



MEDIA INFO



PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES MEN'S ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS

Dramatic finish sweeps Japanese men to Olympic team title



Team Japan

Paris (FRA), 29 July 2024

A perfectly peaked Japanese men's team clinched the first gold medal in Gymnastics at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games 29 July, executing a classic come-from-behind victory as top qualifier People's Republic of China collapsed in the final moments of the competition.

Hashimoto Daiki, Kaya Kazuma, Oka Shinnosuke, Sugino Takaaki, and Tanigawa Wataru accumulated a golden score of 259.594 points after China erased a three-point advantage on Horizontal Bar, its final apparatus.

The USA was magnificent to edge Great Britain and Ukraine for bronze, its first Olympic medal in the men's team event in 16 years.

Japan stuns China in final rotation shocker

Japan's second team gold in eight years fulfills the long-held dream of reigning Olympic All-Around champion Hashimoto to return his team to the top of the podium after Japan narrowly missed out three years ago at Tokyo 2020.

But it took more than Hashimoto's will to make the gold happen. The 22-year-old fell off the Pommel Horse early in the competition, momentarily casting Japan out of the top three. At the halfway point of the competition, Japan sat in fifth place, though not out of striking distance.

And strike they did, with each member making important contributions to keeping its podium hopes alive. Hashimoto shrugged off his early mistake and returned to

contribute the top team score on Vault (14.900), then tied with teammate Sugino Takaaki for the best number on Horizontal Bar (14.566).

The pivotal rotation proved to be Parallel Bars, where three extraordinary scores — 14.733 from Kaya, 14.766 from Tanigawa Wataru, and 14.866 from Oka — moved them into second place.

Still, gold was China's to lose heading into the final rotation. Stellar routines from superstars like Liu Yang on Still Rings, Zou Jingyuan on Parallel Bars, and All-Around excellence from Zhang Boheng put them in a great position. Heading into the sixth and final rotation, China was still 3.2 points ahead.

Then came Horizontal Bar, where a botched dismount from Xiao Ruoteng erased some of China's advantage and two falls from Su Weide ate up the rest of it, leaving a stunned China to accept silver. Victorious at Beijing 2008 and London 2012, the Chinese have never finished off the podium since, and silver is an upgrade from the bronze they earned in Tokyo.

"We fought hard for today's gold medal," Hashimoto commented. "When I faltered on Pommel Horse, I thought I had let the team down, but my teammates encouraged me, saying we could still make it. There was some fear [before Horizontal Bar] as my performance would determine the medal's colour. But seeing my teammates fight bravely inspired me to do the same. Carrying everyone's hopes, I fought and felt happy in that moment."

Sixteen years later, the drought is finally over for the U.S. men

There was no such roller coaster from the USA, which earned bronze with the kind of team performance that gymnasts dream of giving at the Olympics: a night where brilliant routines flowed like water and stuck landings were frequent and plentiful.

Fifth after the first day like they have been at the last three Olympic Games, Asher Hong, Paul Juda, Brody Malone, Stephen Nedoroscik and Frederick Richard showed up Monday having completely absorbed the lessons of qualification. With a commitment to looking away from the scoreboard and staying within their bubble, the Americans were the only team not to commit a discernible error, resulting in its first Olympic medal since 2008.

The U.S.'s 257.793 was more than two points ahead of a British team that did not quite manage to reproduce its phenomenal qualification. Ukraine, Italy, Switzerland, and first-time Olympic finalist Canada rounded out the competition.



Men's team podium