

10 FAMOUS OLYMPIC INJURIES

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Written by [Top 100 Arena](#) on **2012-08-04**

Sports are risky. Since an athlete uses his body to carry out his sport, there is a high chance for injury. Sometimes these injuries take place on the field, in front of thousands. Such is the case when athletes break down at the Olympics. Here are some of the most famous Olympic injuries of all time.

10 Kristen Maloney, Sydney 2000



This young gymnast had a stress fracture and a metal rod in her one leg from previous injuries when she wiped out on the vault in Sydney. Through tears and pain, though, she limped up to the runway and gave it another shot, landing it perfectly. [More info](#)

9 David Moorcroft, Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984



This runner of the 5,000m was a record-breaking athlete of his day, the 1970s and 1980s. In 1982 he even broke the world record. But this poor bloke from Britain got a double-dose when stomach problems disqualified him in 1980 and pelvic problems caused a dismal appearance in 1984. [More info on Wikipedia](#)

8 Paula Radcliffe, Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, London 2012



Paula Radcliffe is another athlete on this list who has had quite a few accomplishments, only to choke at the Olympics. She is a long-distance runner who has won the New York, Chicago, and London. She is the current holder of the world record. But health problems kept her from winning in Athens, and cramping brought her in at 23rd in Beijing. It remains to be seen whether or not she will run this year, but the prognosis is looking grim for this world champion. [More info](#)

7 Derek Redmond, Barcelona 1992



This tearful Brit got a standing ovation in Barcelona in 1992 when, after tearing a hamstring in the 400 meters semi-finals, he completed the course with his dad Jim helping him. It was a heartrending moment that showed such nurturing parental devotion that there couldn't be a dry eye in the house. [More info](#)

6 Liu Xiang, Beijing 2008



All of China was holding its breath for this very famous athletic star to run the 110m hurdles event, and to top it off the country's capital was holding the event. But hope gave way to shock and then anger when this gold medal-winner from the Athens Olympics pulled out of a qualifying race with an injury that ended his Olympic career. [More info](#)

5 Zhang Dan and Zhang Ho, Turin 2006

The quadruple salchow jump had never been completed in pairs figure skating competition, so this pair decided to try it. Zhang

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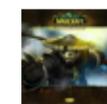
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Dan the female skater, took a nasty fall. Despite the fact that she messed up her knee, Zhang Dan shrugged off the pain and finished the routine with her partner Zhang Hao. The two went on to win the silver medal that year. [More info on Wikipedia](#)

4 Janos Baranyai, Barcelona 2008



During the Barcelona Olympics in 2008, this weight lifter was “snatching” 326 LBS (148KG) when his right elbow popped out of its socket, causing him to drop the weight onto his back. Baranyai did recover, but did not finish the Beijing Olympics. [More info](#)

3 Jaehyouk Sa, London 2012



Other weight lifters have had it bad when they dislocate elbows. Jaehyouk Sa actually is no exception. His snapped back and he dropped a weight of 162kg (357.15 lbs) in London on Wednesday. He holds two world records. [More info](#)

2 Nodar Kumaritashvili, Vancouver 2010



What was really horrible about the death of this athlete from the Georgian Republic is that it could have been prevented. The luge track was notoriously fast, and, traveling in excess of 90 miles per hour, Kumaritashvili smashed into a metal pole and died. This actually happened just days before the opening, and cast a shadow over the whole event. [More info](#)

1 Kerri Strug, Atlanta 1996



Everything in the team gymnastics tournament event was riding on two vaults – one by the Russian team, and one by Kerri Strug of the United States. But when Strug made her first vault, she over-rotated her ankle and limped back to her coach. She pulled it out, mathematically clinching the gold medal for the U.S. women’s team. Her coach, Bela Karolyi, carried her in an iconic picture we’ve all seen. [More info on Wikipedia](#)

Whether they won or lost, these athletes suffered for their sport. The amount of pain they endured and still practiced anyway is admirable and incredible. Even where the dream was tragically lost, just being there is half the honor.

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