

US women's 4x100 relay advances after appeal

WIRE SERVICE REPORTS

RIO DE JANEIRO — The United States grasped its second chance to reach the Olympic women's 4x100-meter final with both hands on Thursday, racing alone around the Rio track in 41.77 seconds to knock China out of the last eight.

The reigning champions appealed against the result of their morning heat, in which Allyson Felix dropped the second baton exchange, arguing that the four-time Olympic gold medalist had been bumped by a Brazilian athlete before the handover.

The appeal was upheld and the Americans were given a target of beating 42.70 seconds to qualify for the final in place of China, the slowest of the original finalists. Brazil was disqualified for obstructing the U.S.

The time was easily within the capability of the world record holders and Tianna Bartoletta, Felix, English Gardner and Morolake Akinosun ensured there would be no mistake with the second fastest time of the year.

"Very relieved," Felix told reporters. "I just wasn't sure how a situation like that played out. I have never been in that situation before, but I am happy that we got a shot at it."

"I didn't want to bump anyone out of a slot but then again we were impeded."

The United States will join Jamaica, Britain, Germany, Ukraine, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago and Canada in Friday's final.

Serbia ousts US women's volleyball

The Serbian women's vol-



Tianna Bartoletta (from left), Allyson Felix, English Gardner and Morolake Akinosun of the United States celebrate after running alone in a women's 4x100m relay heat in the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games at Rio De Janeiro. The Americans were impeded during the afternoon session, appealed and were allowed to run again.

leyball team eliminated the world's top-ranked team, the United States, on Thursday in a shock upset after the undefeated Americans lost their top player to a leg injury.

Serbia, playing in its first Olympic semifinal, was riding high after sending Russia home two days earlier and defeated the United States 20-25, 25-17, 25-21, 16-25, 15-13 in a five-set clash that could have gone either way.

The U.S. team won the first set but Serbia, driven on by their formidable spiker Brankica Mihajlovic, took control after America's top-scoring middle blocker Foluke Akinradewo went off with a left knee injury sustained in the opening set.

The United States adjusted its players, battled back to win the fourth set and were leading the tie-breaker before going down.

"We put ourselves in a position to win the match but Serbia made some great plays down the stretch,"

U.S. coach Karch Kiraly told reporters. "This loss is deeply disappointing. It cuts deep," he said.

"It was a hard game, we had more luck than them today," said Serbian middle blocker Milena Rasic.

With its toughest rivals knocked out, Serbia will compete for gold for the first time on Sunday, against China or the Netherlands. "Brazil is out, Russia is out, USA is out. It's an amazing feeling," Rasic said.

The U.S. had beaten Serbia 3-1 in preliminary games and were favorites to take their first gold medal in women's volleyball. They won the World Championship in 2014 and took silver in the last two Olympics where they lost both finals to the Brazilians, their traditional rivals who were beaten by China on Tuesday.

It was a sad outcome to a U.S. team that has risen steadily to become the world's best and had the gold medal finally within grasp.

"We are going after the bronze, that's our goal now," said U.S. captain Christa Dietzen, with tears in eyes as she recalled the distraction caused to her team by Akinradewo's injury.

Coach Kiraly said Akinradewo was in pain and could not continue playing. He did not detail the injury, but reporters saw her pressing an ice pack to her left knee.

China will face the Netherlands later on Thursday and are favorites to reach Sunday's final. The Dutch are competing in their first Olympics in 20 years.

Athlete loses medal for doping with rat poison

Rio 2016 Olympic bronze medalist weightlifter Izzat Artykov was stripped of his medal on Thursday after being found to have the rat poison strychnine in his system.

The Kyrgyz lifter became the first medalist at these Games to test positive for a banned substance, the Court

Medals tally

Current top 20 by total medals won - After Day 12

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
United States	30	32	31	93
China	19	15	20	54
Great Britain	19	19	12	50
Russia	12	14	15	41
Japan	10	5	18	33
France	8	11	12	31
Germany	12	8	9	29
Australia	7	8	9	24
Italy	8	9	6	23
South Korea	7	3	6	16
Netherlands	8	4	3	15
Canada	3	2	9	14
Hungary	6	3	4	13
Brazil	3	5	4	12
Kazakhstan	3	3	6	12
New Zealand	3	6	1	10
Denmark	1	3	5	9
Cuba	2	2	4	8
Kenya	4	3	0	7
Spain	4	1	2	7

Note: Some countries tied in 20th position may be excluded from the table.

Source: Infrostrada

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REUTERS

of Arbitration for Sport said.

Strychnine, a highly toxic alkaloid, is ordinarily used as a pesticide for killing rodents. When ingested, strychnine causes muscular convulsions before death through asphyxia.

Those convulsions had been thought to be beneficial in tiny doses in the past, and in the late 19th and early 20th centuries it was used in small doses as an athletic performance enhancer, and recreational stimulant.

At the 1904 Olympics in

St. Louis, Missouri, Thomas Hicks won the marathon thanks in part to several doses of strychnine, egg whites and brandy administered by his trainer mid-race, historians say, in the first recorded instance of drug use in the modern Olympics.

Strychnine, reportedly used widely by cyclists in the early days of the Tour de France, is defined as a stimulant in the World Anti-Doping Agency's list of banned substances.

Yarmouth graduate just misses medal

BY LARRY MAHONEY
BDN STAFF

Eight years ago, Yarmouth High School graduate Dave Hughes and partner Michael Anderson-Mitterling finished second in the men's 470 class dinghy race during the United States Olympic Trials.

They lost to Stu McNay and Graham Biehl, who wound up 13th in the Beijing Olympics.

Hughes and McNay eventually teamed up — after Hughes had served as a coach during the 2012 Olympics — and the duo earned a fourth-place finish in the Summer Olympics in Rio De Janeiro on Thursday.

Croatia's Sime Fantela and Igor Marenic captured the gold medal, Australia's Matt Belcher and Will Ryan earned the silver, and Greece's Panagiotis Mantis and Pavlos Kagialis took home the bronze.

Hughes, 38, moved to Yarmouth from New York and got his start in sailing with the youth program at the Harraseeket Yacht Club in South Freeport.

He was a member of the University of Southern Maine sailing team in his final two years before graduating with a degree in American government in 1999.

He served as the training partner for Paul Foerster and Kevin Burnham in 2004, and that duo captured



Dave Hughes, who grew up in Maine, sails with Stu McNay on Thursday during the finals of the 470 Class (dinghy) sailing event at the Summer Olympic Games in Rio De Janeiro.

BENOIT TESSIER | REUTERS

the gold medal at the Olympics in Greece.

After failing to earn a berth in the Olympics in 2008, he coached Trevor Moore and Erik Storck to a 15th-place finish in the 2012 Olympics.

Moore, Hughes and McNay lived together in Florida after the 2012 Olympics, and after sailing with Moore, Hughes decided to switch to McNay.

Hughes said his experience as a coach during the 2012 Olympics was invaluable and he hoped to apply what he learned in 2016.

Hughes and Moore had become close friends and had often shared a house.

"At one stage, I was sailing with Trevor as his partner and soon realized that

perhaps the better partnership was actually between Stu and I," Hughes told NBC Sports. "Many reasons ... physical size, all sorts of things."

Moore, who was a driving force behind Hughes' decision to try to earn an Olympic bid as a sailor again, was lost at sea on June 25, 2015, after going out in a 15-foot inflatable power boat.

Moore also had served in an advisor-type role to Hughes and McNay.

"Competing for Trevor is no small part of what drives me. He will be there with me in Rio," Hughes told NBC Sports. "Without question, Stu and I would not be where we are today if it were not for Trevor's friendship and support."

Olympics

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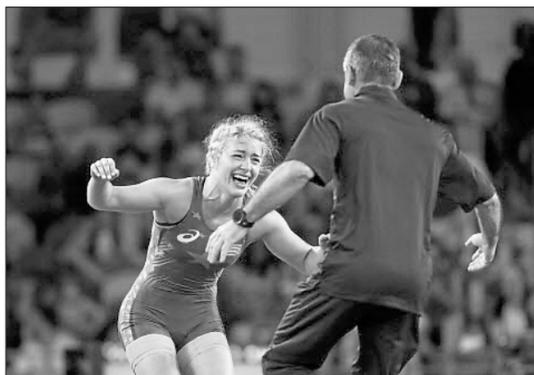
and after the 2013 world championships, Clement realized he needed to step away from the track to allow both mind and body to rest.

"I just needed a break mentally," he said. "I was done."

Clement didn't completely abandon his training, but he took the 2014 season off from competition.

By the time he started eyeing the 2015 track and field calendar, he could feel the itch. The break had energized him, but when Clement returned to the track full time, he realized something had been missing.

"When I came back, I found a new love for the hurdles," he said. "I was like, 'Oh my god, I missed the hurdles.' ... Just hitting the refocus button, loving it again, having a new mindset and new goals for the



Helen Louise Maroulis of the USA celebrates after winning a gold medal in women's freestyle wrestling in the Olympics on Thursday in Rio de Janeiro.

second chapter of my career, which is now."

At last year's world championships, he finished in fourth place, just a hundredth of a second away from the podium, but he felt he entered the 2016 season with momentum at his back. He had at least one other thing on his side: determination.

"I came out here with one mindset, to get a gold medal,

and nothing was going to stop me," he said. "I'm a Scorpio. Once I set my mind to something, I'm going to get it regardless."

US wrestler Maroulis wins women's gold

Add Helen Maroulis to the list of history-makers at the Rio Olympics.

The 24-year-old from Rockville, Maryland, upset the woman widely consid-

ered to be the greatest female wrestler of all time Thursday to take a gold medal in women's freestyle in the 53kg weight class.

Maroulis, a first-time Olympian who cut weight to compete in Rio, took down three-time defending gold medalist Saori Yoshida of Japan, 4-1.

Maroulis' win adds to a recent tear that includes her first-ever world title at the 2015 world championships; she holds the longest winning streak of all American wrestlers.

The weight of the moment made for an emotional medal ceremony, with both wrestlers crying on their respective podiums. Maroulis mouthed "The Star-Spangled Banner" with tears running down her face while Yoshida seemed inconsolable, heaving sobs as she mourned her 14-year streak of winning either a world or Olympic title.

The Japanese legend had not lost a match since before the 2012 London Games.

Betts earns first RoadRunner win

HERMON — Bradley's Sam Betts picked up his first win of the season in the Road-Runner division at Speedway 95 on Wednesday night after stealing the lead from Jason Hyde of Glenburn late in the event.

Hyde had been leading, but was spun sideways while overlapping a slower car. Betts, who had been following Hyde closely, took advantage and ducked under Hyde to take the lead and the win.

Following Betts across the finish line was Chris Horlieca of Glenburn in second and James Goodman Jr.

of Hampden in third. Ted Ryder of Carmel finished fourth with Anthony Moore of Brewer placing fifth.

AUTO RACING

Other Speedway 95 results

Modified Enduros: 1. Andrew Crosby, Hermon; 2. Danielle Beale, Hampden; 3. Jeff Overlock Jr., Hermon; 4. Steve Kimball, Holden; 5. Becky Elston Burns, Carmel; Stars of Tomorrow: 1. Jordan Kimball, Holden; 2. Isaac Rollins, Hudson; 3. Scott Hunt Jr., Glenburn; 4. Joshua Merrill, Corinth; 5. Brady Campbell, Stetson; RoadRunner Stunt: 1. Dustyn Carrow, Carmel; 2. Anthony Miles, Winterport; 3. Hunter Higgins, Clifton

Fort Kent beats Wisdom

FORT KENT — The Fort Kent Warriors opened their season on Wednesday by registering a 3-0 girls soccer victory over Wisdom of St. Agatha.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Cassidy Lovley scored two goals and assisted on Fort Kent's first goal, which was scored by Dolcie Tanguay. Desirae Hafford and Amanda Thibeault added assists for the winners. Morgan Roy and Sylvie Guimond combined to make four saves on four shots.

Alyssa Banville made six saves on 26 shots for (1-1).

Boys Soccer Fort Kent 12, Wisdom 0

At Fort Kent on Wednesday, the Warriors got their season off to a rousing start with a victory over Wisdom of St. Agatha.

Niko Naranja led Fort Kent with two goals and four assists, while Sam Johnson scored twice and added an assist. Micah Charette and David Roy scored two goals each while Austin Plourde, Camden Jandreau, Caleb Delisle and Dylan Bernier netted one apiece.

Bennet Theriault recorded two assists and Reece Pelletier made two saves on six shots.

Mason Sirosis made 14 saves on 36 shots for 0-2 Wisdom.

Players agree to meet with NFL

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison and Green Bay Packers linebackers Clay Matthews and Julius Peppers, all implicated in a report by Al-Jazeera, agreed to meet with the NFL regarding allegations they used performance-enhancing drugs.

ESPN's Chris Mortensen reported Harrison would meet with the league on Aug. 28 at team headquarters with stipulations for the interview, including that questions be limited to the 20-second

reference to Harrison in the video in question. Mortensen said Mike Neal, an unrestricted free agent who last played for the Packers, had not agreed to a formal meeting with the NFL.

The league set a deadline to consent to an interview with the NFL by Aug. 25.

Adolpho Birch, the NFL's senior vice president of labor policy and league affairs, sent a memo to the NFL Players Association warning that suspensions will go into effect on Aug. 26 if the players fail to cooperate, USA Today reported.