

Sports

Mancini takes a bow as Inter confirm exit

16

Canada beat young US squad in straight sets

18



TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2016

MERCENARIES FIND IT 'HARD' TO WIN AGAINST STRONG QATAR Page 17



RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's Michael Phelps competes in a Men's 200m Butterfly heat during the swimming event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium. (Inset) United States' Katie Ledecky shows off her gold medal after setting a new world record in the women's 400-meter freestyle final. — AFP, AP

PHELPS AND LEDECKY SEEK EVEN MORE GOLD



SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: US team mates Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky moved on from a golden Sunday, somewhat creakily in the case of the former, and returned to the Olympic pool in search of individual glory today.

Ledecky, who won the women's 400 metres freestyle gold in world-record time late on Sunday as well as a 4x100m relay silver on Saturday, was back in action in the afternoon's 200m freestyle preliminaries.

"It was tough coming off last night, but I think I got my lane for semi-finals tonight, so it should be good," said the 19-year-old who set the fastest time of one minute 55.01 seconds in the heats and is on for a golden freestyle treble in Rio.

Italy's Federica Pellegrini, who set the world record of 1:52.98 in 2009 in a now-banned synthetic bodysuit, was fifth fastest and expecting fireworks in Tuesday's final.

"I think it will be the fastest 200 final in history, we never had such high performances in heats," she told reporters.

Phelps, who celebrated the 19th Olympic gold of his career in Sunday's 4x100m relay, faces more of a battle as he chases what would be his first individual

medal of these Games.

The 31-year-old, in his fifth Games, was fifth fastest in the 200m butterfly—the first event the world record holder ever raced at an Olympics in 2000 — but feeling the pain of a late night in the pool.

His 1:55.73 was a second slower than the 1:54.73 of pace-setting Hungarian Tamas Kenderesi, whose compatriot Laszlo Cseh was second fastest and sensing an opportunity.

"I think I'm capable of doing that but we will see," said Cseh when asked whether this was his moment to beat Phelps.

South Africa's Olympic champion Chad Le Clos, who beat Phelps in London 2012, eased into the semi-finals with the third best time of 1:55.57.

"I think I probably got to sleep at about 3am and I was on an 11am bus," said Phelps. "So, quick turn-arounds. But the good thing is there is a long time between prelims and finals and we are able to rest."

"Hopefully I can get home and get a quick nap in and be back here ready for tonight." The semi-finals start at 23.10 local time with the final today.

In other heats, newly crowned 400m individual medley champion Katinka Hosszu of Hungary set an Olympic record as she dominated the 200m IM prelims with a best time of 2:07.45.

Britain's Siobhan-Marie O'Connor was second fastest. Hosszu holds the world record in the event of 2:06.12, set last year when she won world championships gold. — Reuters

KOSOVO HISTORY-MAKER FACES DOPE-TEST BATTLE



JUDO

RIO DE JANEIRO: Newly crowned Olympic judo champion Majlinda Kelmendi of Kosovo has been provisionally suspended in France by the French anti-doping agency (AFLD) for refusing to take a doping test, a source told AFP yesterday.

Kelmendi made history on Sunday by winning her country's first ever Olympic medal in their Games debut as she claimed under-52kg glory in the Rio dojo. But two months ago while training in France, Kelmendi refused to give a urine sample in an unannounced, out-of-competition test sprung by the French agency.

Kelmendi was not the only athlete to refuse the test and did so only after her coach Driton Kuka consulted with the International Judo Federation's anti-doping officer Andrea Ember, according to French judo magazine l'Esprit du Judo, which claims to have seen the original WhatsApp exchange between the two parties.

The German delegation allegedly also consulted Ember and their athlete, European under-63kg champion Martyna Trajdos, refused to submit to the test. The surprise test took place on June 16 at Saint-

Cyprien in the south west of France during an international training camp involving judoka from several countries.

French athlete Gevrise Emrane, a three-time world champion, and American under-78kg Olympic champion Kayla Harrison both submitted to the tests. According to the transcript of the WhatsApp conversation between Kuka and Ember, the latter said the athletes were not obliged to take the test if the AFLD officer could not provide a document showing she was mandated to test athletes by either the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) or the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Kuka's concern was over whether or not the French agency had the right to test foreign athletes. "The international (judo) federation told him that she (Kelmendi) had no obligation (to take the test), which is contrary to the position of the French anti-doping agency," the source told AFP.

The suspension is only applicable in France and the AFLD will rule on the case in September. Should Kelmendi be found guilty of refusing to take a doping test, she would be suspended by French authorities, putting them in conflict with judo bosses.

The 25-year-old had earlier spoken of her euphoria at winning for Kosovo, which became the 100th country to land an Olympic gold medal. "We have survived a war." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Kosovo's Majlinda Kelmendi reacts after winning the gold medal of the women's 52-kg judo competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

BRITAIN'S PEATY, SWEDEN'S SJOSTROM SET WORLD RECORDS



SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Another night, another world record for Adam Peaty. The British swimmer cruised to victory in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 57.13 seconds Sunday night, shattering the mark of 57.55 he set a day earlier in the preliminaries.

Peaty blew away Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa, the defending Olympic champion who took silver this time in 58.69. The bronze went to Cody Miller of the United States, whose time of 58.87 held off teammate Kevin Cordes.

Peaty pounded the water when he saw his time. Then he balanced himself atop a lane rope, spread his arms wide and looked toward the roof of the Olympic Aquatics Stadium.

"It's surreal," he said. "After my race I needed to slap something and there was just the water right there. It was crazy. It's amazing and I probably won't be able to sleep tonight." Sweden's Sarah Sjöström also turned in a world-record performance in the 100 butterfly. She led right from the start and touched in 55.48, knocking off

the mark of 55.64 she established at last year's world championships.

Sjöström sat on the edge of the deck, pumping her arms in the air, and then appeared to be overcome by tears as she climbed to her feet. This was her first Olympic medal. Sjöström finished fourth in the 100 fly at the London Games four years ago, missing out on the bronze by just 23-hundredths of a second.

"The feeling is totally crazy," Sjöström said. "I didn't realize it was a world record. I knew I was the big favorite. I was under pressure, so I tried to focus on no disasters. Before the start I said to myself, 'It's just a pool. It's nothing. I know what to do.'"

She played the board game Yahtzee with her roommates in the afternoon, and then donned headphones while getting mentally prepared for the late-night race. "I've never done that before," Sjöström said. "I listened to music for the first time before a race. Why not?"

Penny Oleksiak of Canada took the silver in 56.46, edging out defending Olympic champion Dana Vollmer. The American, who had her first child 17 months ago, settled for the bronze in 56.63.

She'll take it. "I touched the wall and thought, 'Please just let it be a medal,'" Vollmer said. — AP