

TOKYO 2020

OLYMPICS PREVIEW

5 THINGS TO KNOW

● The 29th edition of the Olympic Games, postponed by the coronavirus last year, will be referred to as the Tokyo 2020 games despite taking place in 2021.

● Tokyo is 14 hours ahead of the Central time zone in the United States.

● NBC will broadcast the Olympics in the United States. You can also watch on Peacock, NBCOlympics.com and NBC Sports.

● More than 11,000 athletes from 206 countries will compete in 33 sports, five of which are making their Olympic debut.

● The new sports — baseball/softball, karate, skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing — join five that have appeared since 1896 — athletics (track & field), cycling, fencing, gymnastics and swimming.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Here is a look at when the most popular Olympic events will take place (All times Central):

BASKETBALL
Basketball begins July 25 and runs through Aug. 8. The men's basketball final is set for Aug. 6 at 9:30 p.m. The women's final tips off Aug. 7 at 9:30 p.m. Check out the new 3-on-3 basketball tourney finals on the morning of July 28.

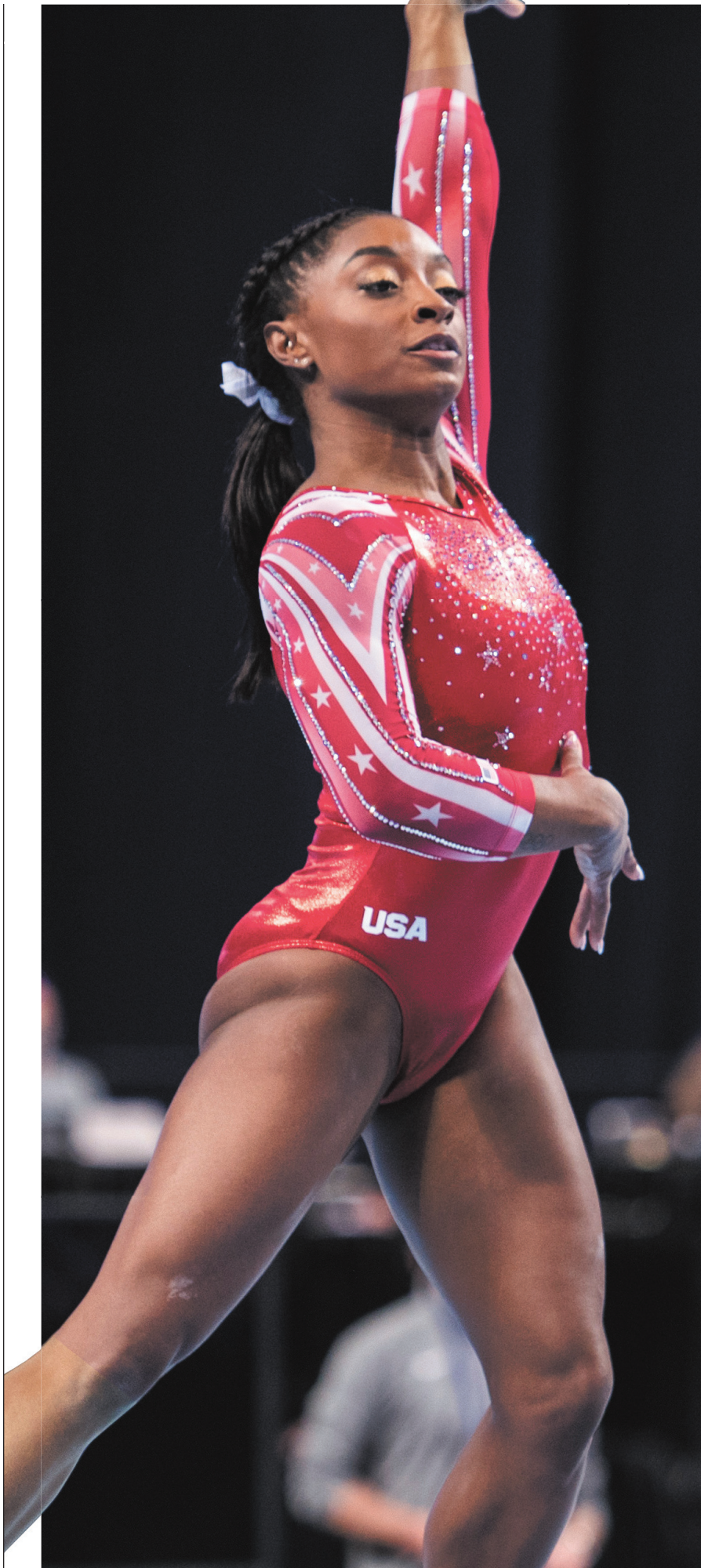
TRACK AND FIELD
The track and field events dominate Week 2 of the Olympics, beginning July 30. The women's 100-meter final is the morning of July 31, while the men's is set for Aug. 1.

SWIMMING
The first swimming final will be at 8:30 p.m. on July 24, with finals every day through July 31.

GYMNASTICS
Men's gymnastics gets underway the evening on July 23. The women's competition begins July 24. You can see the men's team final live at 5 a.m. July 26 and the women's team final at 5:45 a.m. July 27. The men's individual all-around final is at 7:15 a.m. on July 28, with the women's all-around final at 5:50 a.m. July 29. Individual apparatus finals are set for July 30, 31 and Aug. 1.

SOCCER
Soccer teams begin play on July 24. The women's final kicks off at 9 p.m. on Aug. 5, while the men's final is set for 6:30 a.m. Aug. 7.

TENNIS
Tennis begins July 23 and runs through Aug. 1. Doubles and singles finals will be played from July 30 to Aug. 1.



THE GOLDEN G.O.A.T

Biles, already a legend, sets sights on adding to gymnastics legacy

Simone Biles has carried the weight of expectations since breaking into international gymnastics as a wide-eyed 16-year-old, when she won her first medals at the 2013 World Championships in Antwerp, Belgium.

Now 24, Biles is on the brink of Olympic history. The standout U.S. gymnast will enter the Olympic Games in Tokyo attempting to become the first female in more than 50 years to win back-to-back gold medals in the all-around competition.

Biles won four golds and a bronze at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which made her a national and international superstar. Her consistent excellence has included 27 gold medals in international competition. In her two Olympic tuneups in June, Biles notched her seventh all-around title at the U.S. National Championships, then qualified for the national team with a two-day score of 118.098 at the Olympic Trials.

It wasn't a perfect meet for Biles at Olympic Trials. She nearly stalled on the bars and hopped out of bounds during her floor routine, but there's still time to work out rough edges.

"I never have had this much power," Biles said. "But the adrenaline, that's where it comes so we'll just have to focus on working with that. I mean it's not a bad thing, but it could be a bad thing if I keep going out of bounds."

Biles will enter the Games as not just the face of U.S. gymnastics but of her country's delegation.

Her humble roots make her a classic Horatio Alger story. Born in Columbus, Ohio, and raised in foster care, Biles ended up with her maternal grandfather in Spring, Texas, a gymnastics hotbed.

MyKayla Skinner, another qualifier for the U.S. gymnastics team as a specialist, said part of the greatness of Biles lies in her fearlessness.

"A lot of gymnasts have the potential to go out there and do big skills, but it's like, can you get them out there on the hard floor like Simone?" Skinner said. "I think Simone is a rare gymnast. I don't think we will see another one like her. ... So it's just really cool to be in this moment with her, to be with an athlete that's so amazing in just doing the difficulty she does." ■

OTHER TEAM USA GYMNASTS



Jordan Chiles



Sunisa Lee



Grace McCallum



MyKayla Skinner



Jade Carey

Chiles, Lee and McCallum (who broke her hand six months before trials) qualified for their first Olympics. Skinner and Carey are team alternates and individual specialists.

10 TEAM USA ATHLETES TO WATCH

KATIE LEDECKY, SWIMMING

Ledecky, winner of five golds in 2016, looks to defend her 200-, 400- and 800-meter titles in Tokyo. She's also favored to win another gold in the debut of the 1,500-meter race.



HEIMANA REYNOLDS, SKATEBOARDING

As skateboarding makes its Olympic debut, so does pro skater Reynolds with a shot at the gold.

CARISSA MOORE, SURFING

Ranked No. 1 in the world, Moore is a four-time world champ in a sport making its debut.

NOAH LYLES, MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Lyles ran a world-leading 19.74 in the U.S. trials to punch his ticket to his first Olympics.

RYAN CROUSER, MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Crouser made headlines in the U.S. trials by breaking Randy Barnes' 31-year-old world record in the shot put.



EDDY ALVAREZ, BASEBALL

In the 2014 Winter Games, Alvarez was on a speedskating team that won silver in the 5,000-meter relay. In Tokyo, he'll be looking to help the U.S. win a medal and become just sixth athlete ever to win medals in both games.



CAELEB DRESSEL, MEN'S SWIMMING

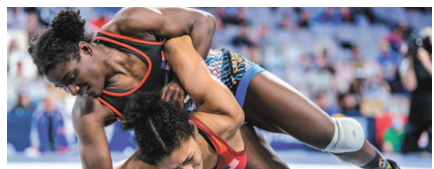
Dressel, 24, already has two golds and holds the world record in the 100-meter butterfly. He'll race in the butterfly, 50-meter freestyle and 100-meter freestyle in Tokyo.

SYDNEY MCLAUGHLIN, WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

At the U.S. trials, McLaughlin became the first woman to finish the 400-meter hurdles in less than 52 seconds. Her world record 51.9 seconds makes her a favorite to win gold.

ALLYSON FELIX, WOMEN'S TRACK

Felix will compete in her fifth Olympic Games at age 35. She's already the only female track-and-field athlete with six Olympic gold medals.



TAMYRA MENSAH-STOCK, WOMEN'S WRESTLING

One of the most magnetic personalities on Team USA, Mensah-Stock is a world and Olympic trials champion. She'll represent the U.S. in the 150-pound weight class.