



## RULON GARDNER

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The Afton, Wyoming native trained in Colorado Springs for two Olympiads, and earned a gold medal at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney when he stunned previously unbeaten Alexandr Karelin of Russia to win the Greco-Roman Wrestling 130kg. Class. He won a bronze medal in Athens in 2004 before retiring as one of American wrestling's most revered heroes.

Gardner's career included the 2001 Jesse Owens Award, the 2001 Olympic Spirit Award and the Sullivan Award. He won gold medals at the 2001 World Championships and three U.S National Championships. Gardner was given the honor of carrying the American flag for the USA delegation at the closing ceremonies of the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.