



AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

Plumed figures appear as part of the closing ceremony in the Maracana stadium at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday.

Samba, reflections, pride in final Rio Olympics party

By **PETER PRENGAMAN** and **MAURICIO SAVARESE**
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Shaking to samba and expressing a sense of longing with uniquely Brazilian words, Olympians and fans said goodbye to the Rio Games with one last big bash that was both revelatory and a sigh of relief.

The closing ceremony Sunday celebrated the 16-day spectacle that was the Rio Games, which combined numerous highlights with ugly and even bizarre episodes that sometimes overshadowed competition. Cariocas — as Rio's residents are known — weren't swayed by the issues that led up to these Olympics, and braved rain and strong winds on the final night to cap their moment in the worldwide spotlight.

While South America's first Olympics are over, safely and with a grandiose finale, many problems remain. Still, Brazil showed Sunday it still definitely knows how to party.

"These were marvelous Olympic Games in the 'marvelous city,'" said International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, playing off the "cidade maravilhosa" nickname of Brazil's postcard city of inviting coastlines, year-round sun and lush tropical vegetation.

While the stadium erupted in applause at that declaration, a few minutes later there were boos of sadness when Bach announced: "I declare the Games of the XXXI Olympiad closed."

The closing ceremony in iconic Maracana Stadium was also meant to take care of some business — formally signaling the transition to the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan.

But Sunday's party was all about Brazil, designed to be



Yu Nakajima/Kyodo News
Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe appears as the Nintendo game character Super Mario during the closing ceremony at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday. Abe's brief, but show-stopping, appearance as Super Mario offered a tantalizing glimpse at Tokyo's plans for the 2020 games.

more low-key than the opening, which focused heavily on Rio.

The ceremony featured original footage of Alberto Santos Dumont, the man that Brazilians recognize as the inventor of the airplane. The theme, "Brazilians can do with their bare hands," was a nod to the emerging economy of the world's fifth most populous nation.

Dressed in colorful feathers, dozens of dancers formed in the shape of the arches of Lapa, a popular area of Rio akin to Roman ruins, then morphed to make the shape of iconic Sugarloaf before quickly changing again, this time to the official 2016 symbol.

Samba legend Martinho da Vila, whose tunes make their way into many popular telenovelas, sang "Carinhoso," or "Affectionate."

Olympians poured in under

light rain, waving their flags while many shook their bodies to samba-infused pop that made the stadium feel like a Carnival parade. Britain's athletes wore shoes with soles that lit up in changing colors of red, white and blue, while Tongan taekwondo athlete Pita Taufatofua danced onstage in a grass skirt as a DJ performed, reprising a moment that captured attention when he carried the flag for his country during the opening ceremony.

The show widened its lens to greater Brazil, a massive country with a land mass slightly larger than the continental United States. There was a tribute to cave paintings of some of the first inhabitants of the Americas, in Serra da Capivara, in Northeastern Brazil, today one of the nation's poorest regions.

Spectators watched performers shake it to frevo, a frenetic dance that — if it's even possible — makes high-octane samba seem like a staid ballroom affair. Holding small umbrellas, dancers jumped and marched while performing acrobatics.

They shook it to "Vassourinhas," which means "small brooms," a popular song that was also the name of a famous club in the northeastern city of Recife.

The show also built performances around "saudade," which means anything from longing for someone to sadness to remembering good times. It is one of the most important words in Brazilian Portuguese. Lights flashed translations for the word in many languages, and a group of women sang "Mulher Rendeira," or "Lace-making Woman," a nod to the country's African heritage. Brazil was the last country in the Americas to outlaw slavery, in 1888.

Team USA takes Olympics medal race with ease in Rio

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO — The U.S. Olympic Team made itself right at home in Rio.

The British, they had a Games to savor as well.

The host Brazilians got soccer gold that they craved, the Russians struggled on the heels of the exposure of a state-sponsored doping program, and the Chinese finished well below expectations.

So went the medal race at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, where the Americans — with women leading the way — dominated both the gold and overall totals. The U.S. finished with 46 gold medals and 121 medals overall, its 51-total-medal margin over second-place China the largest in a non-boycotted Olympics in nearly a century.

"This experience has been the dream of a lifetime for me," said U.S. gymnast and closing ceremony flag-bearer Simone Biles, who won five medals, four of them gold, in her first Olympics.

Olympics concluded Sunday, Aug. 21

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	46	37	38	121
2	China	26	18	26	70
3	United Kingdom	27	23	17	67
4	Russia	19	18	19	56
5	Germany	17	10	15	42
6	France	10	18	14	42
7	Japan	12	8	21	41
8	Australia	8	11	10	29
9	Italy	8	12	8	28
10	Canada	4	3	15	22

AP

For the fourth consecutive games, U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps left with more medals than anyone else. He won six in Rio, while Biles and U.S. swimmer Katie Ledecky each won five to lead to lead a big haul from American women.

U.S. women left Rio with 27 golds — by far the most among any team of female Olympians at these games — and 61 medals total. U.S. track

star Allyson Felix, now a six-time gold medalist and a winner of nine medals in all, was particularly delighted to learn that women are bringing more medals home to American than the men.

"Got 'em," Felix said, smiling.

By now, the Americans winning the medal race is almost commonplace. But the significance in Rio were the sheer amounts of hardware.

The previous record for U.S. medals at a fully attended Olympics was 110, set at Beijing eight years ago. And the margin between first and second in the overall medals race this year tops all others (the boycotted games of 1980 and 1984 excluded) since the Americans won 67 more medals than Italy did at the 1932 Los Angeles Games.

"We weren't sure we were going to have that kind of success coming in," said USOC CEO Scott Blackmun, noting the track and swimming teams had plenty of first-time Olympians.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE
THURSDAY
Volleyball — Astoria at Santiam Christian, 1 p.m.; Astoria vs. Sisters

(at Santiam Christian), 2 p.m.; Seaside at Warrenton, 5:30 p.m.
FRIDAY
Cross Country — Seaside at Willsonville Night Meet, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY
Volleyball — Warrenton Tournament, 9 a.m.
Girls Soccer — Astoria vs. Cottage Grove, at McMinnville, 1 p.m.

COLUMBIA
AUTO GROUP
FORD • LINCOLN • HYUNDAI
700 7th AVENUE • LONGVIEW, WA • 360-423-4321

LINCOLN
LINCOLN LUXURY HOMETOWN SERVICE
Lifetime roadside assistance with your new Lincoln

2016 Lincoln MKC

Retail Cash: \$2,250
0% APR for 60 months OAC



Starting at
\$32,720

2016 Lincoln MKZ Sedan

Retail Cash: \$3,500
0% APR for 60 months OAC



Starting at
\$35,010

2016 Lincoln MKX

Retail Cash: \$1,000
0% APR for 60 months OAC



Starting at
\$38,260

2016 Lincoln MKS

0% APR for 60 months OAC



Starting at
\$39,010

2017 Lincoln Continental



Starting at
\$44,560

2016 Lincoln Navigator

Retail Cash: \$2,000
0% APR for 60 months OAC



Starting at
\$63,195

"Our Reputation Rides With You"

When servicing your car at Columbia receive a complimentary car wash, vacuum and rental car

NO SALES TAX TO OREGON BUYERS

OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY • CLOSED SUNDAY • COME BROWSE

WWW.COLUMBIAAUTOGROUP.COM