

A GAMES TO REMEMBER

With one week to go at Tokyo 2020, **The Sunday Times** looks at some of the highlights since the opening ceremony.

SHOCKS & SURPRISES



Biles pulls out of gymnastics events

After one vault in the women's team final, US star Simone Biles withdrew, citing concerns about her mental health. A day later, she opted out of the individual all-around event, where she was the defending champion, and also pulled out of today's vault and uneven bars finals.



Barty, Osaka exit

The top two seeds, Australian tennis world No. 1 Ashleigh Barty and home favourite Naomi Osaka (left), chosen to light the Olympic cauldron, were bundled out by the third round.



Size isn't everything

Flora Duffy's victory in the women's triathlon was Bermuda's first Olympic gold, giving her country – with a population of 70,000 – the distinction of being the smallest nation to achieve such a feat. Trap shooter Alessandra Perilli's bronze and mixed trap silver with Marco Gian Berti sent San Marino and its 34,000 inhabitants into ecstasy. The tiny landlocked European country is the smallest to clinch an Olympic medal.

BREAKTHROUGHS

South-east Asia's women come to the fore

Thailand has won nine Olympic titles, five in weightlifting and four in boxing. Panipak Wongpattanakit became the kingdom's first taekwondo gold medalist thanks to her dramatic win in the women's 49kg final. Weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz (right) achieved a childhood dream and also ended the Philippines' 97-year wait for an Olympic gold thanks to her triumph in the 55kg division.



A mathematical miracle

Austrian Anna Kiesenhofer's win in the women's road race was one of the biggest upsets in Olympic cycling history. The mathematician was considered a novice compared to her rivals, who included defending champions Anna van der Breggen and several world champions but she powered through the 147km course to win by 75 seconds.



Disappointment for local favourites

A host of Japanese stars, under immense pressure to win gold, fell short. They included three-time Olympic champion gymnast Kohei Uchimura, badminton world No. 1 Kento Momota (right) and four-time world champion swimmer Daiya Seto.



New sports leave their mark

Skateboarding and surfing entered the mainstream in a big way, making their Olympic bows in Tokyo. Both had successful debuts and with competitors and medallists in their early teens, are geared towards bringing in a younger audience. Sport climbing, also targeting the next generation, begins this week.

BLUNDERS



Chaotic start

A bizarre incident sparked mass confusion at the beginning of the men's triathlon event as the starting gun went off. A media boat, with the camera crew filming, was floating in front of the starting platform, blocking some competitors. The boat's pilot then had to hastily reverse out of the way while race officials frantically tried to recall those who had dived into the water.

Bye bye bentos

Tokyo Games organisers admitted to throwing away approximately 4,000 of the 10,000 pre-ordered bento boxes meant for volunteers on the day of the opening ceremony. Masanori Takaya, a spokesman for the organising committee, later apologised and said: "Because the order volume was large and there were many people who didn't eat, it was impossible to consume it all."



SINGAPOREANS IN ACTION

So close, yet so far

Table tennis player Yu Mengyu's (right) fairy-tale run in the women's singles won her many admirers but not the silverware she longed for. The world No. 47 overcame several higher-ranked players but lost the bronze medal play-off to Japan's world No. 2 Mima Ito. Teammate Feng Tianwei was eliminated in the round of 16 by Germany's Han Ying.



End of Schooling's Olympic reign

Five years after shocking the world by claiming gold at Rio 2016, Joseph Schooling's defence of his 100m butterfly title ended at the first hurdle. He clocked 53.12 seconds to finish last in his heat and 44th overall, failing to qualify for the semi-finals.



From historic to heartbreak

A first outing at the Olympics for Singapore equestrienne Caroline Chew ended in traumatic fashion. Midway through her ride in the dressage individual qualification competition, she was stopped by an official after her horse Tribiani was found to be bleeding from the mouth. Checks confirmed traces of blood were seen in the 17-year-old gelding's mouth and the pair were eliminated immediately.

