



MEDIA INFO



PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES MEN'S ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS

Oka Shinnosuke extends Japan's reign of triumph in men's Olympic All-Around



OKA Shinnosuke (JPN)

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Oka Shinnosuke (JPN) is the new Olympic All-Around champion in Men's Artistic Gymnastics, winning his second gold in three days and extending the Japanese winning streak in this event to a record four Olympic Games.

Seemingly immune to the pressures of an Olympic final, Oka was as steady as he was spectacular through six routines inside Bercy Arena on Wednesday. While the 20-year-old did not post the highest individual score on any apparatus, he proved the most consistent, which made the difference on what proved a challenging night for the pre-competition favourites.

Oka's winning total was 86.832 points, 0.233 higher than top qualifier Zhang Boheng (CHN), who surged back to achieve silver after an early fall on Floor Exercise.

Tokyo 2020 All-Around silver medallist Xiao Ruoteng (CHN) took bronze to complete the first all-Asian Olympic All-Around podium in Gymnastics since Japan swept the medals in 1972.

Oka is the third Japanese man to win the Olympic title in the past 12 years, following 2012 and 2016 Olympic champion Uchimura Kohei (JPN) and Hashimoto Daiki (JPN), the victor in his home city three years ago.

The Japanese are now two for two in Men's Artistic Gymnastics at Paris 2024, having stunned the People's Republic of China for team gold Monday night.

The incredible Oka, the new prince of Gymnastics

Oka first came to prominence by winning the World Junior All-Around title in 2019, but he did not compete internationally again until he won the Asian All-Around title last year.

Whispers about his potential turned into shouts after he shone in the men's qualification earlier this week, breezing into the final with the second highest score. If Oka remained something of an unknown quantity, he silenced any doubters with his routines Wednesday, posting four scores above 14.500.

His high was a 15.100 on Parallel Bars in the penultimate rotation, setting up a storybook finish on Horizontal Bar, where he confirmed his title by posting 14.500.

"I've achieved creating a mark as (an Olympic) champion," Oka said. "Now, I want to continue challenging myself and keep winning as the audience expects me to. That spirit of challenge is something I don't want to lose."

After a fall, pride — and hard work — carry Zhang onto the podium

The men's All-Around final was expected to be a showdown between 2021 World All-Around champion Zhang and Olympic and World champion Hashimoto, but mistakes from both early on changed the narrative.

Zhang's hopes for a smooth final were dashed when he mistimed a 3.5 twisting somersault in his first routine on Floor Exercise and landed on his hands and knees. Minutes later, Hashimoto came off the Pommel Horse, leaving the favourites sitting in 15th and 16th place.

But the 24-year-old never gave up — and seemed to regain his confidence as the competition wore on. His 14.600 was the best of the day on Still Rings, but the real turning point came on Parallel Bars, where Zhang nailed his routine for 15.300, moving him back into medal contention.

Needing a score close to 15.000 to beat Oka, Zhang overbalanced one handstand on Horizontal Bar and earned 14.633 for his second silver of the Games.

Xiao earns Olympic medal number five

Xiao started well and finished strong, displaying flamboyant difficulty on Still Rings and Parallel Bars and correcting the mistake he made on Horizontal Bar in the team final to tally 86.364 and grab the final spot on the podium.

Bronze is Xiao's fifth Olympic medal and second in the Olympic All-Around competition after winning silver behind Hashimoto in Tokyo.

Illia Kovtun (UKR), Joe Fraser (GBR), Hashimoto, Jake Jarman (GBR) and Oleg Verniaiev (UKR) rounded out the top eight.



XIAO Ruoteng (CHN) - OKA Shinnosuke (JPN) - ZHANG Boheng (CHN)