

Simone Biles wins vault for third gymnastics gold of Paris Games

AFP | Paris, France

Simone Biles soared to women's vault gold on Saturday, her gravity-defying Yurchenko double pike propelling her to a third triumph of the Paris Games and her seventh career Olympic crown.

Biles, who led the United States to team gold before grabbing all-around gold, produced a pair of stunning vaults to notch a resounding victory over Olympic and world champion Rebeca Andrade of Brazil.

American Jade Carey took bronze.



Gold medalist US' Simone Biles

China win Olympic women's doubles for second badminton gold

AFP | Paris, France

China won their second badminton gold of the Paris Olympics on Saturday when Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan beat compatriots Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning in the women's doubles final.

The top-seeded Chen and Jia took silver at the Tokyo Games three years ago but they went one better at La Chapelle Arena, winning a tense contest 22-20, 21-15.

Japan's Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida took bronze after beating Malaysia's Pearly Tan and Muralitharan Thinaah 21-11, 21-11.

China have topped the badminton medals table at the past six Olympics.



China's Wang Chang and China's Liang Weikeng

Zheng Qinwen makes history with Olympic singles gold

AFP | Paris, France

Zheng Qinwen became the first Chinese player to win Olympic tennis singles gold when she defeated Croatia's Donna Vekic yesterday, hailing her victory as a "proud" moment for herself and her country.

The 21-year-old came through 6-2, 6-3, winning only China's second ever tennis gold after Li Ting and Sun Ti-antian's women's doubles triumph at Athens in 2004.



Yulo wins historic gold for Philippines

AFP | wParis, France

Carlos Yulo triumphed yesterday in the men's floor exercise of the gymnastics in Paris for only the second Olympic gold in the history of the Philippines.

The 24-year-old broke down in tears after matching the achievement of weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz, who won gold at the Covid-delayed 2020 Tokyo Games. "I just went for it, I didn't hesitate," said Yulo.

The former world champion perfectly executed his routine, ending with a sure-footed landing to score 15.000 points. It sealed the first gymnastics Olympic medal ever for the Philippines. Defending champion

and world titleholder Artem Dolgopyat of Israel was pushed into silver with 14.966.

"The past months (in general) were hard. I had some problems with my leg and also the training was difficult," said the 27-year-old Dolgopyat. "It's a hard time in Israel. I tried to do my best in the competition, to show everyone that Israel is very strong and that we can win medals."

Britain's Jake Jarman, who had scored highest in qualifying a week ago, achieved 14.933 to take bronze at Bercy Arena.

Yulo had warned he was "shooting for the stars" in Paris after missing out on the podium in Tokyo. And his acrobatic and technically difficult routine proved a hit, scoring higher

than the 14.766 he had garnered in qualifying. "I'm so overwhelmed. I'm feeling grateful for having this medal and for God. He protected me, as always," said Yulo, who has a chance of another medal in the vault final on Sunday.

"He gave me the strength to get through this kind of performance and perform this well."

China's Xiao Ruoteng, the Tokyo floor bronze medallist, slumped to last in the eight-man final after hopping out of bounds after his opening jump to finish with 13.933.

Xiao had been bidding for gold to



add to his silver in the men's team event and bronze in the all-around competition at the Paris Games.

USA's Crouser wins record third consecutive Olympic shot put gold

AFP | Paris, France

World record-holder Ryan Crouser won an unprecedented third consecutive Olympic title in the men's shot put in Paris yesterday.

Crouser, who previously won at the 2016 Rio Games and in Tokyo in 2021, managed a season's best of 22.90 metres with

his third effort for victory at the Stade de France.

Crouser's US teammate Joe Kovacs snatched silver with his sixth and last attempt of 22.15m. Jamaican Rajindra Campbell took bronze. Other athletes to have won two consecutive shot put golds are the American pair of Ralph Rose (1904, 1908), Parry O'Brien (1952, 1956), and Po-

land's Tomasz Majewski (2008, 2012). It is the 20th time an American has won the event in 30 Olympics. Crouser's victory is all the more remarkable given his injury woes this season.

The American won the world indoor title in Glasgow in March, but since then has suffered two debilitating elbow injuries either

side of tearing a pectoral muscle.



US' Ryan Crouser competes in the men's shot put final

Alfred crowned Olympic sprint queen

AFP | Paris, France

Saint Lucia's Julien Alfred stunned US favourite Sha'Carri Richardson to win the Olympic women's 100m gold medal on Saturday, etching her name into history to claim the Caribbean nation's first ever medal at the Games.

Alfred -- who had never finished on the podium at a major outdoor championships prior to Saturday's final -- conjured a superb race to win in 10.72sec as Richardson took silver in 10.87sec and compatriot Melissa Jefferson won bronze in 10.92sec.

Richardson, the reigning world champion over 100m, had been hotly tipped to become the first American to win the coveted Olympic crown since Gail Devers in 1996.

But the 24-year-old Texan found herself outgunned by the powerfully built Alfred, who led from start to finish after exploding out of the blocks at a rainswept Stade de France.

Alfred's gold gave St. Lucia

their first ever medal of any colour at an Olympics. The island nation only began competing at the Games in 1996.

It was an incredible performance by Alfred, who had fired a warning shot across Richardson's bows in the semi-finals, finishing ahead of the American in 10.89sec. The semi-final proved to be an ominous portent for Richardson, who was slow out of the blocks and never looked like reeling in Alfred, who could even afford to ease up as she crossed the line to clinch gold.

Alfred was in tears of celebration after sealing a sensational win, running to ring the trackside victory bell before wrapping herself in her country's flag

and embracing her American rivals amid a deafening roar from the appreciative Parisian crowd.

Richardson meanwhile was left wondering what had gone with an Olympics campaign that had promised to deliver a gold.

The American, who upset the odds to win gold at last year's World Championships in Budapest, had been hoping to complete her journey to the pinnacle of her sport with Olympic gold in Paris.

Richardson had framed her campaign as a bid for redemption, coming three years after she was barred from competing at the Tokyo Olympics after testing positive for marijuana as she grieved the death of her biological mother.

Ledecky wins fourth Olympic 800m freestyle gold

AFP | Paris, France

American superstar Katie Ledecky powered to a fourth straight 800m freestyle title on Saturday to claim a ninth career Olympic gold, equalling the most ever won by a woman athlete in any sport. The 27-year-old hit the wall in 8min 11.04sec ahead of Australia's Ariarne Titmus (8:12.29) and the United States' Paige Madden (8:13.00)

The win was her 14th Olympic medal, with the victory at La Defense Arena re-writing the history books yet again.

A ninth gold drew her level with former Soviet-era artistic gymnast Larisa Latynina as the only woman ever to collect that many titles.

Paris Olympics medals table after Friday's events:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	13	9	31	53
France	11	12	13	36
Australia	11	6	5	22
United States	9	18	16	43
Britain	9	10	8	27
Japan	8	4	6	18
South Korea	7	5	4	16
Italy	5	8	4	17
Netherlands	4	3	2	9
Canada	3	2	6	11
Germany	2	3	2	7
New Zealand	2	3	1	6
Romania	2	3	1	6
Hungary	2	2	1	5
Hong Kong	2	0	2	4
Ireland	2	0	2	4
Croatia	2	0	1	3
Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2
Brazil	1	3	3	7
Sweden	1	2	2	5
Georgia	1	2	0	3
Switzerland	1	1	4	6
Spain	1	1	3	5
South Africa	1	1	2	4
Belgium	1	0	2	3
Kazakhstan	1	0	2	3
Uzbekistan	1	0	2	3
Guatemala	1	0	1	2
Czech Republic	1	0	1	2
Argentina	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Uganda	1	0	0	1
Serbia	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1
Israel	0	2	1	3
Mexico	0	2	1	3
North Korea	0	2	0	2
Greece	0	1	3	4
Poland	0	1	3	4
Kosovo	0	1	1	2
Turkey	0	1	1	2
Ukraine	0	1	1	2
Ethiopia	0	1	0	1
Fiji	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Tunisia	0	1	0	1
India	0	0	3	3
Moldova	0	0	2	2
Tajikistan	0	0	2	2
Austria	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Slovakia	0	0	1	1