



Brazil star Neymar (L) jumps for joy after scoring from the spot in their Olympics quarterfinal against Honduras at St James' Park at Newcastle on Saturday. Brazil won 3-2 to advance to the semis where they will meet South Korea.

Brazil scrape thru' GB out on penalties

AFP, London



Brazil stayed on course for a first Olympic football gold medal but only after a nervy 3-2 win over a Honduras side reduced to nine men saw them into the semifinals.

Leandro Damiao equalised for Brazil after Mario Martinez put Honduras ahead. Roger Espinoza then restored the Central Americans' lead.

However, Neymar brought Brazil level again from the penalty spot before Internacional striker Damiao scored his second at Newcastle's St James' Park.

Honduras gave Brazil, five-times world champions but never Olympic gold medallists, a huge scare despite having midfielder Wilmer Cristiano sent off with just 32 minutes gone for a second bookable offence, with Espinoza collecting his second yellow card just before the final whistle.

Brazil will now face South Korea, who beat hosts Great Britain 5-4 in penalty shootout, in the semifinal at Manchester United's Old Trafford ground on Tuesday.

This was Great Britain's first men's Olympic football tournament for more than 50 years which ended in familiar fashion with Daniel Sturridge missing a penalty.

After extra-time failed to separate the sides, who'd finished all square at 1-1 at the end of 90 minutes, it was the Koreans who held their nerve to win the shoot-out 5-4.

And even though Manchester United and Wales great Ryan Giggs, playing in his first major international tournament smashed home his penalty to give Britain a 4-3 lead, a

hesitant Sturridge, stuttering in his run-up, saw his spot-kick blocked.

Ji Dong-Won gave South Korea a 29th minute lead with a swerving shot.

Then came two penalties for Britain, with Welshman Aaron Ramsey scoring one and seeing keeper Jung Sung-Ryong, who was injured later, saving the other.

Japan stayed on course for an Olympic football double as their men's team joined the women's side in reaching the semifinals following a 3-0 win over 10-man Egypt on Saturday.

Goals from Kensuke Nagai, captain Maya Yoshida and Yuki Otsu took Japan through against an Egypt side who played more than half the match a man down after defender Saadeldin Saad was sent off in the 41st minute.

Japan will play Mexico in the semifinals after the Central Americans survived a dramatic fightback by Senegal to win 4-2 in extra-time.

Senegal came from 2-0 behind at London's Wembley Stadium, in front of a crowd of more than 81,000.

Mexico went ahead in the 10th minute when Jorge Enriquez headed in a free-kick and made it 2-0 just after the hour through Javier Aquino.

Moussa Konate, the tournament's top scorer, pulled a goal back in the 69th minute, for his fifth goal this Olympics.

And seven minutes later it substitute Ibrahim Balde's header made it 2-2.

In extra-time Giovanni dos Santos restored Mexico's lead before Hector Herrera, who will miss the semifinal through suspension, headed into an empty net.

Dutch women in semis

AFP, London



Defending champions the Netherlands moved into the semifinals of the Olympic women's hockey tournament on Saturday by defeating South Korea 3-2 for their fourth successive victory.

The Dutch were made to work hard by South Korea before taking their tally to 12 points from four matches to head Pool A.

In the same group, China came back into the chase for semifinals with a 2-1 victory that stopped Great Britain's winning spree.

The day finished with those three teams locked on nine points and Germany who have still to play New Zealand, three points adrift after losing 3-1 to Argentina.

However, Argentina -- who play Australia on Monday -- have comfortably the best goal difference of the top three.

South Korea's Cheon Seul Ki converted two penalty corners to trouble the Dutch, who got all their goals in open play.

Cheon opened the scoring by sending a drag-flick into the top corner in the fifth minute, but the Dutch were back on level

terms in the 10th minute on Kelly Jonker's reverse deflection of captain Maartje Paumen's shot.

Ellen Hogg open field strike four minutes later gave Netherlands the lead and Carlien Dirkse van den Heuvel made it 3-1 one minute after half-time.

Cheon pulled another goal back from a penalty corner in the 64th minute

But it was China who seized control of the game through penalty corner conversions by Fu Baorong in the 41st minute and Zhao Yudiao six minutes later.

Crista Cullen pulled a goal back for Britain on a penalty corner one minute from full-time.

Australia rode on Jade Close's early field goal to beat South Africa 1-0 in Pool B and set the target in the group with nine points from four matches.

Argentina maintained their recent supremacy over Germany with a 3-1 win in the day's last game.

Early goals by Sofia Maccari and captain Luciana Aymar, set the tone for Argentina's third win out of four games.

New Zealand's penalty corner drills saw them through in a 3-2 win over the United

One final golden splash

AFP, London



Michael Phelps savoured one last golden moment

Saturday, capping his remarkable Olympic swimming career with an 18th gold medal in the final event in the Aquatics Centre competition pool.

"It's tough to put into words right now," Phelps said. "I did everything I wanted to do.

"I finished my career the way I wanted to, and I don't care what anyone says, if I can say that, it's all that matters."

With the US men unbeaten in the 4x100m medley relay in Olympic competition, the race was a coronation for the man Serbian swimmer Milorad Cavic called "the king".

But breaststroke star Kosuke Kitajima added some drama to the occasion, seizing a narrow lead for Japan by the time Phelps dived in for the butterfly leg behind US backstroke Matt Grevers and breaststroke swimmer Brendan Hansen.

Takeshi Matsuda maintained Japan's advantage at the 50m mark of the fly, but Phelps delivered a classic final lap to seize the lead for the Americans and 100m free gold medallist Nathan Adrian was untouchable in sealing the victory in 3:29.35.

"It is one of the funniest ways to do it," Phelps said of closing out his

career with a relay.

"Being able to step up with these four guys and continue this streak is important to us.

"I just said before we went out, we've got to want to win, let's just go out and do it," Phelps said.

Their smile-filled medal ceremony was followed by a special presentation to Phelps, who received FINA's lifetime achievement trophy and walked one last victory lap round the pool.

"I am feeling sort of emotional, kind of bitter-sweet," Phelps' longtime coach Bob Bowman confided to AFP, but the swimmer he has guided since childhood was emphatic that it was time to move on.

"I have achieved everything I wanted," Phelps said. "If you can say that about your career, there is no need to look forward. Time to move on to other things."

In what he had vowed was his final race, the four-time Olympian took his career medals tally to 22. The 18 gold include the stunning eight gold in eight events he won in Beijing four years ago, and he also owns two silver and two bronze.

Although Phelps wasn't the same

swimmer he was in Beijing, he said he'd treasure his memories of London.

"The memories from this week will never go away," he said.

China's Sun Yang offered a worthy curtain-raiser to Phelps' finale as he shrugged off a heart-in-mouth moment at the start to destroy the field and win the 1,500m freestyle gold in a world record time, and America's 4x100m medley women also won in a world record.

Sun shook off a heart-in-mouth moment at the start, when he slipped and hit the water as the other swimmers stood up before the start.

He wasn't charged with a false start that would have ended his night, and after the public

address announcer instructed the crowd to maintain silence, a seemingly shaken Sun joined the rest of the field in returning to the blocks and powered to a win in 14:31.02, bettering the previous world record he set last year at the world championships in Shanghai.

"I thought I was going to be disqualified," admitted Sun, who said he couldn't hear the starter properly over the crowd noise.

"I didn't expect the false start and

PHELPS'S OLYMPIC CAREER

Four Olympics: 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012

Medals: 22 (18 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze)

Phelps in London

400m individual medley -- **4th place**

4x100m free relay -- **SILVER**

200m butterfly -- **SILVER**

4x200m free relay -- **GOLD**

200m individual medley -- **GOLD**

100m butterfly -- **GOLD**

Chinese clean-sweep in badminton

AFP, London

China's Cai Yun and Fu Haifeng sealed the first ever clean-sweep of all five Olympic badminton titles when they won the men's doubles final on Sunday.

Cai and Fu beat third-seeded Danes Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen 21-16, 21-15, atoning for their disappointment at losing the 2008 Olympic final. China has already won the men's and women's singles, women's doubles and mixe doubles.



Jin's golden pistol double

AFP, London



South Korea's Jin Jong-Oh completed an Olympic pistol shooting double Sunday, winning the men's 50m pistol gold eight days after his triumph in the 10m pistol.

The 32-year-old sharpshooter amassed 662 total points to lead a South Korean one-two ahead of Choi Young-Rae, who finished with 661.5 points.

China's Wang Zhiwei took bronze with 658.6 points.

Jin was lying in fifth place after the morning qualifying dominated by Choi, while world number one Damir Mikec of Serbia failed to earn a spot in the final as he finished 16th in the first phase.

Jin, winner of the 2008 50m pistol title at Beijing took his tally of Olympic gold medals to three, with two silver from the 10m at Beijing and 50m at Athens in 2004.

He became the first shooter to repeat as 50m pistol gold medallist.

Gelana wins marathon

AFP, London



Ethiopia's Tiki Gelana won gold in the women's marathon on the streets of London on Sunday, denying the powerful Kenyans their first Olympic crown in a Games record time of 2hr 23min 7sec.

Priscah Jeptoo, part of a Kenyan contingent eyeing a medals sweep after last year's one-two-three at the world championships in South Korea, took the nation's third consecutive silver in the event, five seconds behind Gelana.

Russia's Tatyana Petrova Arkhipova collected the bronze in 2:23:29.

Gelana, who ran the second fastest time of 2012 in this year's Rotterdam marathon, took charge of the race in the closing stages and 2011 world silver medallist Jeptoo did not have the strength to match her.

The fancied Mary Keitany, who has won the past two London marathons, was long part of the leading pack but slipped off the pace shortly before the 41-kilometre mark.



US swimming legend and the greatest Olympian of all time Michael Phelps of USA splashes Olympic pool for the last time, at the London Aquatics centre on Saturday, to win gold in the Men's 4x100m Medley Relay.

PHOTO: AP

What to WATCH

ESPN & STAR Sports
London Olympic Games
Day Ten
Live from 1:00pm

STAR Cricket
England v South Africa
Second Test, Day 5
Live from 4:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

Premier Div Hockey Super League
Mohammedan v Usha
Time: 3:15pm