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## PARIS 2024 - DAILY PREVIEW WOMEN'S ALL-AROUND FINAL

### Historic opportunity for Simone Biles in the women's All-Around final



***Simone Biles (USA)***

*Paris (FRA), 31 August 2024*

**The U.S. sensation could accomplish** something no gymnast has ever done in the Women's Artistic Gymnastics All-Around final Thursday at Bercy Arena.

Simone Biles and the U.S. women were on fire in Tuesday's team final. Now, what about the individual competition? The 27-year-old superstar returns to action chasing the coveted women's All-Around gold as her Olympic redemption tour continues three years post-Tokyo. And yes, the reigning World champion is the favourite to win.

Biles has been on a hot streak in the City of Light, where she has done eight routines in competition so far with no major errors. Four more clean routines would extend her Olympic legacy even further.

Rio 2016 All-Around champion Biles is now one of only nine female gymnasts to have earned eight or more Olympic medals. In the women's qualification round, Biles finished 1.866 points clear of close rival Rebeca Andrade (BRA).

Forty-eight hours after leading Brazil to its first ever team medal, Andrade stands on the brink of more history for her nation and is the only one who can come close to Biles's level of difficulty. Here in Paris there are signs that the three-time Olympic

medallist may not yet have shown her entire hand. If ever there is a time to add upgrades, it is now.

Others who could contend include Tokyo 2020 All-Around gold medallist Sunisa Lee (USA), whose presence adds a historic dimension to the competition. Never have two female Olympic All-Around champions gone head-to-head vying for a second crown, and no gymnast has won non-consecutive Olympic All-Around titles either. Biles could be the first.

The United States, who won the women's All-Around for the first time in 1984 and at each of the past five Olympic Games could win this event for a record seventh time at Paris 2024.

**How it will play out:** Twenty-four gymnasts contest the women's All-Around final. The group is composed of the gymnasts with the highest combined scores on all four apparatus from Sunday's qualification, with a maximum of two per country advancing.

All four apparatus will be in play at the same time. The top six from qualifying — Biles, Andrade, Lee, Kaylia Nemour (ALG) and Manila Esposito (ITA) — will begin on Vault, while those 7th to 12th will start on Uneven Bars. The 13th to 18th placed gymnasts begin on Balance Beam, with 19th-24th starting on Floor Exercise.

**Look out for:** Biles and Andrade are clearly the two in strongest contention for gold, but several others have strong chances of climbing onto the podium. This is a prime opportunity for the diligent Nemour, who has the potential to become the first African gymnast to win an Olympic medal. The 17-year-old Algerian finished just 0.166 behind Lee in the standings in qualification.

Keep an eye too on Esposito, Alice D'Amato (ITA), and Qiu Qiyuan (CHN), who come in ranked sixth, seventh, and eighth.

**Quote of the day:** "I don't keep count. I don't keep stats. I just go out here and do what I'm supposed to and do what I love, and I'm enjoying it. That's really all that matters to me." — Simone Biles (USA)

