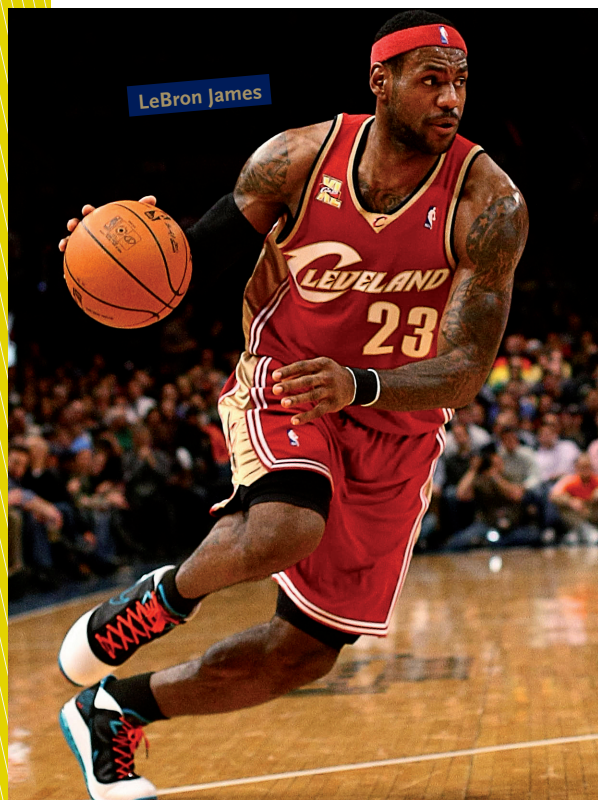


15 TABLE TENNIS

WATCH >> Germany's **Timo Boll**. He's come close many times, collecting silvers for his troubles. Missing out on gold in Beijing sees the left-hander return for perhaps his final chance. The bats may be small but Boll has a wicked forehand topspin, and a phenomenal backhand loop.



LeBron James

16 BASKETBALL

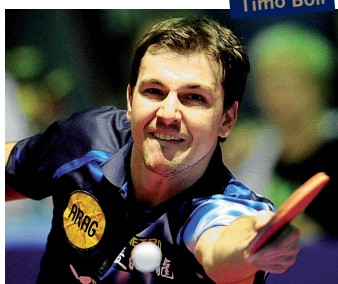
WATCH >> The **US**. They're the reigning champions, and they're back with the likes of **Kobe Bryant**, **LeBron James** and **Dwayne Wade**. They've also got Kevin Durant, who led them to world championship success in 2010. Then again, no-one gave the Russians a chance in 1972.



Kerri Walsh & Misty May-Treanor

17 BEACH VOLLEYBALL

WATCH >> The **US** duo of **Kerri Walsh** and **Misty May-Treanor**. The pair will be looking for their third title, having won in Athens and Beijing. And these ladies will also be sporting their favoured bikinis – and not the recently approved, and much more modest attire of shorts and T-shirt. International Volleyball Federation, eat your heart out!



Timo Boll

THE DOWNRIGHT UNUSUAL

BMX BIKING >> Making only its second appearance at a games, this event is for the fast and the furious. The men's and women's tracks are only 470m and 430m long but they're full of jumps, humps and severe corners. And each race lasts a mere 40 seconds or so. Helmets on. One gear. One brake. Go!

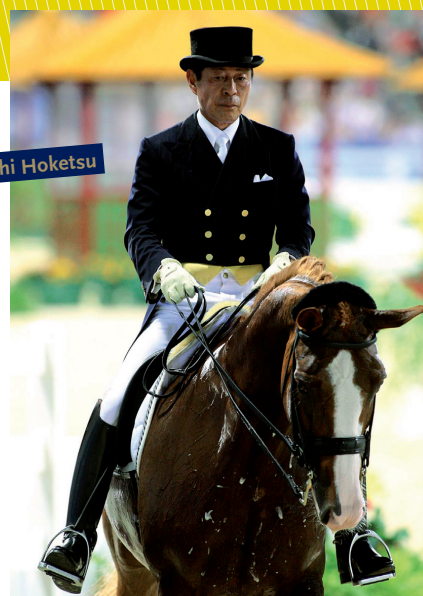
TRAMPOLINE >> It's the newest of gymnastic disciplines in the games. Actually, the first ever World Championships were held in the Royal Albert Hall, London, in 1964. Since debuting in Sydney in 2000, it's wowed the crowds with athletes spinning 10m in the air.

THE PENTATHLON >> Its presence owes a lot to the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. The story goes that the event is based on a 19th-century legend: a French cavalry officer, sent on horseback to deliver a message, encountered all sorts of obstacles – demanding he ride, fence, shoot, swim and run. Just don't try and make sense of the scoring system.

MARATHON SWIMMING >> An open water event in Hyde Park, this 10k race can get a little wild, as some physical contact is allowed. David Davies will be Team GB's hope here.



Tony Estanguet



Hiroshi Hoketsu

18 EQUESTRIAN

It's easy get lost in the different horse riding disciplines of **dressage**, **eventing** and **jumping**. Suffice to say, there'll be 200 men and women, and their steeds, performing some of the rarest skill sets on the planet. For example, dressage is deemed the highest expression of horse training; and rightly so, when you consider it's pretty much a rider getting his mount to express its gymnastic development. For the innocent spectator, the creature looks like it's dancing ballet. Marvellous!

WATCH >> **Hiroshi Hoketsu**. At 71 years of age, he's the one to see here. Riding a 15-year old mare, called Whisper, the Japanese septuagenarian will fly the flag for older competitors. Finishing ninth in Beijing and having won an international event in France to qualify, he certainly won't be in London just to make up the numbers.

19 CANOE

WATCH >> **Tony Estanguet**. The French canoeist has been winning since the 90s. Virtually faultless under pressure, the rest of the field know who to measure themselves against. If in doubt, just check his World Championships record: 4 golds and 2 silvers. And then there's the small matter of 2 Olympic golds, too.

IRISH INTEREST >> **Eoin Rheinisch** (K1 Canoe Slalom); **Hannah Craig** (K1 Canoe Slalom); **Andrej Jezierski** (C1 200m)

20 SAILING

WATCH >> **Lobke Berkhout**. Hailing from Amsterdam and a family of sailors, she was disappointed with a silver in Beijing, but she has returned in the 2-person dinghy 470-class for one reason. Top of the podium.

IRISH INTEREST >> **Annalise Murphy** (Laser Radial); **Peter O'Leary** (Star Class); **David Burrows** (Star Class); **Ryan Seaton** (49er); **Matt McGovern** (49er); **James Espey** (Laser); **Ger Owens** (470); **Scott Flanagan** (470).