

Rapinoe and Lloyd fire US to bronze medal

Megan Rapinoe and Carli Lloyd doubles grab bronze for USA in thriller against Australia

● **Rapinoe scores direct from a corner to set USA on their way**

AFP | Tokyo

The United States women's team won the Olympics bronze medal with Megan Rapinoe and Carli Lloyd scoring two goals each in a 4-3 win over Australia in Kashima yesterday.

The Americans, World Cup winners in 2019, had gone into the Tokyo Games as heavy favourites for gold but after some underwhelming displays were beaten by Canada in the semi-finals.

For spells against the Australians, seeking their first medal in the sport, the old swagger of the US team was back with two of their veterans, in what could well be their final appearance in a major tournament, offering a reminder of their quality.

Rapinoe fired the US ahead in the eighth minute direct from a corner which Aussie keeper Teagan Michal flapped at.

Sam Kerr levelled for Australia in the 17th minute, her 48th goal for the Matildas making her their all-time top scorer.

Rapinoe restored the Americans'

advantage with a fine volley after a woeful attempted clearance from Alanna Kennedy looped across the box to the grateful forward.

The 39-year-old Lloyd produced a clinical finish to make it 3-1 just before the break, collecting a pass from Lindsey Horan and burying it, first time, into the far corner.

Another defensive error from Kennedy, this time a weak head back towards her keeper, gifted Lloyd her second which she slipped between Michal's legs to make it 4-1 in the 51st minute.

Three minutes later though, a Caitlin Foord header from a Kyah Simon cross brought Australia back into the match and Kerr then hit the post with a fine, glancing header.

But the Americans held firm until Aussie substitute Emily Gielnik added a third with a long-range effort in the 90th minute.

US coach Vlatko Andonovski, in charge of the side at a major tournament for the first time, said it had been a difficult competition for his team, who suffered a 3-0 defeat to Sweden in their opening group game.

"There were tough moments, it started really tough, that first loss made a mark for the rest of the tournament...but to finish the tournament with the game that we did, I am proud of the players," he said.

Carli Lloyd celebrates scoring their fourth goal with Megan Rapinoe



United States' Megan Rapinoe, left, scores her side's second goal

Australia's fourth place was their best ever finish in an Olympics tournament, but forward Steph Catley regretted missing out on a medal.

"Coming so close to a medal is heartbreaking, especially really taking it to the top teams in

the world and out-playing them at times and ... it just feels like we were right there and it's just been snapped from us. It's definitely tough to take," she said.

Sweden and Canada meet in the gold medal game today.

Gardiner takes 400m gold on night of firsts

Steven Gardiner of the Bahamas won the 400 metres yesterday, becoming the first athlete to win Olympic gold in an individual men's event in his country's history, after a carefully balanced race shut out the Americans over a distance they once dominated.

Anthony Zambrano of Colombia took silver, becoming the first male athlete from the South American nation to win an Olympic medal in athletics.

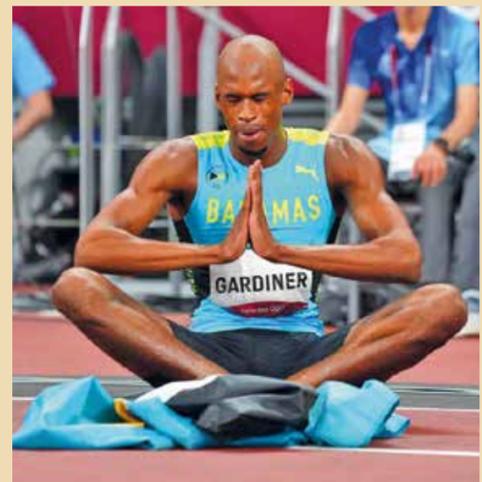
Kirani James of Grenada grabbed bronze, his third medal in the event and his country's first of the Games, after winning gold in 2012 and silver in 2016. He is the first athlete to win three Olympic medals in the men's 400m.

Gardiner, who sat on the track holding the palms of his hands together after winning in a season's best time of 43.85 seconds, stumbled out of the blocks and trailed midway through the race.

"I recovered, I kept it moving and with 200m to go, I started to push a little bit," he said. "And (with) 100m to go, I gave it all I've got."

"I came across the line and saw my name on the big screen and I was in first place," he told reporters. "I'm cherishing this moment. Olympic champion."

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Steven Gardiner of the Bahamas celebrates after winning gold

OLYMPIC MEDAL TABLE				
				TOTAL
China	33	24	16	73
USA	28	34	26	88
Japan	21	9	14	44
Australia	17	5	18	40
ROC	16	22	20	58
Great Britain	16	18	17	51
Germany	9	9	16	34
Italy	7	10	18	35
Netherlands	7	8	9	24
New Zealand	7	6	6	19
France	6	10	9	25
South Korea	6	4	9	19
Hungary	5	7	3	15
India	0	2	3	5

Aussie teen Palmer wins skateboarding gold

Flying Australian teen Keegan Palmer said he was "beyond stoked" after unleashing a top-secret trick to claim the inaugural men's park skateboarding Olympic gold medal.

Palmer, 18, threw down the gauntlet with 94.04 points in his first run of the final, before incredibly bettering his score to 95.83 in his third and last run.

That stunning mark came thanks to a kickflip 540 he had been saving for the occasion, after putting "blood, sweat and tears" into practising it.

"My last run, no one had seen it until this day," said the San Diego-based Palmer,



Australia's Keegan Palmer in action

who returned to Australia earlier this year to train for the Games.

"That was the game plan since the start of this year -- just have a solid plan and make sure no one knows what's happening. I came out

swinging."

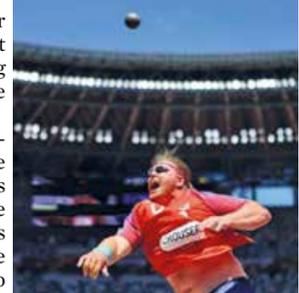
The spectacular trick comfortably gave Palmer the gold ahead of Brazilian silver medalist Pedro Barros (86.14) and America's Cory Juneau, who claimed bronze with 84.13.

Crouser sets shot record

American Ryan Crouser took the men's shot put gold medal yesterday, breaking his own Olympic record in the final.

Crouser was at his imperious best as he retained his title in one of the morning session's three gold-medal events at the Olympic stadium, breaking his own record three times in the final -- only the third person to ever achieve the feat.

"I had solidified the win by the end so I got a little more aggressive and chased that bigger throw and finally connected with it," he said after



Ryan Crouser of the United States in action

finishing with a mark of 23.30 metres, a whisker away from his June world record of 23.37.

Parchment beats hurdles world champion

Jamaican Hansle Parchment delivered one of the biggest shocks of the Tokyo Olympics athletics competition by beating world champion Grant Holloway in the men's 110 metres hurdles final yesterday.

Holloway had not lost a hurdles race since August last year and was the overwhelming favourite after breaking the world indoor record over 60m hurdles this year and missing the 110m record by one-hundredth of a second at the US Olympic trials.

The 23-year-old burst out of the blocks and looked set for gold until losing momentum



Jamaica's Hansle Parchment (L) crosses the finish line to win ahead of USA's Devon Allen

over the final two hurdles.

Parchment, 31, surged past him to win in a season-best time of 13.04 and add the gold medal to his London Olympic bronze.

India hockey team end four-decade medal drought

India won the bronze medal after a thrilling 5-4 victory over Germany at the Tokyo Games yesterday, giving the country its first Olympic hockey medal in more than forty years.

Germany took an early lead in the goal-rich match through a second-minute goal by Timur Oruz, and posed a threat to eight-time Olympic hockey champions India in the first quarter.

After Simranjeet Singh equal-

ised with a backhand shot for India, Germany kept their cool, scoring two goals to take a 3-1 lead in the second quarter.

But India pulled level late in that quarter thanks to goals by Hardik Singh and Harmanpreet Singh, making it 3-3 at the half-time break.

India then took a 5-3 lead after Rupinder Pal Singh notched in a penalty stroke and Simranjeet Singh scored his second of the match not long into the second half.



Players of India pose for a group photo after winning the match for bronze