

TODAY'S GOLD RUSH

MARATHON SWIMMING Men's 10km 11:30 pm	TABLE TENNIS Men's Team Match 7:00 pm
SPORT CLIMBING Men's Boulder and Lead 4:35 pm	WEIGHTLIFTING Men's 89 kg 7:00 pm
CANOE SPRINT Women's Double 500m Sprint 4:40 pm	MEN'S FOOTBALL France vs Spain 10:00 pm
WOMEN'S KAYAK Double 500m 5:00 pm	ATHLETICS Women's 4 x 100m Relay 11:30 pm Women's Shot Put 11:37 pm Men's 4 x 100m 11:47 pm Women's 400m 12:00 am (Saturday) Men's Triple Jump 12:13 am (Saturday) Women's Heptathlon 800m 12:25 am (Saturday) Women's 10000m 12:57 am (Saturday) Men's 400m Hurdles 1:45 am (Saturday)
MEN'S KAYAK Double 500m 5:20 pm	
MEN'S CANOE Single 1000m 5:40 pm	
Rhythmic GYMNASTICS Individual All-Around 6:30 pm Diving Women's 3m Springboard 7:00 pm	



New Zealand's Lisa Carrington led her women's kayak four crew to the gold medal at the Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium on Thursday, increasing her personal Olympic tally to six golds and one bronze with another stunning performance.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Rouwendaal dedicates gold to her pet dog Rio

AFP, Paris

Sharon van Rouwendaal of the Netherlands made a late surge to win gold in the women's 10k marathon swimming at the Paris Olympics on Thursday.

Van Rouwendaal won with a time of 2hr 03min 34.2sec, with Australian Moesha Johnson taking silver 5.5 seconds behind and Italy's Geneva Taddeucci claiming bronze.

The race took place on the River Seine with the Eiffel Tower in the background after water pollution levels were deemed sufficiently safe for competition.

It was the third straight Olympic medal in the event for Van Rouwendaal, the gold medallist in Rio



in 2016 and silver medallist in Tokyo, who made her move past Johnson around a pylon coming under the Pont des Invalides bridge.

The 30-year-old Dutchwoman, who was also world champion in Budapest in 2022, never looked back as she powered her way to the finish.

Van Rouwendaal said her victory

was dedicated to the memory of her pet dog Rio, who died in May.

"Swimming is my everything, but so was he. When there were complications in May, he died shortly afterwards. Then my world stood still and I wanted to swim for him one more time," she said.

"My father said: swim one more time and do it for him. And that's what I did," she added.

It was a crushing blow for Johnson who had led from the half-way mark onwards and was out front with the top three having broken well clear of the field going into the final lap.

But the Australian said she had no regrets about her approach to the final stages when victory slipped from her grasp.

Formidable Spain aim to deny France

AFP, PARIS

Thierry Henry's France are hoping a home crowd at the Parc des Princes can drive them on to win Olympic men's football gold but an impressive Spain side will attempt to deny them in Friday's final.

Henry, a France legend as a player, has led his country to the brink of their second football gold medal, 40 years after they won the title in Los Angeles.

That victory over Brazil came just a few weeks after the full French national team lifted their first major trophy by beating Spain on home soil in the final of Euro 84.

Just like then, the nations will meet at a packed Parc des Princes on Friday when a hostile home support will try to spur France on to victory.

They have already effectively fulfilled their objective by being guaranteed a medal, with Henry succeeding in moulding together a cohesive team after initially being met by a series of rejections from clubs unwilling to release their players.

They won all three group games without conceding a goal, before seeing off Argentina 1-0 in a fiery quarter-final and then showing great character to come from behind and beat Egypt 3-1 after extra time in the last four.

This may be the Paris Games, but so far Henry's team have played all their matches elsewhere around the country, in Marseille, Nice, Bordeaux and Lyon.

Spain, meanwhile, began their campaign with a 2-1 win over Uzbekistan in Paris. After easing past Japan in Lyon in the last eight, they had to come from behind to beat Morocco 2-1 in their semi-final in Marseille.

That victory in front of a hostile crowd, achieved thanks to goals by the outstanding Barcelona midfielder Fermin Lopez and the substitute Juanlu Sanchez, will give Spain confidence that they can handle the crowd and the pressure in the French capital.

Coached by the former Atletico Madrid defender Santi Denia, Spain are aiming for a second men's football gold after triumphing in Barcelona in 1992 with a squad including Pep Guardiola and Luis Enrique.

They were silver medallists in Tokyo three years ago, but Spain's record more recently across the board in international football is remarkable.



Indonesians celebrated their country's first Olympic gold medal in a sport other than badminton, won by Vedriq Leonardo in the inaugural men's speed climbing event in Paris on Thursday. Vedriq climbed to a personal best time of 4.75 to beat Chinese rival Wu Peng by just two hundredths of a second on the 15-metre wall.

PHOTO: AFP

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