

## ► SUMMER GAMES 2021

# ALEXANDER HOPES TO ADD TO IMPRESSIVE HOOPS CAREER IN TOKYO

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Kayla Alexander has already established an impressive basketball resumé. Now she is hoping to add to it with an Olympic medal.

The Canadian team enters the Olympics as the fourth-ranked team in the world, behind only the United States, Australia and Spain, so its first Olympic medal is within reach.

Alexander has represented Canada at various levels for more than a decade. She starred for Canada at the under-18 FIBA Americas championships, where she helped Canada take the silver medal and followed that up by playing at the Under-19 world championships, where Canada finished fourth. Alexander averaged a double-double at both tournaments.



Chris Poss/Canada Basketball

Kayla Alexander will try to help Canada earn its first Olympic medal in women's basketball.



The Milton District High School graduate went to Syracuse University, where she became the school's first player to score 2,000 career points. Eight years later, she remains the school's all-time leader in games played, points, field goals and free throws made and blocks.

The six-foot-four forward was selected in the first round of the WNBA

draft, going eighth overall to the San Antonio Stars, where she played for five of her eight seasons. She has also played for Indiana, Chicago and Minnesota in the WNBA while also playing professionally in Russia and France.

She made her debut with the Canadian senior national team in 2018 and averaged 6.7 points and 3.7 rebounds as Canada went 3-0 at the Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

Alexander wrote a children's book with her sister Kesia based on her experience in the sport called "The Magic of Basketball." She'll be looking to add another chapter in Tokyo.



Cameron McTavish photo

## PADDLER RETURNS TO EARN SPOT ON OLYMPIC TEAM

### SIMON MCTAVISH A KAYAK SINGLE COMPETITOR

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Since 2004, the Canadian Olympic representative in the men's K-1 (kayak single) 1,000-metre has been from Oakville.

That streak looked like it might end when four-time Olympian Adam van Koeverden retired following the Rio Games in 2016.

But it will continue after Simon McTavish took an unusual route to the Olym-

pics.

The 25-year-old Oakville native moved to Australia with his family in 2007. He didn't take up paddling until he was 15, but within three years he earned a spot on the Australian team for the World Junior Championships.

In 2018, he earned a silver medal in the K-1 1,000m at the world under-23 championships and that same year won two gold medals at the World University Games.

His performance earned him the Australian university male athlete of the year award.

After graduating from

Simon McTavish will compete for Canada in the K-1 (kayak single) 1,000-metre. Canada has been represented in the event by an Oakville paddler in every Olympic Games since 2004.

### ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Sydney University, he returned to Canada and earned a spot on the national team in 2019. A member of the Mississauga Canoe Club, he competed for Canada in the K-4 at the 2019 world championships, helping Canada qualify a boat for the Olympics.

At the Olympic trials in March, he won the K-1 1,000m to earn a spot on Canada's team for Tokyo.



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*Good luck to our local athletes!*