



U.S. wins first rowing gold in men’s four class since ’60



From left, the United States’ Liam Corrigan, Michael Grady, Justin Best and Nick Mead pose with their gold medals during a ceremony for the men’s four final on Thursday in Vaires-sur-Marne, France.

TALES AZZONI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VAIRES-SUR-MARNE, France — When Liam Corrigan yelled out “red!” entering the final stages of the regatta, the rest of the American crew knew it was time to go hard.

They all gave it an extra push, picking up the pace just in time to fend off an attack from their rivals and secure the United States its first rowing gold medal in the men’s four class since 1960. It also was the first rowing gold for the U.S. at the Paris Olympics.

Corrigan, Justin Best, Michael Grady and Nick Mead won the elusive gold on Thursday by beating out New Zealand and defending world champion Britain.

“When you make that call, ‘red!,’ you see ‘red,’” Best said. “You put your bowball out in front, some of the bigger strokes that you take in the race. Liam made that call ‘red!’ and I went with him, and I know Nick went and I could see Brady going because he’s right in front of me.

“That was enough to kind of like double that

move and take us into our sprint,” he said. “So it was pretty flawless execution on the call. And we trusted each other to all make that move together. And it was effective.”

The last time the U.S. men’s four had stood on the Olympic podium was in 2012 in London, where it won bronze.

All four Americans who got the gold on Thursday were at the Tokyo Games three years ago but left without any medals. Best, Mead and Corrigan finished fourth in the eight class and Grady finished fifth in the four.

The four rowers have been together since last season, winning silver at the world championships last year and gold at the world cup race in Lucerne earlier this year.

“It’s literally unbelievable,” Corrigan said. “I crossed the line, I thought I was going to have some kind of celebration, but I was just in disbelief, like my hands were on my head. It was just crazy.”

In the men’s double sculls, Ben Davison and Sorin Koszyk came up short of a medal, finishing fourth.

Medals update

Updated Thursday afternoon

	G	S	B	T
United States	5	13	12	30
France	8	10	8	26
China	9	7	3	19
Britain	6	6	5	17
Australia	7	6	3	16
Japan	8	3	4	15
Italy	3	6	4	13
South Korea	6	3	3	12
Canada	2	2	3	7
Germany	2	2	2	6
Hong Kong	2	0	2	4
Sweden	1	1	2	4
Brazil	0	1	3	4
Netherlands	1	1	1	3
Belgium	1	0	2	3
Kazakhstan	1	0	2	3
South Africa	1	0	2	3
Hungary	0	2	1	3
Poland	0	1	2	3

Selected TV listing

Friday, August 2

All times Central

BASKETBALL » Midnight: USA — Women’s Group C: Belgium vs. USA (Taped); **6:30 a.m.:** USA — Men’s Group A: Australia vs. Greece; **2:50 p.m.:** E! — Men’s Group B: France vs. Germany (Taped)

BASKETBALL 3X3 » **3:30 a.m.:** USA — Men’s Pool Play: Poland vs. Netherlands; **6 a.m.:** USA — Women’s Pool Play: France vs. USA; **11 a.m.:** NBC — Women’s Pool Play: Canada vs. USA; **11:30 p.m.:** NBC — Men’s Pool Play: USA vs. France (Taped); **3:45 p.m.:** E! — Men’s Pool Play: China vs. USA (Taped); **6 p.m.:** USA — Men’s Pool Play (Taped)

BEACH VOLLEYBALL » **2 a.m.:** USA — Women’s Pool E: LTU (Paulikiene/Raupelyte) vs. JPN (Akiko/Ishii); **10:10 a.m.:** USA — Women’s Pool E: BRA (Carol/Barbara) vs. NED (Stam/Schoon); **3 p.m.:** NBC — Women’s Pool C: USA (Hughes/Cheng) vs. GER (Muller/Tillmann); **5 p.m.:** USA — Men’s Pool E: CZE (Perusic/Schweiner) vs. BRA (Evandro/Arthur) (Taped)

BOXING » **4 p.m.:** USA — Men’s Fly Quarterfinals & more (Taped)

CANOE & KAYAK » **12:45 p.m.:** USA — Slalom: Men’s & Women’s Kayak Cross Heats (Taped)

CYCLING » **4:30 p.m.:** USA — Finals: BMX Racing

EQUESTRIAN » **6 a.m.:** E! — Jumping: Team Final; **9:15 a.m.:** NBC — Jumping: Team Final (Taped); **7 p.m.:** USA — Jumping: Team Final (Taped)

FENCING » **4:15 p.m.:** E! — Men’s Team Epee Bronze/Gold Finals (Taped); **7:30 p.m.:** USA — Men’s Team Epee Bronze/Gold Finals (Taped)

GOLF » **2 a.m.:** GOLF — Men’s Round 2: Part 1; **6 a.m.:** GOLF — Men’s Round 2: Part 2

ROWING » **1:15 p.m.:** USA — Finals: Lightweight Sculls & more

SHOOTING » **3 a.m.:** USA — Women’s Rifle 3 Positions Final

SWIMMING » **4 a.m.:** USA — Heats: Men’s 100m Fly & more; **9 a.m.:** NBC — Heats: Men’s 100m Fly & more (Taped); **12 p.m.:** NBC — Swimming, Track & Field

TRACK & FIELD » **3 a.m.:** E! — Heats: Women’s 100m & more (Taped); **11 a.m.:** E! — Finals: Men’s 10,000m & more (Taped); **12 p.m.:** NBC — Swimming, Track & Field

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WOMEN’S RUGBY

OLYMPIC SWEETHEART

U.S.’s Ilona Maher promotes body positivity through social media

JENNA FRYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Ilona Maher, America’s rugby-playing social media sweetheart, walked onto the terrace of Team USA House carrying a sandwich, the United States’ first ever rugby sevens Olympic medal hanging around her neck.

In between a rapid-fire media rotation, she squeezed in bites of her snack and reapplied her trademark red lipstick. It was authentic Maher, who uses the platform she has built to promote body positivity and the sport she loves, all while insisting women who run, tackle and throw stiff arms can still be feminine.

Maher, who first shot to stardom three years ago by using her wicked sense of humor to document behind-the-scenes life at the Tokyo Olympics, helped lead the U.S. to the bronze medal at the Paris Games with a heart-stopping finish in a 14-12 victory over Australia. The bronze medal match ended with Alex “Spiff” Sedrick scoring on a length-of-the-field try as time expired, then putting a kick through the uprights.

Maher’s tear-filled interview after the match was enough to make any American want to run through a wall for the 27-year-old Vermont native who has both a nursing degree and a masters in business but really just wants to play rugby and promote the sport to girls across the world.

“I think the stereotype around a rugby player is this idea that you need to drop your femininity and play a very masculine, brutal sport,” Maher said Wednesday, a day after the medal match. “Myself and my team and some others on the circuit like Australia and Ireland, are showing that femininity. We are doing our makeup before games, wearing makeup, wanting to feel pretty out there.

“But that doesn’t take away from how amazing we tackle and hit and run. You can



Ilona Maher



Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi | Associated Press

United States’ Ilona Maher, front, leaps with New Zealand’s Stacey Waaka for a high ball during the women’s semifinal rugby sevens match in Saint-Denis, France, on Tuesday.

be those things, and the stereotypes around women’s sports just should be thrown out the window now.”

Maher, who uses the hashtag #beastbeautybrains on social media, became the most-followed rugby player on Instagram during these Games with 2 million followers. She has 1.9 million followers on TikTok.

She has continued to document life at the Olympics and called the Athlete’s Village “The Villa” in a nod to “Love Island” (she watches the British version, and thinks she could be on the show but “wouldn’t be a bombshell”). But her biggest impact has been her messages of body positivity and a 2-month-old post resurfaced this week in which she clapped-back at a commenter who mocked her for having a body mass index (BMI) of 30.

“I think you were trying to roast me, but this actually is a fact. I do have a BMI of 30 — well, 29.3 to be more exact,” Maher said on TikTok. “I’ve been considered overweight my whole life.”

She revealed she weighs 200 pounds (90 kilograms) and is 5-foot-10 (178 centimeters): the two measurements used to calculate BMI. A BMI between 25 and 29.9 is considered in the overweight range, and a BMI of 30 and above is considered obese.

Maher said she was humiliated by the label, particularly when she turned in paperwork from a high school physical that labeled her overweight.

TEAM FENCING

Kiefer, Scruggs help ensure at least silver for U.S.

JAMES ELLINGWORTH
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Rebecca Blackwell | Associated Press

United States’ Lee Kiefer reacts as she competes with Canada’s Yunjia Zhang in the women’s team foil semifinal match Thursday at the Grand Palais in Paris.

PARIS — Lee Kiefer was the standout as the United States beat Canada 45-31 in their women’s team foil fencing semifinal to guarantee at least a silver medal at the Paris Olympics on Thursday.

Two-time individual gold medalist Kiefer, silver medalist Lauren Scruggs and Jacqueline Dubrovich will face Italy in the final later Thursday after the Italians beat Japan 45-39.

Italy’s team of Alice Volpi, Arianna Errigo and Martina Favaretto is seeded first and the U.S. second in the bracket.

Kiefer went a combined 23-12 in her three matchups, including 13-4 against 16-year-

old Canadian Yunjia Zhang when the U.S. had been four points down.

The U.S. already has three fencing medals — one of each color — so far at the Paris Olympics and now has a chance to win two gold medals in fencing at the same Olympics for the first time, as well as a first-ever team gold for the U.S.

An American fencer, Albertson Van Zo Post, won two gold medals at the 1904 St. Louis Games but one of those was a team event in which he competed alongside two Cuban fencers. That medal is officially considered a “mixed team” win, not a U.S. gold.



Lee Kiefer