



Clayton Murphy: The University of Akron's First Olympic Medalist

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Before excelling tremendously on the world stage in 2015-16, Clayton Murphy would capture twelve middle distance Mid-American Conference indoor and outdoor titles for The University of Akron, despite competing in just three seasons. As a sophomore in 2015, he qualified for the NCAA I National Indoor Championships and finished third in the 800-meter run and duplicated that finish in the NCAA I National Outdoor Championships. In his international debut in the 2015 Pan-American Games, he surprised everyone by winning the 800-meter gold medal.

Murphy, however, had his peak performances in 2016

as he would become a four-time All-American by capturing the 800 and 1,500 meters at the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Championships, simultaneously breaking UA and MAC records with a time of 3:36.38. Murphy continued his domination that summer, winning the men's 800 meters at the United States Olympic Trials, and then he used his patented finishing kick to win the Bronze medal at the Olympic Games in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. As The University of Akron's first Olympic medalist, Murphy's time of 1:42.93 was the fifth fastest time in United States' history.