level athletes around the world puts you in a position where you're able to spring from that.”

High profile

He's become a marketable high-profile athlete. He has his own Topps trading card. Millions of people see his face on the monitors in airports as part of a Coca-Cola promotion to meet him.

Boudia appears on Coca-Cola cans as part of the company's Olympic 8-pack, featuring ads with eight American athletes. During the Olympics, a Visa commercial narrated by Morgan Freeman will air featuring Boudia leaping from the world's tallest building.

Those closest to Boudia say the fame he once sought at the 2008 Olympics hasn't changed him.

“It's nice to be around somebody who gets to do those things but also is still one of my good friends and is still humble,” said Team USA diver and longtime friend Kelci Bryant. “He has worked very hard to get where he is now and to watch someone's hard work pay off. I am very happy for him.”

“It's cool to see one of your good friends on Coke bottles when you're walking through the grocery store.”

Being on this stage is what Boudia envisioned in 1996, when he first started realizing he had Olympic-level talent.

But he may have far exceeded the early expectations of others.

His mother said, “To be honest, for him to make the Olympics, that was like, ‘Wow, really, that is a possibility?’”

“It's been quite a journey.”

There's still quite a journey ahead.

Athletes competing — and copulating

Sexual shenanigans are likely to lead to demand for free condoms

By Rob Harris
Associated Press

LONDON — “Sex and the City,” move over. Here comes “Sex and the Village.” Make that athletes' village. As in Olympics.

Tales of shenanigans at the living quarters for 10,000 super-fit young men and women have always abounded, and London doesn't look as if it will be any different.

U.S. women's soccer star Hope Solo recently dished about serious partying at the Beijing Games, and some newly arrived athletes say they can hardly wait for the

fun to begin.

“The Olympics is the height of your career, so you might do some things you don't usually do,” British beach volleyball player Shauna Mullin said with a giggle Wednesday.

Most, like Mullin, will refrain from going too far, aware they're in the international spotlight.

Still, there's no need to be prudish, according to the man overseeing the health of the Brazilian team.

“(Sex) is common at the Olympics. It's necessary. It's natural,” Dr. Joao Olyntho Machado Neto said. “If you are go-

ing to be healthy people, why not make sex? ... Brazil is very tolerant with sex as a country. We don't have Victorian minds, and we're not religious.”

Ivory Coast swimmer Kouassi Brou was one of the youngest competitors in Beijing at 16, but he's grown up now.

And ready for some Olympic love.

“In 2008 I was so young and so shy, so I didn't interact with the women,” the 20-year-old Brou said. “But now I'm a big man. So I can try. I will try.”

And he's clear about his ambitions.

“If they are beautiful, it's OK,” he said.

Thousands of free condoms will be avail-

able. Organizers have heard enough about village antics from previous games to know there will be heavy demand by athletes for contraception.

Solo recalled seeing competitors having sex out in the open in Beijing.

“On the grass, between buildings, people are getting down and dirty,” the 2008 gold medalist told ESPN The Magazine recently.

Still, her revelations startled some athletes interviewed in the athletes' village on Wednesday.

“It's not something I've seen at all. ... Maybe I wasn't up on the right nights,” Australian canoeist Warwick Draper said.

Celebs descend on London

By Sylvia Hui
Associated Press

LONDON — The athletes and the Olympic torch have arrived in London — and so has the party.

For those keener on celebrity-spotting or dancing the night away than medal counting, the British host city has plenty of action to offer during games time. Away from the track and field, Hollywood royalty such as Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt and Nicole Kidman will be rubbing shoulders with diplomats and businessmen at the city's glitziest clubs and grandest historic buildings. Meanwhile, Dizzy Rascal, Snow Patrol and other musicians will keep crowds entertained at outdoor concerts across the capital.

The party vibe kicks off with the sold-out “River of Music” festival, which features six stages along the Thames, each named for a different continent. Musicians are taking over London's iconic Tower of London. Performers include Baaba Maal, Wynton Marsalis and the Kronos Quartet.

One of the most glamorous bashes in town will be a charity gala dinner at the Victoria & Albert Museum on Wednesday, two days before the Olympic opening ceremony. Jolie, Pitt, Christopher Lee and Bob Geldof are expected to attend the black-tie event, which is organized by the charity Sports for Peace and held in honor of boxing great Muhammad Ali.

Others reportedly attending include Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Prince Harry. The organizers did not immediately confirm the reports.



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