

Hezly Rivera

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST, TRAILBLAZING DOMINICAN AMERICAN GYMNAST



BACKGROUND

Hezly Esther Rivera was born on June 4, 2008, in Hackensack, New Jersey, and grew up in Oradell, New Jersey, in a proud Latino family. She discovered gymnastics at the age of five after attending a friend's birthday party at a gymnastics facility, where coaches recognized her natural talent. Rivera later trained at the prestigious World Olympic Gymnastics Academy (WOGA) in Texas under Olympic coaches Valeri and Anna Liukin, balancing elite training with online schooling.

CAREER

Rivera rose quickly through the junior ranks, winning the 2023 U.S. Junior All-Around Championship and earning team and floor exercise silver medals at the Junior World Championships. In 2024, at just 16 years old, she became the youngest member of Team USA at the Paris Olympic Games, helping the United States capture the Olympic team gold medal. She continued her success by winning the 2025 and 2026 U.S. National All-Around Championships, becoming the first woman since Simone Biles to win back-to-back titles.

IMPACT

Hezly Rivera has inspired a new generation of athletes by expanding Latino representation in one of America's most prestigious sports. As the first known Dominican American woman to earn a place on the U.S. Olympic women's artistic gymnastics team, her accomplishments demonstrate that talent, perseverance, and determination can break barriers, encouraging young people to dream boldly and pursue excellence on the world stage.

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