

Thompson-Herah crowned sprint queen

Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah pulled off an unexpected victory to retain her Olympic 100 metres crown



Elaine Thompson-Herah of Jamaica celebrates after winning gold

● **Herah-Thompson took control of the race in the later stages**

AFP | Tokyo

Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah equalled the second-fastest time in history to retain her women's Olympic 100m title yesterday.

Thompson-Herah blazed to an Olympic-record 10.61sec, well ahead of crestfallen two-time winner Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, with Shericka Jackson completing an all-Jamaican podium.

"I am really excited to come back and retain my title. My chest hurts, I am so happy," said Thompson-Herah, whose time has only been bettered by world record holder Florence Griffith-Joyner.

Fraser-Pryce, the 2008 and 2012 champion, was attempting to become the first woman to win an individual athletics event three times but she floundered in Thompson-Herah's wake.

A spectacular light show lit up the track in the Olympic Stadium, devoid of fans because of coronavirus risks, and Thompson-Herah then provided the fireworks, pulling away in the later stages.

Nigeria's Blessing Okagbare, who had won her 100m heat, was thrown out of the event for failing a drugs test -- the first doping incident of the Games. Kenyan men's 100m runner Mark Odhiambo was also suspended for testing positive for steroids.

There was heartbreak for Britain's Dina Asher-Smith, who missed out on the 100m final and then pulled out of the 200m competition because of a hamstring injury.

American Trayvon Bromell, who owns the fastest time this year of 9.77sec, scraped into the men's 100m semis after timing 10.05 to finish fourth in his heat.

Sweden's Danel Stahl hurled 68.90m to win the men's discus finish ahead of teammate Simon Pettersson, sparking uproarious celebrations by the pair in the largely empty stadium.



Elaine Thompson-Herah of Jamaica celebrates winning the gold medal next to Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica who won the silver medal and Shericka Jackson of Jamaica who won the bronze medal

Biles's Olympics hanging by thread



Simone Biles, of the United States, waits to perform on the vault

Gymnastics superstar Simone Biles further slashed her Tokyo Olympics schedule over a crippling mental block yesterday.

Biles, the four-time Olympic champion widely considered the best that gymnastics has seen, dropped another two events after pulling out of the team competition and the women's all-around.

The 24-year-old is struggling with the "twisties", a temporary

condition where gymnasts lose the ability to orientate themselves in mid-air.

After withdrawing from the vault and uneven bars yesterday, she has just two events left on her schedule: the floor on Monday and the beam on Tuesday.

"We remain in awe of Simone, who continues to handle this situation with courage and grace," a USA Gymnastics statement said.

Swiss Bencic beats Vondrousova to win women's singles gold

World number 12 Belinda Bencic dug deep to overpower the Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova 7-5 2-6 6-3 yesterday and win the Tokyo Games women's singles title, becoming the first Swiss woman to earn an Olympics tennis gold.

The 24-year-old Bencic, who prevailed in two hours and 30 minutes, can now complete a set of gold medals when she and Viktorija Golubic face Czech No. 1 seeds Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova in the doubles final on Sunday.

Bencic is also the first Swiss to win a singles gold since Marc Rosset won the men's Olympic final in 1992, and could become just the fourth woman in history to claim the title as well as victory in the doubles.

Yesterday's final began with a nervy battle as both players struggled to hold their serve before Bencic finally edged the



Belinda Bencic of Switzerland reacts after winning her gold medal match against Marketa Vondrousova of Czech Republic

42nd-ranked Czech to take the first set.

Vondrousova went up a gear in the second, going up a double break to force the match into a decider.

Bencic took a medical timeout for a toe blister while leading 4-3 in the final set, but returned to break the Czech and serve out the victory, collapsing to the court in joy when Vondrousova sent a backhand return long.

Ledecky and Dressel surge in swimming

In swimming, Katie Ledecky and Caeleb Dressel added to their medal haul and took some sting off what has been a disappointing Games so far for the US swim team, whose eight golds are just half their tally from Rio.

Ledecky, who lost her 200 and 400 metre titles to Australia's Ariarne Titmus before beating her in the 1,500, yesterday became the first female swimmer to win six individual golds, cruising home in the 800 metres.

Taking control from the start, Ledecky increased her lead over Titmus from the 500m mark and came home more than a second ahead of her rival, winning the event for a



Caeleb Dressel, of the United States, swims in the men's 100-meter butterfly final

third straight Games, another first.

"She made it tough and so it was a lot of fun to race," Ledecky said.

World champion Dressel stormed to the 100m butterfly title in world record time, picking up his second individual gold to add to the gold he won in the 4x100 freestyle relay.

Taiwan scores two major wins in Badminton; India's Sindhu taken out

Taiwan beat China to the badminton men's doubles gold medal in one of several big moments yesterday that included India's PV Sindhu getting knocked out in the



Tai Tzu-Ying of Taiwan celebrates winning the match against P.V. Sindhu of India

women's singles semi-finals and an upstart from Guatemala making it into the men's.

Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin of Taiwan crushed China's Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen 21-18 21-12 in a match that lasted less than 35 minutes. Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik beat Indonesia to the bronze.

That wasn't Taiwan's only major win of the day.

In a clash between two of badminton's best players at the Tokyo Games, world number one women's singles shuttler Taiwan's Tai Tzu-Ying played a skilled game against Rio silver medallist Sindhu's powerful smashes.

Djokovic goes home empty-handed

Novak Djokovic smashed a racquet against the net post and hurled another into the empty stands in a spectacular meltdown as he lost the bronze medal match to Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta.

The Serbian world number one, who missed out on his chance at the first men's Golden Slam -- winning all four majors and the Olympics -- when he went down to Alexander Zverev in the semis, threw away a one-set lead to lose 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3.

Djokovic then pulled out of the mixed doubles bronze-medal match citing a left shoulder



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, reacts during the bronze medal match

injury, raising concerns over his US Open campaign in month's time.

Poland win first 4x400m mixed relay gold

Poland scored an upset win in the inaugural Olympic 4x400 metres mixed relay yesterday, with Dominican Republic picking up silver and the United States taking bronze.

The Polish team, comprised of Karol Zalewski, Natalia Kaczmarek, Justyna Swietly-Ersetic and Kajetan Duszynski, put on a gutsy performance inside the fan-free Olympic Stadium after posting the fastest time in Friday's heats.

It was the first Olympic medal for all four team mates,

who cheered and embraced as anchor leg runner Duszynski crossed the finish line in a time of three minutes and 9.87 seconds.

"I can't believe it. It is a dream since childhood. It has come true," Duszynski, 26, said after picking up Poland's first gold medal of the Tokyo Games.

The US were the favourites after winning the event at the 2019 World Championships. But they almost did not make the final after they were disqualified.