

## OLYMPICS

SUMMER GAMES TOKYO  
MEDAL TRACKER

Team	🥇	🥈	🥉	T
USA	13	12	10	35
China	13	6	9	28
Russia	7	11	7	25
Japan	13	4	5	22
Australia	7	2	9	18

Results as of 8 p.m. Wednesday

Swim: Dressel,  
Finke win golds

Living up to the hype, American swimmer Caeleb Dressel claimed the first individual Olympic gold medal of his career Thursday in the 100-meter freestyle.

Dressel held off the defending Olympic champion, Australia's Kyle Chalmers, with a furious sprint to the wall. The winning time was an Olympic record of 47.02 seconds.

Dressel beat Chalmers by a mere six-hundredths of a second, leaving the 2016 winner with a silver medal. The bronze was claimed by Russia's Kliment Kolesenikov.

Earlier Thursday, Bobby Finke of the United States captured gold in the debut of the men's 800-meter freestyle. Italy's Gregorio Paltrinieri grabbed the silver after leading most of the race, while the bronze went to Mykhailo Romachuk of Ukraine.

It was a thrilling finish. Germany's Florian Wellbrock grabbed the lead from Paltrinieri on the final flip, with Finke lurking back in fourth. But the American turned on a dazzling burst of speed at the end of the 16-lap race, passing all three swimmers ahead of him to take the gold.

Gymnastics: Teen  
wins gold for Japan

Japanese teenager Daiki Hashimoto won a gold medal in men's all-around Wednesday.

The 19-year-old Hashimoto used a thrilling high bar routine during the final rotation to edge Xiao Ruoteng of China and reigning world champion Nikita Nagornyy.

Hashimoto's all-around total of 88.465 points included a 14.933 on high bar. That was good enough for him to surge past Xiao and into the top spot. The gold is the third straight Olympic title for the Japanese gymnast. Kohei Uchimura won in 2012 and 2016.

The win was also a bit of redemption for Hashimoto. He thought his high bar set during the team final lifted Japan to gold but Nagornyy's rock-solid floor exercise did just enough to give the Russian Olympic Committee the title.

Men's basketball:  
U.S. routs Iran

It wasn't just that the U.S. had been losing. It was that the level of play was practically un-American.

Playing passively and passing up open shots isn't the way its players became basketball's best. And when it resulted in them dropping their Olympic opener, the Americans decided to do something about it.

"After that loss we came together," guard Damian Lillard said. "It was a lot of communication between then and now where it's like, All right. It's time to start looking like Team USA."

Lillard scored 21 points and the Americans got back to winning with their first victory of these Olympics, romping past Iran 120-66 on Wednesday.

—Associated Press

## Prep sports | water polo

## Returning to the pool



High school water polo practice is underway at Juniper Swim & Fitness Center in Bend. Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

*After no season of any kind last year, local high school water polo players are excited for fall matches*

BY BRIAN RATHBONE  
The Bulletin

It was a year of drawing short straws for Oregon high school sports in 2020-21. Perhaps no sport drew a shorter straw than water polo.

While most sports over the past academic year endured postponed and shortened seasons played during atypical times of the year, water polo was left on the deck without any sort of season.

But since the first week of June, Central Or-

egon water polo players have been back at the Juniper Swim & Fitness Center in Bend getting ready for a normal fall high school season that is quickly approaching.

"I was bummed about it — all the other sports were doing something," said Summit junior Eric Verheyden. "I was really happy when I heard it was starting back up because I could get back in the pool and get back in shape for the upcoming season."

Bend High senior Evan MacFarland shared a similar sentiment.

"I was looking forward to it because I was needing a way to get exercise," MacFarland said.

The last time that MacFarland and Verheyden suited up for their respective teams was fall 2019.

Water polo is not sanctioned by the Oregon School Activities Association, so when the OSAA would meet to put together a plan for the return of high school sports, water polo was not part of those discussions. That, combined with the restrictions on pool usage due to COVID-19, led to no water polo season being held last year.

See [Water polo](#) / A7

FOR BILES, PEACE COMES  
WITH A PRICE — THE GOLD

BY WILL GRAVES

Associated Press

TOKYO — When you spend the better part of a decade redefining the possible within your sport, the standards change. Good is no longer good enough. Sometimes, great isn't either.

Simone Biles received a crash course on it five years ago in Rio de Janeiro.

The American gymnastics star had already won three gold medals at the 2016 Olympics when she began her routine in the beam finals. Midway through her set, the then 19-year-old lost her balance, as tends to happen when trying to execute world-class skills on a piece of wood narrower than the average iPhone. She reached down to steady herself, preserving a bronze in the process.

She was pumped. Others weren't. "People were really upset," Biles told The Associated Press in May. "I'm like, 'Guys it's still a medal for myself. If anybody else was going to get bronze they would have been cheering but it was Simone so they were, like, pissed.'"

Fast forward to team finals in



Simone Biles, of the United States, watches gymnasts perform after she exited the team final at the 2020 Summer Olympics Tuesday in Tokyo.

Tokyo on Tuesday night, when the "demons" Biles has been grappling with for years proved to be too much. Spooked when she couldn't get comfortable on vault and burdened by what she described as the "weight of the world," the 24-year-old instead took herself out of competition.

"I didn't want to go out there and do something dumb and get hurt and be negligent," she said after the Americans took the silver. "So, I

knew for myself that I had to take a step back."

Biles also withdrew from Thursday's all-around competition to focus on her mental well-being.

USA Gymnastics said in a statement on Wednesday that the 24-year-old is opting to not compete. Jade Carey, who finished ninth in qualifying and is enrolled at Oregon State University, will take Biles' place in the all-around.

See [Biles](#) / A6

## PAC-12 FOOTBALL

Beavers have  
depth at QB,  
but who will  
start season?

BY STEVE GRESS

Corvallis Gazette-Times

Oregon State head football coach Jonathan Smith believes that competition helps bring out the best in players.

He anticipates that will be the case in the quarterback room, where the Beavers have several candidates to take over the starting job for this coming season.

Training camp gets started at the end of next week and the Beavers will be looking to see which quarterback emerges as the leader of the offense.

The Beavers return two quarterbacks who saw extended action last season.

Tristan Gebbia started the first four games before suffering a season-ending leg injury. He completed 80 of 129 passes for 824 yards with three touchdowns and three interceptions and helped lead the Beavers to an upset of Oregon before he was hurt on the game-winning drive.

Smith said Gebbia should be ready to go when camp starts.

"I think he's got a great skill set," Smith said at the Pac-12's media day on Tuesday. "Understands the scheme, good leader. Has won games for us."

See [Beavers](#) / A7