



# Biles reclaims gymnastics all-around crown

● Zheng Qinwen ends Swiatek's streak

● Alcaraz advances to semis

AFP | Paris

Simone Biles recaptured the Olympic all-around crown yesterday, seeing off Brazil's Rebeca Andrade for her sixth Olympic gold and second in Paris.

Biles, who famously withdrew from multiple events at the Tokyo Games three years ago with the disorientating "twisties", followed up her team gold with the United States earlier this week. Defending Olympic champion Sunisa Lee took bronze.

The 27-year-old Biles became the first gymnast to reclaim the individual title, which she won in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

She capped her performance with another electrifying floor routine to Taylor Swift's hit song "Ready for It", her high-flying tumbling bringing the crowd to its feet.

She scored 59.131 points to finish 1.199 ahead of Andrade with 21-year-old Lee sealing bronze with her floor routine having trailed in fourth going into the final rotation.

It was the first time that two women's Olympic all-around champions have gone head-to-head chasing a second crown.



Simone Biles in action

The United States have now won the event six times in a row -- and a record seven times overall.

Biles has now won nine Olympic medals including six golds. She could add three more in Paris as she competes in the apparatus finals on the vault, floor exercise and balance beam.

## Swiatek beaten

In tennis, Zheng Qinwen ended Iga Swiatek's 25-match unbeaten streak at Roland Garros to become the first Chinese player to reach an Olympic Games singles final as Carlos Alcaraz marched closer to a showdown with Novak Djokovic.

Defending champion Alexan-

der Zverev, however, crashed out, losing his quarter-final to a fired-up Lorenzo Musetti of Italy.

Seventh-ranked Zheng triumphed 6-2, 7-5 over world number one Swiatek and will face either Croatia's Donna Vekic or Anna Karolina Schmiedlova of Slovakia in the gold medal match.

"I feel more than just happy -- happy isn't enough to describe how I feel," said Zheng, who had played back-to-back three-hour matches to make the semi-final.

"If you ask me to play another three hours for my country, I would. It was an amazing match. To beat Iga is not easy."

Swiatek, a four-time French



Zheng's victory marks the first time a Chinese player, male or female, has reached an Olympic singles gold medal match, surpassing Li Na's fourth-place finish in Beijing 2008

Open champion at Roland Garros, went into the match at a sweltering Court Philippe Chatrier having not lost in Paris since 2021.

The 23-year-old had also defeated Zheng in all of their six previous meetings.

However, she was hit off the court by the powerful 21-year-old Australian Open finalist who broke the Pole three times in the opening set.

Swiatek appeared restored by a 10-minute break and quickly stretched out to a 4-0 lead in the second set before Zheng battled back, retrieving both breaks for 4-4.

The Chinese star broke again for a 6-5 lead against the error-plagued Swiatek and claimed victory in the next game.

By making the final, Zheng is the first Chinese man or woman



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns to US' Tommy Paul

to reach an Olympic singles gold medal match, bettering the run of Li Na who finished fourth in the women's event at Beijing in 2008.

China's only Olympics tennis gold came thanks to Li Ting and Sun Tiantian in the women's doubles at Athens in 2004.

## 'About the fight'

Alcaraz, back at Roland Garros where he won a maiden French Open in June, became the youngest Olympic semi-finalist since Djokovic in 2008.

The second seed saw off 13th-ranked Tommy Paul of the United States 6-3, 7-6 (9/7) after recovering from a break down in the second set and saving a set point in the tie-break.

"It's all about the fight," said Alcaraz, who was playing the day after he and Rafael Nadal suffered a heartbreaking dou-

bles loss in what was probably the veteran's final appearance at Roland Garros.

The 21-year-old will face either Casper Ruud or Felix Auger-Aliassime for a place in the final.

## Champion Zverev out

Wimbledon semi-finalist Musetti stunned Zverev 7-5, 7-5 on the back of 20 winners as the 16th-ranked Italian continued his storming Olympics run.

The 22-year-old was playing a tour final in Umag in Croatia on Saturday night and only arrived in Paris on Sunday morning, just hours before his first-round clash.

Musetti has made the semi-finals without dropping a set as he became the first Italian man to reach the singles semi-finals since tennis returned to the Olympics in Seoul in 1988.

## 'Cool' Turkish marksman unruffled by viral Olympic fame

AFP | Paris

A Turkish Olympic shooting silver medalist said yesterday he was unfazed by his new-found fame after his casual style with no headwear and a hand in his pocket made him an overnight Internet sensation.

Yusuf Dikec and partner Seval Ilayda Tarhan won silver on Tuesday for Turkey in the mixed team 10m air pistol, losing to Serbia in the gold medal match.

But it was Dikec's posture that caught attention as much as the result, with the marksman wearing standard glasses, a team T-shirt and with his left hand casually slung in his pocket.

Other than his pistol, he notably had none of the specialised equipment used by athletes in



Yusuf Dikec in action

the hyper-precise event, like headphones, special lenses or a hat.

"Be cool like Yusuf Dikec. Congratulations on winning the silver medal in such a cool way," France's embassy to Turkey

wrote in a post on X in Turkish.

"The name's Dikec. Yusuf Dikec," said posts by other users in reference to cinema icon James Bond. Some memes added a cigarette to his mouth to emphasise the relaxed posture.

Speaking to Turkish channel TGRT Haber, Dikec acknowledged that he had adopted the rare technique of shooting with both eyes open whereas most athletes keep one closed or obscured.

"My shooting technique is one of the rare shooting techniques in the world. I shoot with both eyes open. Even the referees are surprised by this," he said.

He said winning a medal was no surprise as "this year we prepared a lot and worked a lot... this success belongs to all of Turkey."

## Algeria boxer in gender row wins in 46 seconds as Italian PM hits out

AFP | Paris

Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, who failed a gender eligibility test last year, pummeled her Italian opponent in 46 seconds at the Paris Olympics yesterday as the controversy threatened to overshadow the sixth day of the Games.

It will also renew the debate about the inclusion of competitors in other sports at the Olympics and beyond who have undergone similar eligibility testing.

A distraught and hurt Angela Carini shrugged off attempts by Khelif to shake her hand afterwards and the Italian collapsed to her knees and sobbed uncontrollably in the middle of the ring.

Khelif advanced to the quarter-finals of the women's 66kg



Algeria's Imane Khelif (in red) and Italy's Angela Carini leave after their women's 66kg preliminaries round of 16 boxing match

category after unloading two strong punches on Carini, who had blood on her shorts and was unable to carry on because of a badly hurt nose.

The one-sided bout sparked an immediate reaction from Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who said the fight was

"not on an equal footing".

"I have a big pain in my nose and I said, 'Stop'. It's better to avoid keeping going. My nose started dripping (with blood) from the first hit," said the distressed Carini, who also broke down in tears when talking to reporters.



Handball: Netherlands' centre back #09 Larissa Nusser (R) attempts to score next to Brazil's centre back #02 Bruna de Paula during the Women's Prelims



Boxing - men's 92kg: Belgium's Victor Schelstraete punches Spain's Enmanuel Reyes Pla in the quarter-final match



Shooting - 50 Rifle 3 Positions: Bronze medal winner India's Swapnil Kusale competes in the finals