

# 2021 MOST IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN SPORTS

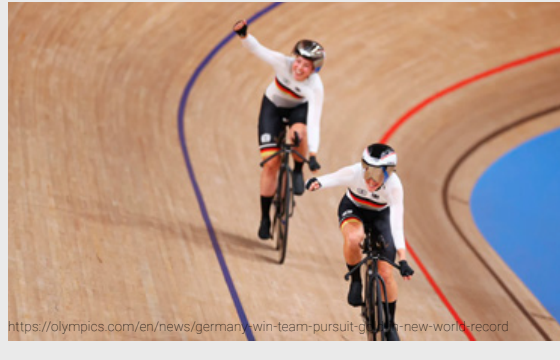
## 10 PERSEVERANCE



As the global pandemic continued into 2021, people and organizations found ways to adapt and carry on. In particular, Japan came together to host the postponed 2020 Olympics,

instituting an array of safety measures and protocols in an effort to bring the world together through sports, despite significant pushback from the Japanese people.

## 9 THREE IN A ROW



Germany displaced Great Britain in the women's team pursuit, and in the process broke the world record three times in the same day, first in qualifying rounds, and then twice in the first round of competition.

## 8 ELUSIVENESS OF EQUAL PAY



Equal pay continues to elude the U.S. Women's National Team. An appeal was filed in July 2021, following the case's dismissal in May 2020, and in early December, the USWNT lawyers presented a follow-on brief based upon the outcome of the wage dispute case of Tracy Sempowich v. Tactile Systems Technology. In the world of pay-for-performance, the total compensation package needs to be accounted for in determining fairness. Guaranteeing one gender pay that requires another gender to win consecutive World Cups to achieve equality is flawed.

## 7 FASTEST TIMES

Sydney McLaughlin and Dalilah Muhammad ran the two fastest times ever in the 400-meter hurdles, yet only one could win gold. McLaughlin, who competed in the 2016 Rio Games when she was only 16, edged Muhammad to break her own world record and win the gold.



## 6 GENDER IDENTITY



Transgender athletes have been allowed to compete at the Olympics since 2004, with the current criteria in place since 2015. Weightlifter Laurel Hubbard of New Zealand became the first openly transgender woman to compete at an Olympic Games. At 43, she was the oldest weightlifter to qualify for the Games. While initially a medal contender, she failed to qualify. Meanwhile, Canadian midfielder Quinn, as the first openly transgender and nonbinary athlete, became the first to win an Olympic medal when Canada defeated Sweden 3-2 in penalties to claim gold in women's soccer.



## 4 BREAKING BARRIERS

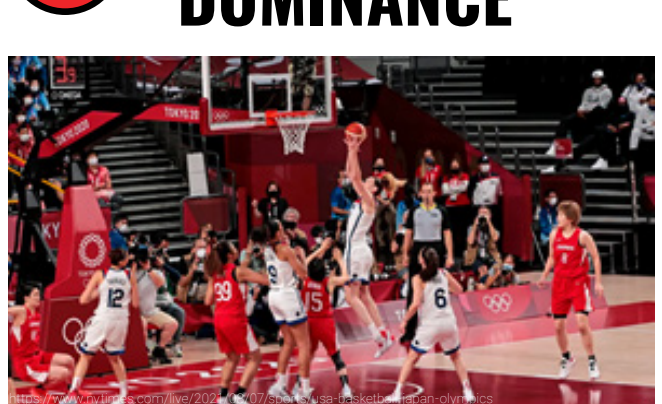
Kristen Hayden became the first black woman to win a national diving title, earning an invitation to the FINA World Championships in the process. Hayden and her mixed synchronized 3-meter partner Quinn Henniger, competing in their first competition together, won the title at USA Diving Winter Nationals on Dec. 13. Hayden, 23 and a native of Hillsborough, NJ, recently transferred to Indiana University where Henniger is a freshman.



## 5 TIME TO BREAK

Yulimar Rojas became the first woman from Venezuela to win an Olympic gold medal when she smashed a triple-jump world record that had gone uncontested for more than 26 years.

## 3 COMPLETE DOMINANCE



The U.S. women's basketball team won its seventh consecutive gold medal with an overwhelming performance against host Japan. Team stalwarts Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi picked up their fifth gold medal in the process, a record for Olympics basketball.

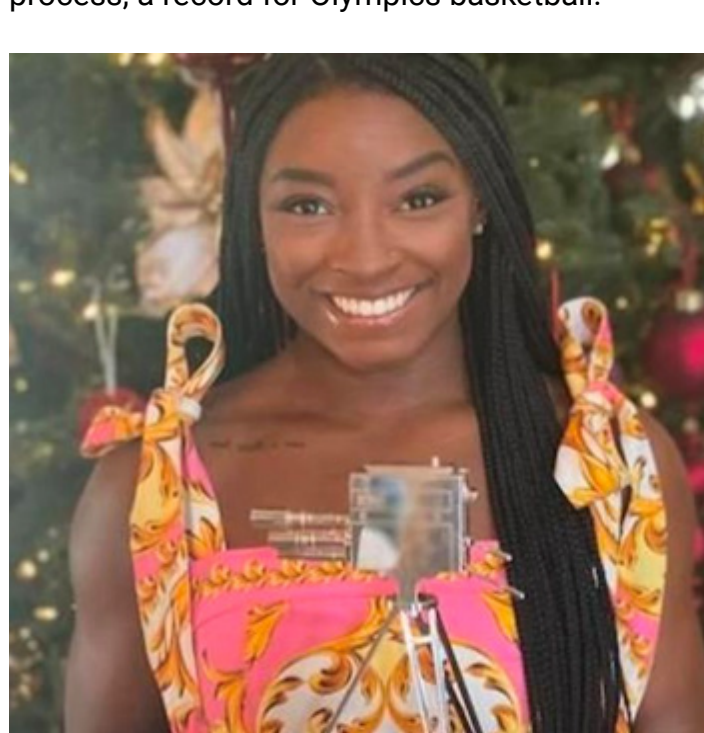
## 2 UNTOUCHABLE

Katie Ledecky is undefeated in every 800-meter freestyle race she has competed in for 11 years straight. The most dominant women's swimmer in history, Ledecky won her sixth individual gold and 10th Olympic medal in Tokyo, making her the most decorated female swimmer of all time.



## 1 NEVER GIVE UP

Gymnast Simone Biles has the most world championship medals (25) and the most gold medals (19) among both men and women. She also holds the most world championship all-around titles (5) because the competition was less frequent until 1978. She is also the first American gymnast to win a world championship medal on every apparatus. There was a different outcome than expected at the Tokyo Olympics, though Biles never gave up and came back to win a bronze medal in the balance beam. Her taking a stand on addressing abuses within gymnastics and mental health earned her the BBC Sports Personality of the Year's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021.



## SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR: ALLYSON FELIX



Allyson Felix became the most decorated woman in track and field when she won her 11th medal at the Tokyo Olympics. Her willingness to share her personal story about sports sponsorship and motherhood, and the actions she's taken, and continues to take, to support others, cements her legacy across dimensions of the personal and the professional.