



August 1st, 2021

NYAC OLYMPICS NEWS



Photo courtesy of TeamUSA.org

Wrestling - Gray Going for Gold

The NYAC's five-time world champion Adeline Gray opened up the Olympic wrestling competition on Sunday morning (JST) with a strong first session, winning two matches and qualifying for the evening's semi-finals. Gray, the #1 seed, opened with a first-period pin of Zaineb Sghaier of Tunisia, the runner-up at the 2021 African/Oceania Olympic qualifier. Gray scored a takedown and gut wrench to lead 4-0. After another takedown, the NYAC woman powered Sghaier to her back and was able to press for the pin in a little over two minutes.

In the quarter-finals, Gray drew 2017 world champion Yasemin Adar of Turkey, an opponent that the American has defeated a number of times in the past. Gray came out strong, scoring a bodylock takedown and leg attack takedown to lead 4-0 at the break. She added a single leg takedown in the second period for a 6-0 lead. Adar made it close at the end, scoring a takedown and an ankle lace turn to make it 6-4; but time ran out, assuring Gray of her place in the semis where she drew Aiperi Medet Kyzy of Kyrgyzstan. Kyzy scored an impressive 12-0 technical fall over 2012 Olympic champion Natalia Vorobieva of the Russian Olympic Committee in the other quarter-final in her half-bracket.

"I thought Adeline wrestled really well," said her coach, Nate Engel. "When Adeline gets her hands locked, she can score on anybody. We just talk about one match at a time because we don't want to look past anybody. It's important to go out there, get to her attacks and finish, and get her hand raised."

Gray placed seventh at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, a result that she was determined to redress in Tokyo. That was evident as she began her semi against Kyzy. Gray received the first point of the match when Kyzy was put on the shot clock for passivity and could not score in the required 30 seconds. The NYAC woman scored a second

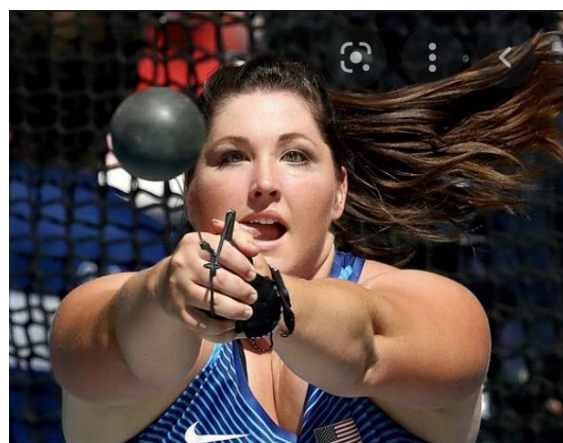
point when she got behind Kyzy and forced a step out to take a 2-0 lead to the break. In the second period, there was an active scramble on the edge which ended up being waved off with no points. The Kyrgyzstan corner challenged, and after a review, the challenge was denied, giving Gray another point for a 3-0 lead. Kyzy scored a takedown to close it to 3-2 but was unable to turn Gray with an ankle lace. Gray closed out the final 15 seconds on her feet, and waved to the stands when time ran out. In the final, Gray will face 2014 world champion Aline Rotter Focken of Germany. By making the final, Gray becomes the sixth US wrestler to earn an Olympic medal in women's freestyle since the sport joined the Olympic program in 2004. The only US woman wrestler to win an Olympic gold medal to this point in time is Helen Maroulis in 2016. Gray's gold medal bout will be held tomorrow, Monday, at around 8am EST.

Medals on Monday? - Get Ready for a Nail-Biter

Tomorrow is a big day for the NYAC. Adeline Gray, the world #1, fights for the gold medal in the 76kg division of the Olympic women's wrestling competition, while in the Olympic Stadium Valarie Allman will be contending for hardware in the women's discus final. Valarie goes to war at 7am EST. Adeline's battle begins shortly after 8am EST. Tune in!

Track and Field - Medal Hopes Alive

DeAnna Price and Gwen Berry contested the qualifying rounds of the women's hammer throw this morning, both advancing to the final, scheduled for Tuesday, August 3rd at 7:35am EST. Throwing in group B, Berry reached 73.19m/240' 1" on her third attempt with Price reaching 72.55m/238' 0" on her second attempt before fouling her third. Only five throwers from both groups reached the automatic qualifier of 73.50/241' 2". Twelve women advanced to the final, among them world record holder Anita Wlodarczyk from Poland who threw 76.99m/252' 7" on her first attempt, well over two meters farther than anybody else, and called it a day.



Upcoming Action - Highlights to Watch for in the Coming Days

With the Games of the XXXII Olympiad not even half over, there is all kinds of NYAC action still to come. Here are just a few things to watch closely. (Days are as in Japan. Tokyo is 13 hours ahead of New York).

Monday, August 2nd - Adeline Gray and Valarie Allman go for gold in wrestling and discus

Tuesday, August 3rd - World champion DeAnna Price goes for gold in the final of the women's hammer throw

Wednesday, August 4th - All being well, the US men's water polo team will be contesting the quarter-finals

Thursday, August 5th - Will Claye, hopefully, will contest the triple jump final and the US women's water polo team will compete in the semi-finals

Friday, August 6th - Sarah Hildebrandt hopes to go all the way in women's wrestling, while Katie Nageotte contests the final of the women's pole vault

Saturday, August 7th - Kara Winger, hopefully, contests the women's javelin final and, just as hopefully, the US women compete for water polo medals

Sunday, August 8th - Men's water polo medals are on the line, as are medals in women's wrestling via Sarah Hildebrandt. And, of course, there's the never to be missed Closing Ceremony

All of the above, and more, is still to come. Keep up with the action by visiting www.NYACTokyo2020.com often.



NYAC News - For all the NYAC Olympics news, go to www.NYACTokyo2020.com

Blogs - James O'Brien, Director of Communications is blogging from the Games. To read what he's got to say about the Tokyo Olympic experience, go to www.NYACTokyo2020.com