## Commonwealth Games kicks off in England

By Courtney Walsh

The Associated Press

IRMINGHAM, England — Alex Yee won the first gold medal of this year's Commonwealth Games. Hayden Wilde provided the first bit of sportsmanship.

Yee and Wilde were almost level during the concluding 5-kilometer run in the men's triathlon when the latter learned he had been handed a 10-second penalty for an infraction at the end of the cycling leg. Rather than challenge for the finish line, Wilde slowed so Yee could cross first and celebrate his victory.

"It's just wicked," said Yee, an Englishman who won a silver medal for Britain at last year's Tokyo Olympics. "This is my first Commonwealth Games (and I'm) just soaking it up. (There are) thousands of people on the course and I just wanted to enjoy it."

The 24-year-old Yee was running nearly even with Wilde when the New Zealander learned about the sanction for failing to store his helmet correctly after the cycling leg. Competitors are not allowed to unstrap their helmets before their bike is racked.



Although he later disputed the ruling, Wilde relinquished his lead and applauded as Yee passed by near the finish. Wilde settled for a silver medal.

"I felt it was a little unfair," Wilde said of the penalty. "But that's racing at the end of

Yee was in 16th place after the swim leg, but rode strongly to start his favored running leg in fifth and within reach of the leaders. Wilde finished behind Yee in Tokyo also, taking the triathlon bronze medal.

On a historic day at Edgbaston, Australia won the first women's cricket match ever played in the Commonwealth Games by three wickets over India.

Prior to the match, Indian cricket great

COMMONWEALTH GAMES. India's Deenti Sharma, front, celebrates with Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur after dismissing Australia's Rachael Haynes during the women's cricket T20 preliminary round match between India and Australia in Birmingham, England, on July 29, 2022. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup) Sachin Tendulkar said he hoped the inclusion of the sport would take "our beautiful game to newer audiences."

It was a great start.

An early highlight saw Australia wicketkeeper Alyssa Healy become the first player of either sex to claim 100 dismissals in the Twenty20 format of the sport.

Healy's joy did not extend to batting, with the opener dismissed on the second ball of the Australian innings.

But with Ashleigh Gardner scoring an unbeaten 52 runs, the Australians regrouped from early trouble to triumph with one over remaining.

Fresh from her stunning debut at the world swimming championships in June, Summer McIntosh of Canada was dominant in winning her heat in the 400-meter individual medley.

Olympic champion Ariarne Titmus, who skipped the worlds in Budapest, was an easy winner in her heat in the 200 freestyle

## Tokyo chosen to host 2025 track world championships

EUGENE. Ore. (AP) — Track and field officials have awarded the 2025 world championships to Tokyo, bringing runners, jumpers, and throwers back to the home of last year's Olympics, where they competed in front of mostly empty stands.

The World Athletics Council awarded the championships in a bidding contest that also included Nairobi, Kenya; Silesia, Poland; and Singapore.

Japan spent more than \$1.4 billion to build the stadium for the Olympics, which were postponed by one year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, then held last summer under restrictions that prevented fans from attending.

The state-of-the-art track in Tokyo helped Sydney McLaughlin and Karsten Warholm each break world records in their 400-meter hurdle finals. Warholm ran in 45.94 seconds and McLaughlin finished in 51.46 but broke that record earlier this year (51.41) in Eugene.

Elaine Thompson-Herah finished the 100 meters in 10.61 seconds to break Florence Griffith-Joyner's 33-yearold Olympic record.

This year's world championships, held at Hayward Stadium in Eugene, were also postponed one year due to the pandemic. Next year's games will be held in Budapest.

## Abe's killing haunts Japan with questions on handmade guns

Continued from page 5

use handcrafted guns like the one used in Abe's assassination in "copycat crimes." He noted a trend of disgruntled people turning to random crimes, indiscriminately targeting victims.

"Japan's conformist culture makes it difficult for some people to live freely, and they put great pressure on themselves. When they blame themselves, they turn to suicide. When they blame others, they turn to indiscriminate crimes," he said.

Last year, a man wearing a Joker costume brandished a knife and started a fire on a Tokyo train, injuring 17 people. In December 2021, arson at a clinic in Osaka killed 25 people. In 2019, another arson in a Kyoto animation studio killed 36 people.



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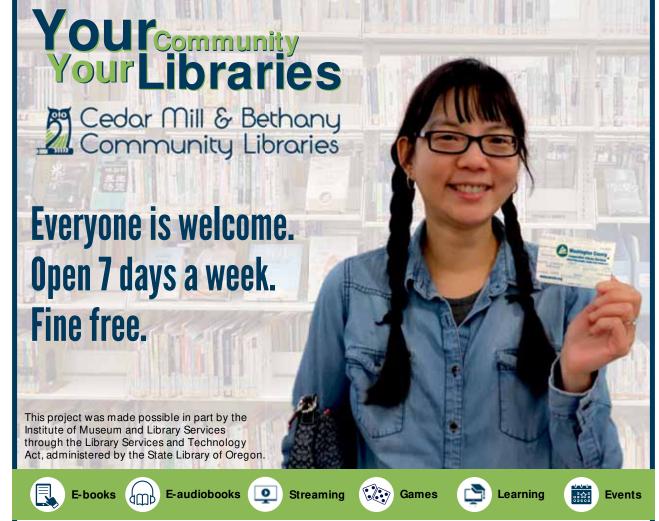
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