

BOBBY FINKE

Paris 2024 Olympic Gold Medalist - 1500m
Paris 2024 Olympic Silver Medalist - 800m
Tokyo 2020 Olympic Gold Medalist - 1500m
Tokyo 2020 Olympic Gold Medalist - 800m
World Record Holder - 1500m
6x World Championship Medalist

LA28 Olympic Sport: Swimming



HIS STORY

Robert Christian Finke was born in Tampa, Florida on November 6, 1999. Swimming is truly a family affair for the Finkes, as Mom, Jeanne, swam for Ball State and Dad, Joe, is a swim coach with St Pete Aquatics.

Finke has two older sisters: Autumn Skye Finke who swam for the University of Florida and Ariel Summer Finke who swims for Florida State University. All three kids qualified for the 2016 Olympic Trials.

As a 14-year-old age grouper, Finke broke the Florida Age Group State Championships 800m freestyle meet record with a time of 8:25.20, And then broke the 1500m freestyle meet record dropping over 15 seconds to race to a 15:56.82.



Finke won the USA Swimming Open Water Junior Nationals by finishing first out of the swimmers 18 years old and younger. Additionally, because everyone swims at once, Finke was seventh overall in a field that included the pro-open water swimmers as well as collegiate swimmers.

Finke attended the University of Florida where he swam for four years. During his time at UF he was a four-time All American, was on the SEC first team in 2019 and 2020, and was an SEC conference champion in 2019 and 2020.

LA28 Olympic Events: 800m, 1500m

On night 5, Finke touched 1st in the 800m freestyle, qualifying for his first Olympic team. He added to his event schedule by winning the 1500m freestyle on the final night of competition, cruising to a win in 14:46.06, beating the field by over 14 seconds.

Finke put an exclamation mark on his first Olympic final, winning the first-ever Olympic iteration of the men's 800m freestyle. Finke was running 5th for most of the race, even at the 750m mark. Then he turned on the jets, coming home in 26.3 seconds and passing 4 competitors in the last 25m to touch first and earn Olympic gold.

Finke did it again in the 1500m freestyle, sticking with the pack through the whole race and turning it on the last 50m, coming home in 25.7 seconds in the last 50m to touch first at 14:39.65, earning his 2nd Gold of the Games and the first for USA in the 1500m since 1984. His comeback victories have been called "Getting Finked" by the voice of swimming - Rowdy Gaines.



2024 OLYMPICS

Finke continued his dominance at the 2024 Paris Olympics, building on his gold medal successes from Tokyo in 2021. Known for his explosive finishes and unparalleled endurance, Finke captured Gold in 1500m freestyle and shattered the previous World Record in a race where he never trailed. He also won a Silver Medal in the 800m freestyle, almost chasing down 1st place in his signature fashion, solidifying his status as one of the world's premier distance swimmers.

Finke now boasts three Olympic Gold Medals and one Olympic Silver Medal in distance swimming and looks to continue his dominance in the distance events in the upcoming season.





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