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# from the editor

*E. Gary Hill*

I'M SURE WE'VE ALL SAID IT a million times: "If only I had that to do over again." But, of course, do-overs are generally the things of fantasy, never realized.

It's with great pleasure, then, that I can note how wondrous it must have been for Adam Nelson to get a do-over on the medal ceremony from the '04 Olympics. Nelson, you may remember, ended up with a galling silver from that shot competition, losing on the countback to Yuriy Bilonoh.

In these days of extended windows of opportunity, the Ukrainian strongman's Greek sample was retested last year and came up positive, so in December of '12 he was stripped of gold. That didn't necessarily mean that Nelson was going to get the prize bauble, because the IOC hasn't been consistent in filling vacated medal spots. But in May the decision was made in his favor and the game was afoot.

At the USATF Championships, with higher-ups Max Siegel and Stephanie Hightower doing the presentation honors, another awards ceremony was held, with Nelson receiving an olive wreath and hearing the national anthem.

"Better late than never," he said before taking a victory lap with his young daughters.

"The way I look at it, I've got the rest of my life to be the gold medalist. I've been able to celebrate with my wife and girls and I couldn't have done that nine years ago.

"Hopefully the message is that it pays to do things the right way. It may not pay right away, but in the long term you'll always have your integrity and eventually it will pay off."

What he doesn't have yet is the original gold medal; apparently Bilonoh has yet to return it.

It was an emotional moment for Nelson, as it was for yours truly, who got rather moist in presenting the proceedings on the Drake PA, just as I had in the hallowed grounds of Ancient Olympia almost 9 years earlier. There's not supposed to be any cheering in the pressbox, but I had a palpable moment of disappointment in '04, Nelson being one of my favorite performers of all-time. So I too, in an inconsequential way, also got a second chance.

If that's my do-over for life, I'll take it.

...

COINCIDENTALLY, shortly before the Des Moines goings-on, somebody had asked me what my favorite Olympic moment of all was, and after 10 of them (Munich through London, with a miss on Moscow) the answer was easy: the '04 shot. The shot is perhaps my favorite event, which helps, but it could have been anything they staged in Ancient Olympia.

The way things played out, the announcing crew drove 8 hours from Athens, slept for about 3 hours and then hit the venerable grounds at dawn, just in time to see the sun come up over the ruins out of which the athletes would later enter for the competition.

A jaw-dropping moment if ever there was one.



DAVID PETERSON

**The stuff of dreams: Nelson got a do-over  
of his '04 Olympic victory ceremony.**