

Beijing Olympics Men's Basketball Final: US Team heavy favorite to win Gold vs Spain

Contributed by Tommy Watson
Saturday, 23 August 2008
Last Updated Saturday, 23 August 2008

The US Men's basketball team will shoot for gold when they play Spain in the Gold Medal game of the Beijing Olympics starting at 02:20 AM ET on Sunday. Online oddsmakers at Sportsbook.com have installed the Americans as heavy 21.5-point favorites in this game with a 181 point total. The US made the finals Friday (Aug. 22) by defeating Argentina 101-81 at Wukesong Arena in what was the toughest game for the US so far in the Beijing Olympics. The US played Spain in an earlier round in Beijing winning by 37. Spain made the finals by beating Lithuania, 91-86. Just past mid-night Sunday morning Lithuania and Argentina will tip off the Bronze Medal game also from Wukesong Arena. The Lithuanians are chalked in as -4 point favorites with a 163.5 point total. The American team is confident it can roll to gold against Spain, however; the Spanish team feels it can redeem itself after their poor showing eight days ago.

"We don't expect to do to Spain what we did last time," said leading U.S. scorer LeBron James. "It's a brand new game. We're not an overconfident team, but we are confident."

The US Women's Olympic Basketball Team won the Gold Medal on Saturday with a 92-65 drubbing of Australia in the Beijing Games final. It was the Americans' third straight victory over Australia in an Olympic final, and the third straight win by a double-digit margin.