



## VICTORY PASSES CHINA BY

PHOTO BY CUI MENG / CHINA DAILY

A Chinese player tries to pass during a women's water polo Group A match on Friday. The US beat China 7-6.

## Turkey women beat China 82-55 in group clash

By AGENCIES in London

Nevriye Yilmaz scored 16 points to help Turkey advance to the quarterfinals of the women's Olympic basketball tournament with an 82-55 victory over China on Friday.

Isil Alben nailed two 3-pointers and Turkey ended the first quarter with a 12-0 run to take a 26-13 lead.

Turkey stretched its lead to 19 but then could not score for nearly seven minutes before Birsel Vardari hit a 3-pointer, but the Turks still led 39-27 at halftime.

But China, which has already qualified for the quarterfinals, could not mount a serious second-half challenge and fell to 3-1 in the tournament.

American-born Quanita Hollingsworth added 10 points and 11 rebounds for Turkey (3-1). Chen Nan had 19 points for China.

The loss dropped China to the third place in Group A, a placing that might be their final position as their final group rivals are the United States.

Turkey will next face the winless Croatia in the last group game on Sunday. If they finish second in the group, they might take on France or Russia, who will vie for the first placing in Group B.

Australia defeated Russia 70-66 to stay in second place and will possibly meet China in the knock-out stage.

China lost 90-56 to Australia in the Beijing 2008 Games and 91-68 again at the World Championships in 2010.

"I didn't look at the results of the other group. I wanted to win today's game. A victory would put us in a favorable position in the knock-out round and secure at least a sixth-place finishing," China's center Chen Nan said.

"But Turkey did a really good job in defense. They played a physical game. We're overwhelmed in the first half and never recovered."

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# Judo joy for France, Cuba

By ASSOCIATED PRESS in London

France's Teddy Riner won the men's over 100-kilogram Olympic judo gold medal on Friday, giving him the only medal he was missing.

Riner, 23, defeated Russia's Alexander Mikhaylin in an anti-climactic final where he was mainly on the attack. Mikhaylin

made little effort to fight except to bat away Riner's attempts to grip his uniform and was booed by the crowd for his inactivity.

Riner dropped to his knees after the victory before hugging Mikhaylin.

With a record five world championship titles, Riner is judo's biggest star. He won a bronze at Beijing. On Friday, Riner used both throwing and grappling techniques to win his early fights with several match-ending ippon scores.

The bronze medals were won by Germany's Andreas Toelzer and Brazil's Rafael Silva.

In the women's division, Idalys Ortiz of Cuba won the women's over 78-kilogram Olympic judo gold on Friday, improving on the bronze she won at the Beijing Games.

Ortiz defeated Japan's Mika Sugimoto in a cagey, drawn-out final with little action, where both fighters struggled to get a grip or

catch the other off balance.

The match went into overtime and judges eventually ruled Ortiz the winner.

Earlier in the day, Ortiz triumphed over the top-seeded Tong Wen of China in the semifinals. Tong was the defending Olympic champion and was unbeaten at international competitions since 2007. She later won a bronze in the repechage. The other bronze medal was won by Britain's Karina Bryant.

But the victories of Riner and Ortiz were perhaps overshadowed by a first-round fight this morning that lasted little over a minute. That featured Saudi Arabia's first female judoka Olympian, Wojdan Ali Seraj Abdulrahim Shahrkhani, a blue belt who has only been training for two years.

Shahrkhani was thrown flat on her back after just 82 seconds by Puerto Rican fighter Melissa Mojica. She appeared tentative on the mat, circling Mojica and avoiding any direct attacks. Mojica finally grappled control of Shahrkhani's collar before tossing her backwards.

"I was nervous and afraid, but proud," Shahrkhani said of her fight afterwards. "I am proud to be the first Saudi woman and I'm very grateful to the crowd who supported me," she said. Shahrkhani said she intended to fight at the Rio Games next. "I will practice more," she vowed.



China's Tong Wen and Poland's Urszula Sadkowska grapple during the women's over 78-kg judo competition on Friday. Tong won bronze in the event.

PAUL SANCYA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

## China's Dong soars to men's trampoline gold

By ASSOCIATED PRESS in London

Chinese trampolinist Dong Dong made three wishes on New Year's Eve.

Go to London. Get the gold medal. Bring back the gold medal.

Consider all three of them checked off the list.

The 23-year-old Dong won the men's Olympic title on Friday, posting a score of 62.990 to easily give him a gold medal to go with the bronze he won in Beijing four years ago.

Dmitry Ushakov of Russia was second. Defending Olympic champion Lu Chunlong of China was third.

Dong dominated the event, posting the top overall score in qualifying and beating Ushakov by more than a point in the finals.

"I was really looking forward to this competition," Dong said. "I don't think it's the result, but one stage of life. Don't judge a person on winning or losing."

Perhaps, but Dong was pretty fired up after giving China its second straight gold medal in the event, which was intro-

duced at the Sydney Games in 2000. He pumped his fist as fans waving Chinese flags chanted his name.

"That is one of my dreams, to win this medal, and I am very happy," Dong said.

Competitors have up to a minute to warmup on the tramp before attempting to complete 10 successive tricks, getting scores for difficulty, execution and air time. Athletes are about 30 feet in the air at the top of each jump. Imagine leaping off a three-story building 10 times in about 30 seconds and you get the idea.

The sport has been dominated by the Russians and the Chinese since its inception in the Games, and Dong put on a clinic. Going last in the finals, he soared through his routine, drawing "oohs" as he crisply put together a dizzying series of flips and twists.

"During the final, he was really stronger," Ushakov said.

Other contenders weren't so fortunate. Yuriy Nikitin, the 2004 gold medalist, failed to make the finals after crashing during qualifying.

American Steve Gluckstein, who beat out younger brother

Jeffrey for the lone US spot, finished last in the 16-man field after losing his line during his second routine. The 22-year-old from New Jersey only completed two of his 10 tricks before smacking into the pad.

He vowed to make a run at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro. Dong might not be around.

"The greatest moment has gone, and I need to prepare myself for more challenges coming up," he said. "No matter if you win or lose, the most important thing in life is to enjoy what you have."

## Phelps goes out in style, rallying for 21st medal

By ASSOCIATED PRESS in London

Seventh at the turn, an Olympic champion at the end.

Make it 17 gold medals for Michael Phelps.

What a way to go out in the final individual race of his career.

With those long arms whipping through the water, Phelps was next-to-last when he touched the wall at the far end of the pool in the 100-meter butterfly but in a familiar position when he made the touch that counted on Friday — his name atop the leaderboard, a smile on his face, another gold medal around his neck.

"I'm just happy that the last one was a win," Phelps said. "That's all I really wanted coming into the night!"

He claimed his third gold of the London Games and 17th of his career, adding to an already absurd record total that should be twice as much as anyone else by the time he swims the final race of his career, the 4x100 medley relay on Saturday night.

The Americans are huge favorites in a race they have never lost, and it's unfathomable to think the Phelps era could end with anything less than a performance that puts him atop the podium one last time.

In what might be viewed as a symbolic changing of the guard from America's greatest swimming star to the next big thing, 17-year-old Missy Franklin set a world record in the 200 backstroke, her third gold in London, just minutes before Phelps took center stage at the Olympic Aquatics Centre. Another American teen, 19-year-old Elizabeth Beisel, claimed the 200 back bronze.

"I can't believe what just happened," said Franklin, who had dedicated her Olympics to victims of the theater shooting not far from her Colorado home. "In that last 25, I knew I was giving it everything I had because I couldn't feel my arms and legs and I was just trying to get my hand to the wall as fast I could."

Right after Phelps was done, 15-year-old Katie Ledecky — the youngest member of the US team — nearly broke the world record to win gold in the 800 freestyle, denying Britain's Rebecca Adlington a repeat before her home fans. Adlington settled for bronze in a race Ledecky dominated from start to finish, falling off record pace only in the last 15 meters.

But no one has dominated like Phelps, who increased his career overall medal total to 21.

"He's the king of the Olympics Games," said his butterfly rival, Serbia's Milorad Cavic.

This was about going out in style.

Phelps touched in 51.21 sec to beat out the guy who edged him in the 200 fly, Chad le Clos. The South African touched in 51.44, tying for silver with Russia's Evgeny Korotyshekin. Cavic tied for fourth in 51.81, not even close to Phelps in their final meeting.

"I cannot be compared to Michael Phelps," said Cavic, who also plans to retire after the London Games. "I'm a one-trick pony."

France won its fourth gold at the pool, its best showing ever, as Florent Manaudou — younger brother of 2004 gold medalist Laure Manaudou — shocked defending Olympic champion and world record holder Cesar Cielo of Brazil in the 50 freestyle.