

Eaton, Bolt shine in track and field

Bolt sprints to 200M gold, Eaton retains decathlon title

By GERALD IMRAY
Associated Press



United States' Ashton Eaton competes in the 1500-meter decathlon during the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Thursday.



Usain Bolt crosses the line to win the gold medal in the men's 200-meter final.

RIO DE JANEIRO — Ashton Eaton retained his title as the best all-around athlete in the world by tying the decathlon Olympic record and, within minutes, had stepped back for track and field's ultimate superstar to take center stage again.

What more could the now two-time Olympic champion Eaton do on Thursday night to get just a sliver of the lime-light that shines so brightly wherever Usain Bolt goes.

Not much. Eaton made it back-to-back Olympic and world titles in the decathlon, an event the 28-year-old American has ruled since he rebounded from silver at the worlds in 2011 to claim the next four major gold medals available. From throwing, to jumping, to running, Eaton can do it all.

But then Bolt — the Jamaican who just deals in speed — roared around the bend at the Olympic Stadium to win the 200 meters in 19.78 seconds, completing act two of his three-part quest for gold and history in Rio.

The 4x100-meter relay final is all that's left now between Bolt and an historic triple of three gold medals at three straight Olympics. Concentrating on not messing that up for Bolt, a Jamaica team led by Asafa Powell got into the final, but only finished second in their

heat behind Japan. The American men's 4x100 team qualified fastest for the relay final with a season's-best 37.65.

Wednesday delivered an "awesome hour" for the American team on the track. By Thursday night, that had evolved into a pretty great 24 hours.

Alongside Eaton's triumph, Ryan Crouser led an American one-two in the shot put, also setting an Olympic record of 22.52 meters to beat world champion Joe Kovacs. Tomas Walsh of New Zealand won bronze.

Dalilah Muhammad kept the U.S. total ticking with gold in the women's 400-meter hurdles and Ashley Spencer added a bronze, with another Amer-

ican 1-2 in that race only just thwarted by Denmark's Sara Slott Petersen. Earlier, Kerron Clement won his first individual gold at the Olympics in the men's 400 hurdles.

"We are making history out here," Muhammad said of the U.S. team's gold rush.

With three days of competition to come, the United States was up to 24 medals in track and field, including eight gold.

For a few short moments on Day 7 the track and field competition, the U.S. women's 4x100 relay team was a little like Bolt: They were the only ones everyone was looking at.

Tianna Bartoletta nestled into the starting blocks in lane 2 for the U.S. team's re-run — on their own and

against the clock only — after they fumbled the baton in their original qualifier, but got another chance following a protest.

With just the clock and the crowd for company, they took the baton around in 41.77 seconds to knock slowest-qualifier China out the final.

"We were laughing and joking out there," English Gardner said. "Our coach said before we went out there, 'It's just like practice, just the whole world will be watching. Be patient, stay patient with each other, and just do your job.'"

Eaton finished with 8,893 points, incredibly matching exactly the Olympic record after 10 energy-sapping events. He finished third in the last event, the 1,500, to win gold from France's Kevin Mayer on 8,834 points. Canada's Damian Warner took the bronze.

Eaton has confirmed his status as the dominant decathlete of his time.

"To win two Olympic golds in a row like Daley Thompson is very special," he said, referring to the great British decathlete who won in 1980 and '84.

Eaton had briefly darted away from the decathlon in the morning session to congratulate Clement as his teammate knelt exhausted in the midday sun after the hurdles final. Clement was so confident of a first Olympic individual gold, he had his mother, Claudette, bring a star-spangled banner so he could drape it over his shoulders.

"We had a flag at home and I told her to bring the flag. I knew I was going to win," Clement said.

Brazilian police say Lochte, US swimmers were not robbed

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian police said Thursday that swimmer Ryan Lochte and three U.S. teammates were not robbed after a night of partying, and the intoxicated athletes instead vandalized a gas station bathroom and were questioned by armed guards before they paid for the damage and left.



Lochte

The robbery that was or wasn't has become the biggest spectacle outside of the Olympic venues in Rio, casting a shadow over American athletes amid an otherwise remarkable run at the Summer Games. The ordeal was also a blow to Brazilians, who for months endured scrutiny about whether the city could keep athletes and tourists safe given its long history of violence.

"No robbery was committed against these athletes. They were not victims of the crimes they claimed," Civil Police Chief Fernando Veloso said during a news conference.

The police account came in direct contrast to claims from Lochte's attorney earlier in the week. The attorney, Jeff Ostrow, had insisted the swimmer had nothing to gain by making the story up. He, as well as Lochte's father and agent, did not return phone calls seeking comment.

The swimmers could potentially face punishment — probation, suspension, a fine or expulsion — under USA Swimming's code of conduct. It was not clear if the swimmers would face criminal charges, though police said the athletes could be charged with destruction of property, falsely reporting a crime or both.

Two of the swimmers — Gunnar Bentz and Jack Conger — checked in to a flight out of Brazil late Thursday after a judge lifted the order seizing their passports and keeping them in the country. They had testified about the incident earlier in the day, and Brazilians chanted "liar" as they left the police building. "They did not lie in their statements. They never lied to journalists. They only stayed quiet. They did not know what was going on," attorney Sergio Riera said.

The last swimmer in Rio, Jimmy Feigen, provided an updated statement to police, U.S. Olympic officials said, and hoped to get his passport back shortly to return

home.

The saga began when Lochte claimed that he and his teammates were held at gunpoint and robbed several hours after the last Olympic swimming races ended. But police then said they didn't have evidence to substantiate the story. Their passports were ordered seized so the investigation could continue, but Lochte had already left the country.

While some details in the official account of the story changed on Thursday — police first said no guns were involved, then said two guards pointed weapons at the swimmers — security video confirmed the athletes vandalized parts of the gas station, leading to an encounter with station employees.

The closed-circuit video shows one of the swimmers pulling a sign off of a wall and dropping it onto the ground. A gas station worker arrives, and other workers inspect the damage. Veloso said the swimmers broke a door, a soap dispenser and a mirror.

The swimmers eventually talk with station workers as their cab leaves.

As they talk, two of the swimmers briefly raise their hands and all four sit down on a curb. After a few minutes, the swimmers stand up and appear to exchange something — perhaps cash, as police said — with one of the men.

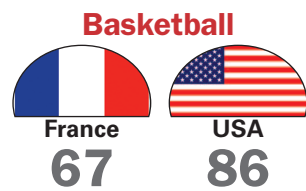
The footage doesn't show a weapon, but a police official speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing said two guards pointed guns during the encounter. Veloso said the guards did not use excessive force and would have been justified in drawing their weapons because the athletes "were conducting themselves in a violent way."

A station employee called police, and the guards and employees tried to get the swimmers and the taxi driver to stay until authorities arrived, some even offering to help interpret between English and Portuguese, Veloso said. But he said the athletes wanted to leave, so paid 100 Brazilian reals (about US \$33) and \$20 in U.S. currency and left.

Conger and Bentz told authorities that the story of the robbery had been fabricated, said the police official who spoke to the AP about the guns.

US women advance to gold medal game

By DOUG FEINBERG
Associated Press



RIO DE JANEIRO — Missing its starting point guard, the U.S. women's basketball team struggled for a half to find its offensive rhythm before pulling away from France and moving one win away from capturing a sixth consecutive gold medal.

Diana Taurasi scored 18 points and Maya Moore added 15 to help the Americans beat France 86-67 on Thursday night in the semifinals.

It was the closest game of the Olympics for the Americans, who will face Spain on Saturday and advanced without injured guard Sue Bird. Spain and the U.S. played in the preliminary round and the U.S. won that one by 40. The Americans also beat Spain in the 2014 world championship by 13.

Thursday's game against France was a rematch of the 2012 London Games gold medal contest. The U.S. won that one by 36 points, but had a much harder time in this one without Bird. The point guard sprained her right knee capsule in the

quarterfinals and has been listed as day-to-day. She had started every game for the U.S. the past three Olympics and been a calming influence on offense for the Americans.

The U.S. had cruised through its first six games, winning by nearly 42 points a game and scoring at a record pace. Without Bird, the Americans looked discomfited at times on offense against France. The team that was averaging 105 points and 30 assists was held to just 40 points in the opening 20 minutes and just four assists.

The U.S. held a slim 40-36 at the break, the closest any team had been to the Americans at the half since Australia led them in the semifinals of the 2012 Olympics.

But the Americans (7-0) started playing a better on both ends of the court in the decisive third quarter. As the starters were about to take



United States' Brittney Griner (15) drives to the basket past France's Olivia Epoupa, left, and Gaelle Skrela, right, during a semifinal game at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Thursday.

the court for the start of the second half, Bird huddled them up could be seen offering words of encouragement and instructions.

The team seemed to get the message, going on a 14-5 run to start the period, including two 3-pointers by Diana Taurasi that gave the Americans some breathing room. Though the U.S. outscored France 25-8 in the period, it had two 24-second shot clock violations. It was rare in the first seven games if the shot clock ever got under five

seconds.

The Americans led by 21 at the end of the third quarter, but France (4-3) didn't quit. The French cut the lead to 11 in the fourth, but could get no closer.

It was only the second time in Rio that the U.S. didn't reach 100 points in a game. But it did get the win and now has 48 consecutive Olympic victories.

Marianne Johannes scored 13 to lead France, which will play Serbia for the bronze medal on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

Olympics

TODAY	TV SCHEDULE
NBC	Equestrian - Individual Jumping Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Canoe/Kayak - Sprint Semifinals; Synchronized Swimming - Team Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Men's Volleyball - Semifinal (LIVE); Cycling - BMX Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Women's Water Polo - Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Equestrian - Individual Jumping Gold Medal Final; Rhythmic Gymnastics - Individual Qualifying, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Track & Field - Gold Medal Finals (LIVE); Women's Pole Vault, Men's Hammer, Women's 5000m, Women's 4x100m Relay, Men's 4x100m Relay; Men's Diving - Platform Qualifying, 8-10:30 p.m.; Canoe/Kayak - Sprint Semifinals, 11:35 p.m.-12:35 a.m.
NBCSN	Men's Track & Field - 50k Walk Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Men's Wrestling - Freestyle Qualifying (LIVE); Taekwondo - Qualifying; Rhythmic Gymnastics - Individual Qualifying; Men's Basketball - Semifinal (LIVE); Women's Soccer - Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Men's Handball - Semifinal (LIVE); Women's Modern Pentathlon; Boxing - Semifinal; Taekwondo - Gold Medal Finals, 7 a.m.-Midnight.
MSNBC	Women's Badminton - Singles Gold Medal Final; Women's Soccer - Bronze Medal (LIVE); Women's Modern Pentathlon; Men's Handball - Semifinal (LIVE); Women's Field Hockey - Gold Medal Final (LIVE), 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
USA	Men's Badminton - Singles Semifinal; Women's Water Polo - Bronze Medal (LIVE); Women's Field Hockey - Bronze Medal (LIVE); Men's Badminton - Singles Semifinal, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
CNBC	Men's Wrestling - Freestyle Gold Medal Finals (LIVE); Men's Basketball - Semifinal (LIVE), 5-8 p.m.
GOLF CHANNEL	Golf Central Live From the Olympics, 5-6:30 a.m. & 3-5 p.m.; Women's Golf - 3rd Round (LIVE), 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
NBC BASKETBALL CHANNEL	Men's Basketball - Semifinal 1 (LIVE), Semifinal 1 Encore; Semifinal 2 (LIVE), Semifinal 2 Encore, 2:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m.
NBC SOCCER CHANNEL	Women's Soccer - Bronze Medal (LIVE), Bronze Medal encore, Gold Medal Final (LIVE), Medal Ceremony (LIVE), Gold Medal Final encore, Medal Ceremony encore, Noon-Midnight.
Decathlon	

Thursday's scores and results
BASKETBALL
Women Semifinals
Spain 68, Serbia 54
United States 86, France 67
FIELD HOCKEY
Men
Bronze Medal
Germany 1, Netherlands 1, Germany wins 4-3 shootout
Gold Medal
Argentina 4, Belgium 2
TEAM HANDBALL
Women Semifinals
France 24, Netherlands 23
Russia 38, Norway 37
VOLLEYBALL
Women Semifinals
Serbia 3, United States 2 (20-25, 25-17, 25-21, 16-25, 15-13)
China 3, Netherlands 1, (27-25, 23-25, 29-27, 25-23)
WATER POLO
Men 5-8 Classification
Hungary 13, Brazil 4
Greece 9, Spain 7
Semifinals
Croatia 12, Montenegro 8
Serbia 10, Italy 8
TRACK & FIELD
Men 200M Final
1. Usain Bolt, Jamaica, 19.78.
2. Andre de Grasse, Canada, 20.02.
3. Christophe Lemaitre, France, 20.12.
6. Lashawn Merritt, United States, 20.19.
400 Hurdles Final
1. Kerron Clement, United States, 47.73.
2. Boniface Muecheni Tumuti, Kenya, 47.78.
3. Yasmani Copello, Turkey, 47.92.
Shot Put Final
1. Ryan Crouser, United States, (22.52), 73-10 1-2.
2. Joe Kovacs, United States, (21.78), 71-5 1-2.
3. Tomas Walsh, New Zealand, (21.36), 70-1.

Final Standings
1. Ashton Eaton, United States, 8893 points
2. Kevin Mayer, France, 8834
3. Damian Warner, Canada, 8666
Women 400 Hurdles Final
1. Dalilah Muhammad, United States, 53.13.
2. Sara Slott Petersen, Denmark, 53.55.
3. Ashley Spencer, United States, 53.72.
Javelin Throw Final
1. Sara Kolak, Croatia, (66.18), 217-1 1-2.
2. Sunette Viljoen, South Africa, (64.92), 212-12.
3. Barbora Spotakova, Czech Republic, (64.80), 212-7 1-4.
BADMINTON Men Doubles Bronze Medal
Marcus Ellis and Chris Langridge, Britain, def. Chai Biao and Hong Wei, China, 21-18, 19-21, 21-10.
Women Doubles Bronze Medal
Jung Kyung Eun and Shin Seung Chan, South Korea, def. Yu Yang and Tang Yuanting, China, 21-8, 21-17.
Gold Medal
1. Ayaka Takahashi and Misaki Matsutomo, Japan, def. Kamilla Rytter Juhl and Christinna Pedersen, Denmark, 18-18, 21-21, 21-21.
BEACH VOLLEYBALL Men Bronze Medal
Alexander Brouwer and Robert Meeuwis, Netherlands, def. Konstantin Semenov and Viacheslav Krasilnikov, Russia, 23-21, 22-20.
Gold Medal
Cerutti Alison and Oscar Schmidt Bruno, Brazil, def. Nicolai Paolo and Lupo Daniele, Italy, 21-19, 21-17.
BOXING Men's Bantam (56kg) Semifinals
Shakur Stevenson, United States, def. Vladimir Nikitin, Russia, walkover.
Robeisy Ramirez, Cuba, def. Murodjon Akhmadaliev, Uzbekistan, 3-0.
Men's Middle (75kg) Semifinals
Arlen Lopez, Cuba, def. Kamran Shakhshu-

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Chicago	57	63	475	12%
Minnesota	49	72	405	21
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	72	50	590	—
Seattle	64	56	533	7
Houston	61	60	504	10½
Oakland	52	69	430	19½
Los Angeles	51	70	421	20½
Thursday's Games				
Detroit 4, Boston 3				
Baltimore 13, Houston 5				
Cleveland 5, Chicago White Sox 4				
Kansas City 8, Minnesota 1				
L.A. Angels 6, Seattle 4				
Friday's Games				
Houston (McHugh 7-10) at Baltimore (Miley 7-10), 4:05 p.m.				
Boston (Porcello 16-3) at Detroit (Fulmer 10-3), 4:10 p.m.				
Texas (Hamels 12-4) at Tampa Bay (Andriese 6-4), 4:10 p.m.				
Toronto (Liriano 6-12) at Cleveland (Bauer 9-5), 4:10 p.m.				
Oakland (Graveman 8-8) at Chicago White Sox (Shields 5-14), 5:10 p.m.				
Minnesota (Berrios 2-3) at Kansas City (Volquez 9-10), 5:15 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 9-4) at L.A. Angels (Weaver 8-10), 7:05 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Suter 0-0) at Seattle (LeBlanc 2-0), 7:10 p.m.				
NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	71	49	592	—
Miami	62	59	512	9½
New York	60	61	496	11½
Philadelphia	57	65	467	15
Atlanta	44	77	364	27½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	77	43	642	—
St. Louis	64	56	533	13
Pittsburgh	62	56	525	14
Milwaukee	52	68	433	25
Cincinnati	51	69	425	26
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	67	53	558	½
San Francisco	67	54	554	1
Colorado	58	63	479	9½
San Diego	51	70	421	17
Arizona	50	71	413	18
Thursday's Games				
Chicago Cubs 9, Milwaukee 6 Philadel-				

phia 5, L.A. Dodgers 4				
Cincinnati 5, Miami 4				
Washington 8, Atlanta 2				
San Diego 9, Arizona 7				
San Francisco 10, New York 7				
Friday's Games				
Miami (Koehler 9-8) at Pittsburgh (Cole 7-8), 4:05 p.m.				
St. Louis (Wainwright 9-7) at Philadelphia (Morgan 1-7), 4:05 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Norris 6-9) at Cincinnati (Adleman 1-1), 4:10 p.m.				
Washington (Roark 13-6) at Atlanta (Teheran 9-9), 4:35 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 11-7) at Colorado (Anderson 4-4), 5:40 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Suter 0-0) at Seattle (LeBlanc 2-0), 7:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Matz 9-8) at San Francisco (Cueto 13-3), 7:15 p.m.				
Arizona (Greinke 11-4) at San Diego (Cosart 0-1), 7:40 p.m.				
Wildcard Standings AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	67	53	558	—
Boston	67	53	558	—
Seattle	64	56	533	3
Detroit	64	57	529	3.5
NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	67	54	554	+2½
St. Louis	64	56	533	—
Pittsburgh	62	56	525	1
Miami	62	59	51	