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China wins second diving gold medal

By ASSOCIATED PRESS in London

China was too good again. Cao Yuan and Zhang Yanguan extended the country's diving dominance with a victory in the men's 10-meter synchronized platform on



Monday, giving China its second gold medal on the boards at the London Olympics.

Cao and Zhang totaled 486.78 points in the six-dive final, spoiling the gold-medal hopes of Brits Tom Daley and Peter Waterfield, who were shut out after a major mistake.

"If you miss a dive in this kind of field then you're out," Daley said.

Cao, who is 17, and 18-year-old Zhang were unflappable while launching themselves off the 10-meter tower in front of the partisan crowd that shouted "GB! GB!"

They led Mexico by 10.28 points after the fifth round, but came up big on their final dive, a back 2 1/2 somersault with 21/2 twists pike that earned 99.36 points.

German Sanchez and Ivan Garcia of Mexico had the highest degree of difficulty in the competition and it paid off with the silver. They scored 468.90 to earn Mexico's first Olympic medal in men's synchronized diving.

"We are still in awe about what just happened," Sanchez said.

Sanchez and Garcia got advice from former Olympic diving medalists Jesus Mena and Fernando Platas a day earlier.

"They told us that we needed to keep it cool out there because that's the only way to win a medal," Sanchez said. "We even modified the diving list at their request and it totally worked." He and Garcia pulled off their trick-

iest dive — an inward 4 1/2 somersault for the highest score of 95.95 in the fourth round.

"We tried it so many times in the last few days and we were not doing



Nick McCrory and David Boudia of the US took the bronze with 463.47.



Gold medalists Cao Yuan (left) and Zhang Yanquan of China pose during the medal ceremony for the men's synchronized 10 meter platform diving final at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park on Monday.

critics made us better."

"We were about ready to walk out and we were like, 'Oh, we just got third, we're bronze medalists.' I think it will sink in once you see your family, you celebrate, you're on the 'Today' show."

The Americans are 2-for-2 after Abby Johnston and Kelci Bryant earned a silver in the 3-meter syn-"It's not real yet," Boudia said. chro springboard on Sunday, ending

"The floodgates have opened," said US high performance director Steve Foley, who began emphasizing success in the synchro events after Beijing. "They did it the hard way. It was a hell of a contest. It could have gone

a 12-year medal drought.

either way." McCrory and Boudia were third after the first two rounds before slip-



Mainland stars continue to flummox rest of world with its utter dominance

in 2008 with his sixth and final dive, at the 2000 Sydney Games, winning which scored 112.10 points, the silver with Anne Montminy in the highest single-dive total in Olympic women's 10m synchronized platform. history.

It enabled him to snatch gold from favorite Zhou Luxin, denying China a clean sweep.

Although she never was able to top

ping to third. They earned their highest score of 95.04 on their last dive, ripping through a back 2 1/2 somersault 2 1/2 twists pike.

"I watched the Olympics on TV and pointed at it and said: 'That's what I want to do, and now I'm here," McCrory said. "I want the sport to grow. I just hope we inspired some people today."

KEY FACTS

China has steadily improved at recent Games, winning five gold medals in diving in Sydney, six in Athens and seven in Beijing The men's 10m platform was the only event China failed to win in Beijing.

The US is the only nation to sweep. It did so five times

Since the Los Angeles Games in

there were only four diving

events on the program.

olympics 5



@Wu Minxia

"I am so happy. He Zi and I won the gold on the first day of the diving competition. Hope the Chinese diving team will get more inspiration from our performance! Thanks for your support. I was so excited when the Chinese national flag rose!

Chinese diving star Wu Minxia on her and He's victory

@Guo Wenjun

"It is so exciting to defend the title! Thanks for the cultivation from my country. Cheers!"

Chinese shooter Guo Wenjun, after winning the women's 10m air pistol

@Yi Jianlian

"We lost the first match. But we should keep the good momentum, concentration and the desire to win! Keep the confidence and trust among players! Let's make good preparations for the next match.'

Yi Jianlian. Chinese basketball star and the Chinese national flag bearer at the Games, on the team's loss against Spain

@StephonMarbury

"Yi Jianlian played a great game, which was needed against a strong Spain team despite coming up short. As team China prepares for the next game, defense should be the main focus. Team China has proven they can score the ball, so now it's time to turn up the defense.

Stephon Marbury, former NBA star and key member of the Beijing Ducks, on Yi Jianlian's fiery performance against Spain

@paugasol "Good victory against China in our first match of the Games! We'll get in better flow as we move forward in the tournament." Spanish basketball center Pau Gasol, after winning the first game against China



By CHEN XIANGFENG

in London

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Nobody can figure out how to beat China in diving, but it's not for lack of trying.

Journalists, coaches and foreign divers all put forth their opinions while China was busy working on sweeping the gold medals at the London Olympics.

It might not happen this generation, but that doesn't mean it's not coming.

"I've followed diving for eight years. I think part of the obstacle for American and other athletes all over the world is not to be intimidated by Chinese divers," David Woods, a reporter for The Indianapolis Star, told China Daily.

"Before anyone can beat the Chinese divers, it's something they've got to believe, and destroy (the obstacle). I expect China will maintain its dominance for some time. But certainly, the US is trying to close the gap. With the help of Chinese coaches, they will catch up."

China's world champions Wu Minxia and He Zi easily won the women's synchronized 3m springboard event on Sunday.

The Chinese won seven diving gold medals in Beijing four years ago and swept all 10 at the 2011 world championships.

Wu and He scored 346.20 points to secure Wu's third consecutive Olympic title, with the United States taking silver and Canada edging Italy for bronze.

Australia's Anabelle Smith, who finished fifth with partner Sharleen Stratton, is weary of China's dominance, but she and her partner believe Australia has a chance to beat China if it continues to work hard.

"It's annoying because it is always the Chinese anthem (during the medal ceremony)," she said. "They are amazing. I feel like they do 10 hours (of training) a day and we do six. They have a different lifestyle than us."

Fellow Australian Matthew Mitcham's success at the Beijing Games has been a source of inspiration.

Mitcham made Olympic history

"It's inspirational. (We should) have more winning stars to inspire the younger generation, to give them confidence," said Smith.

"We also have Chinese coaches. We know how they train. We must keep training, do our best in diving and never give up. Success rewards hard work and determination."

Chinese coaches needed

Canada's Emilie Heymans and Jennifer Abel won bronze in London under Chinese coach Li Yihua.

Li, who helped Heymans become one of the best athletes in Canadian history, believes Canada's divers need to be able to put in more time.

'There's no comparison between China and Canada so far," Li said. "China is full time, we are training part time. Our divers have to work and make a living. Based on that, we have done a good job as we can compete against the Chinese in international competitions."

Heymans made a name for herself

China in major international events, Heymans — who also won bronze in Athens and silver in Beijing - marked herself as an outstanding diver in both the individual and synchronized diving events, winning medals in four consecutive Olympics.

Li said Canada is struggling now, but expects it to bounce back.

"This is an up-and-down sport," Li said. "For us, we are in the down period. I'm sure after years of hard work, more and more talented divers will come out to fight for the gold against the Chinese."

Another former Chinese coach, Yang Zhuliang, is head of the diving team and has lifted it to a competitive level in some events, like men's 10m synchronized platform.

Two women on the team, Pamg Pandelela Rinong and Cheong Jun Hoong, advanced to the synchronized spring final, but finished last. Rinong said she believes China is beatable if divers begin training hard at a young age.

"I do not think China has a secret in diving," she said. "We also have very good Chinese athletes and we

1984 — the first time China participated - it has dominated the diving, winning 27 of 40 events. At the 2011 world championships in Shanghai, China won all 10 events.

> China's first diving medal at the London Games was its 50th in Olympic diving.

know how to train and where our problems are.

"The Chinese are just more determined to go all-out in training and competition. Athletes in other countries do not have the willpower to keep going. Also, China has so many young athletes to select. If you don't measure up, you will be dismissed. But in Malaysia, the number of athletes is smaller than a province in China. I hope more young people pick up the sport, start systematic training from a young age and never give up."

@Wu Jingbiao between 1928 and 1952, when "Although it was

a silver, I want to thank all for your attention on the Chinese weightlifting team and me. There is still a long way to go in the future. I may fail or succeed. But today I decide to face the result directly since I still have my life and career. God will watch what we are doing.

Chinese lifter Wu Jingbiao on his silver in the men's 56kg category

@WayneRooney

"Yes giggsy." British soccer player Wayne Rooney on Britain's 3-1 victory against the UAE, in which captain Ryan Giggs scored a goal

@kimcollins100m

"I was just trying to get to the village. But no one knows anything, nor could they help. I was shocked to experience that. In London. St. Kitts sprinter Kim Collins

@paulajradcliffe First time I smiled today was watching @L_ArmiTstead claim silver in the womens road race - well done! **British marathon runner Paula** Radcliffe, who pulled out of the **Olympics because of injury**

@BeckAdlington

"Ahhhhhhh bronze medal!!! Can't believe it! SOOO happy it's unreal! The crowd was incredible! THANK YOU to everyone, your support is amazing!' British swimmer Rebecca Adlington, after the women's 400m freestyle



@chrishoy

"Well done @BeckAdlington you did yourself and the whole of GB proud out there, great job! Bring on the 800!' **Britain's Chris Hoy on British** swimmer Rebecca Adlington's bronze medal in the women's 400m freestyle

Punch enough guys, you can buy your folks a house

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in London

Olympic Games boxer Joseph Diaz Junior believes a gold medal in London will pave the way to a bright future as a professional and help drag his parents out of poverty.

The lively 19-year-old, two-time American champion, may be the youngest member of the

US team, but he shows

maturity beyond his



years when he acknowledges the debt he owes his mother and father.

"My family means a lot to me and to see them in the crowd here is an overwhelming experience," he said after his impressive opening bantamweight round win, which set up a bout with Cuban top seed Lazaro Alvarez.

"There they are cheering me on,

and it is they who should be taking the applause because without them I wouldn't have had this opportunity."

His father and coach Joseph Sr, who has been jobless for three years and no longer receives unemployment benefits, was equally emotional after watching the bout.

He had raised the money to come here with his wife through selling T-shirts and washing cars.

"Knowing that's your son, your blood in there," a teary-eyed Joseph Diaz told the Los Angeles Times. "It's just something, man."

Diaz taught himself the art of becoming a coach through watching YouTube videos and talking to qualified trainers.

Diaz, who was the first American to qualify for the Olympics when he reached the world championship quarterfinals last year, is so driven

that he eschewed going to the opening ceremony on the eve of his bout.

"I am not here for the opening ceremony, I'm here for the gold medal," said the teenager, who showed his class at the world championships by beating the 2004 Olympic silver medalist Worapoj Petchkoom and former world bronze medalist Oscar Valdez. Diaz, known as Jo-Jo, says he wishes

to emulate what the great Oscar de la Hoya — the lightweight gold medalist in 1992 — did for his family thanks to his success inside the ring.

"I'm fighting not just for my country but for my family — to be the next Golden Boy and do for my family what Oscar De La Hoya did for his," said Diaz, who has been linked with De La Hoya's highly successful Golden Boy stable.

"I'm fighting not for glory but to get my mom and dad a new house



and a new start in life."

Diaz's qualifying for the Games, and now his first round victory, have been rare rays of sunlight in the family household over the past three years as both his parents have been made redundant.

They have also been under threat of eviction from their home.

Joseph Senior hasn't found work since being laid off from the truck company he worked for three years

ago, while mom Valerie also lost her permanent job as a secretary, though she does get part-time work from time to time.

Joseph Senior, though, is grateful his son's talent and dreams have kept the flame of hope alive in the household — down to in no small measure to his succeeding in getting Jo-Jo to switch from being naturally lefthanded to a right-hander in the ring. Diaz senior never really had it in

mind for his son to box for a career.

He viewed baseball as his future, but he saw the gym as being a safe haven in their Los Angeles area.

"I told him, 'Joseph, you want to go to the gym? You're hanging around the wrong people," Diaz told the Los Angeles Times.

"I didn't want him to choose it as a profession. Just something to keep him off the streets."