



Todd Rogers won the 2008 Olympic Gold Medal for Men's Beach Volleyball with his partner Phil Dalhausser in Beijing. More than just a jock, Todd has an interesting background, graduating from the University of California-Santa Barbara with a degree in religious studies and a minor in coaching. Todd shares his home and family with Labrador retrievers. In the photo, he's flanked by 11-year-old black Lab Kayla and 4-year-old yellow Lab Sully. If you follow Todd's blog, you would know that last December he shared a touching story of cancer in one of his dogs.

Todd, first, let me say congratulations on your Olympic win. All of America took great pride in cheering you and Phil on to victory. What's your most cherished memory of the Beijing Olympics?

TR - My most cherished moment of the Olympics itself was sharing it with Melissa, my wife of 12 years. She came in a week before the Gold Medal match and we were able to spend some good time together; and then to have her there at the match itself was great. Right after Phil and I won and we had celebrated together, I ran over to her in the stands and gave her a big hug and kiss. I will remember that forever.



What have you been doing since you won the Olympic Gold?

TR - I have had an exceptionally busy off-season for me. Lots of speeches and appearance requests. Fortunately most of them have been local but it still kept me quite busy. My kids keep me busy as well and that includes taking my dogs out for walks or down to the river. That is where all the pictures of the dogs and I were taken.



Will we be cheering for you and Phil again in the 2012 Olympics?

TR - Tough to say. I am sure Phil will be there. The question is will I be. Have to keep on top of my physical game and feel pretty good right now but who knows in 4 years. Also have to review how I am doing mentally each year. It is tough to leave the home for long periods of time to go travel and play. I miss the family. Phil mentioned to me back in October that he wanted to run it back to London. I told him that I felt it would be best to play this year and then make that decision. I need a year under my belt after winning the Gold to see where my head is at.

Have you always been a dog lover?

TR - Yes. I was raised with dogs. Had an Australian Shepherd when I was a kid. Also had a poodle through my teen years. Both my Grandparents had dogs and most everyone I knew had dogs. When I settled down with my wife, we went out and got Kayla, our black Lab. She needed a friend, so 2 months later we went out and got Scout. They were born 2 months apart. We recently had to put Scout down, which was tough. We wanted to breed Scout so we studded him out twice and we took a puppy from one of the litters. That puppy is our 4-year-old yellow Lab, Sully.

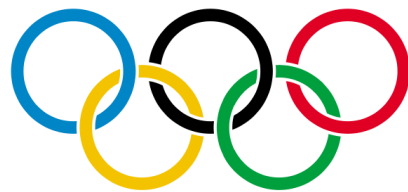
I know dogs are an important part of your family. What do you think your children learn by having dogs in their lives?

TR - They learn some responsibility when they have to feed them. In a couple of years they will learn about picking up after them. That is currently my duty. I think it also promotes love and affection in a household. Both our dogs are very lovey and are great kid dogs. They put up with a ton. The kids

enjoy snuggling with them and loving on them and I believe that is a very good thing.

Anything you'd like to add?

TR - The dogs have been my running partners as well as my wife's running partners. Labrador retrievers need to get out every day and that gets us out of the house too. Not that my wife and I are folks that need that extra impetus to get out and exercise, but it is nice to always have a ready and willing companion to do so. It's also nice to be loved unconditionally and that is what Labs and dogs in general do. No matter how bad of a day you have had, you can always count on a lick in the face and a tail going 100 MPH when they see you.



If you'd like to learn more about Todd and what he's doing, visit his blog at <http://toddjrogers.blogspot.com/>. You can also read the latest about his volleyball games and find out where you can see him play next at <http://www.toddjrogers.com/>.