

## **Women's eight (W8+)**

*Match-up: The 2012 USA women's eight vs. The 2004 Romanian women's eight*

In recent rowing history, the United States has dominated the women's eight, losing only one World Championship or Olympic title in 14 years. The Olympic gold medal winning crew from 2012 stands out as one of the best. Together, the crew holds 15 Olympic gold medals and two silvers between its members. Going to the London Olympics they were practically unstoppable with a US winning streak that went back to 2005. This crew included famed coxswain Mary Whipple along with Caryn Davies, Meghan Musnicki, Susan Francia and Erin Cafaro.

But what if they matched up against the best of women's eight rowing history. Before the American women's eight came into their own, the Romanians dominated the women's eight scene. The 2004 Olympic gold medal winning line-up boasted more than 35 Olympic medals, 26 of which were gold. The crew had some of the greats of Romanian rowing including Viorica Susanu, Elisabeta Lipa-Oleniuc, Georgeta Andrunache and Doina Ignat.

*The Romanians in their 2004 prime speed against the United States in their 2012 shape, who do you think would take the gold medal?*