ESCRIME

FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL D'ESCRIME

No 128 | Digital Magazine | FIE.org

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIE

FIE INTERNATIONAL FENCING FEDERATION

SPECIAL PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES EDITION

A World of Absolute Fencing Gear

ABSOLUTE® FENCING

Supplying Fencing Worldwide: World Championships, Grand Prix, World Cup

Official FIE Equipment Supplier
Cairo 2021, 2022 • Dubai 2022 • Daytona Beach 2023
Torun 2019 • Wuxi 2018 • USA 2020

www.AbsoluteFencingGear.com

ESCRIME XI
ISSUE 128 • FIE.ORG

FIE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Interim President: Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH, GRE)
Secretary-Treasurer: Ferial Nadira Salhi (ALG)

VICE PRESIDENTS
Erika Aze (LAT)
Ana Irene Delgado Guerra (PAN)
Abdelmoneim Elhamy El Husseiny (EGY)

MEMBERS
Rusni Abu Hassan (MAS)
Donald Anthony Jr. (USA)
Paolo Azzi (ITA)
Bruno Gares (FRA)
Vadym Guttsait (UKR)
Velichka Hristeva (BUL)
Yuki Ota (JPN)
Novak Perovic (RSA)
Oleg Peskov (KAZ)
Haibin Wang (CHN)
Ruben Limardo Gascon (President of the Athletes' Commission, VEN)

CONFEDERATION PRESIDENTS
Mbagnick Ndiaye (SEN), Africa
Vitaly Logvin (MEX), Pan America
H.H. Engr. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Alqasimi (UAE), Asia
Giorgio Scarso (ITA), Europe
Helen Smith (MH, AUS), Oceania

FIE INTERNATIONAL FENCING FEDERATION

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIE

International Fencing Federation
Head Office of the FIE
Maison du Sport International
Avenue de Rhodanie 54
CH-1007 Lausanne

Tel: +41 21 320 31 15
Fax: +41 21 320 31 16
info@fie.ch
fie.org

FIE HEAD OFFICE
Chief Executive Officer: Nathalie Rodriguez

Administration
Administrative Director: Elena Murdaca
Accounting Manager: Sandra Baroni
Accounting Manager Assistant: Catherine Rochat
Project Manager: Hengameh Ahadpour
Junior Executive Assistant: Victoria Mansoni

Sport
Sports and Technical Director: Dieter Lammer
Sport Technology and Administration Manager: Natalia Bodrova
Projects and Operations Coordinator: Ezequiel Abello Navas

Communications, Marketing, TV
Head of Communications and Media: Serge Timacheff
Digital Communications Manager: Zhen Ma
Marketing and Communications Manager: Céline Ramseyer
Head of FIE Television Production: Barna Heder
Photography: Augusto Bizzi

EDITED BY THE FIE
Issue Number 128

Publication Director
Emmanuel Katsiadakis

Coordinator
Serge Timacheff

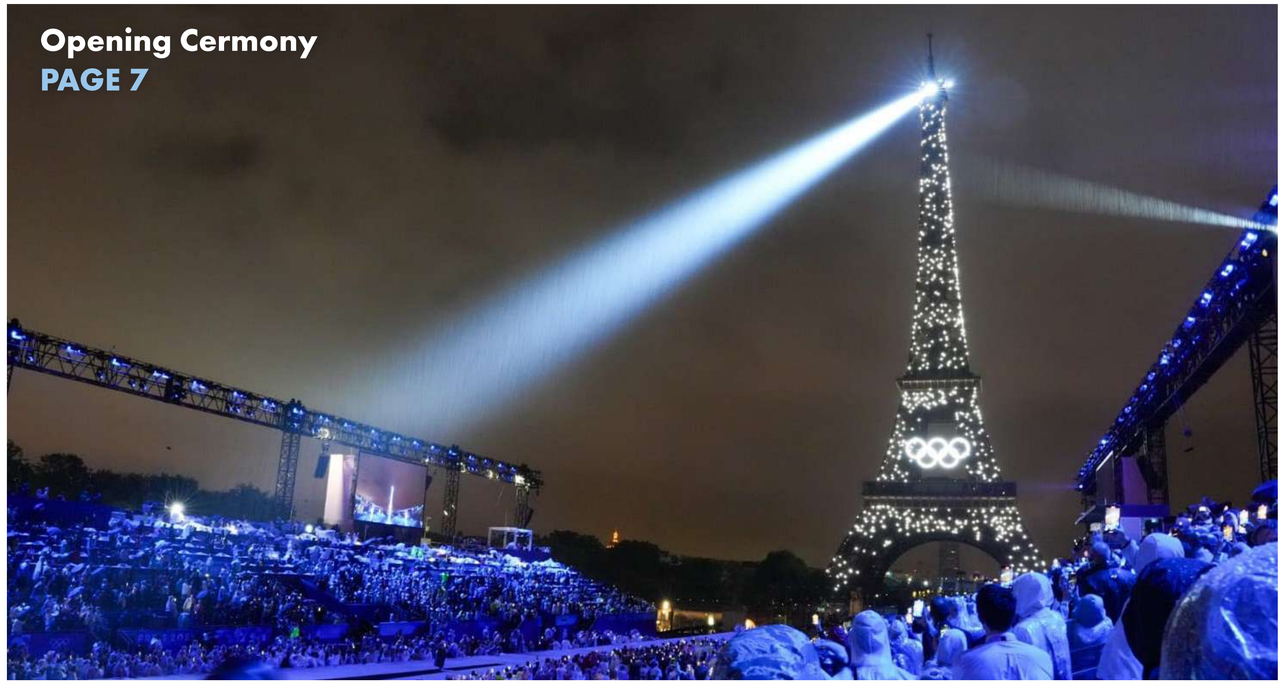
Creative Direction & Editorial Design
Charlie Jahner (Manna Creations)
Matt Lupton (Lupton Creative)

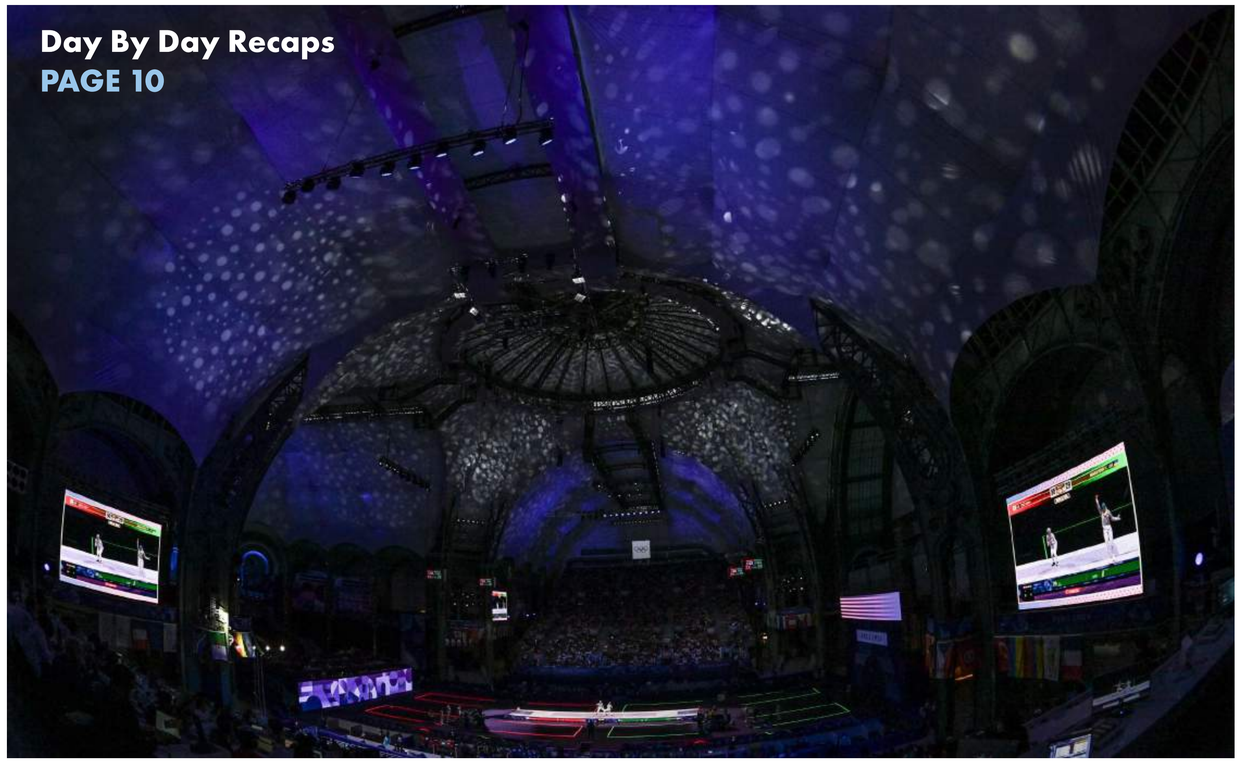
www.pbtfencing.com
sales@pbtfencing.com
instagram.com/pbt_fencing

ESCRIME XI
ISSUE 128 • FIE.ORG

IN THIS ISSUE

Paris 2024 Olympic Games
PAGE 9


Opening Cermony
PAGE 7


Day By Day Recaps
PAGE 10

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, fencing was presented in the most spectacular venue ever seen by the world. The Grand Palais, an historical icon of French architecture, was home to our sport for 12 gold-medal events, giving enthusiastic fans everywhere a display of the elegance, excitement and grandeur of fencing as it is meant to be.

I congratulate our 12 new Olympic champions, as well as all the medallists and participants in Paris 2024. You have made history, and generations to come will consider these Games perhaps the most beautiful and memorable of all time.

Thank you to all the supporters, volunteers, officials, referees, coaches, organisers and staff who made Paris 2024 a tremendous success.

It was our honour to welcome to fencing such significant guests in Paris as French President Emmanuel Macron, IOC President (and Olympic fencing champion) Thomas Bach, and numerous heads of state, dignitaries and VIPs from around the globe.

We have set a new standard of fencing at the Olympic Games, as you will see inthis issue of Escrime, celebrating a magnificent competition. Please join me in this celebration and enjoy the wonderful memories of Paris 2024.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis
FIE Interim President

PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES OPENING CEREMONY

PARIS, FRANCE | 26 JULY 2024

PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC OPENING CEREMONY:
"GAMES WIDE OPEN"

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PARIS 2024 QUALIFIED ATHLETES AND TEAMS

PARIS, France, July 26, 2024 – The Paris 2024 33rd Summer Olympic Games Opening Ceremony took place on July 26, 2024 with the theme of "Games Wide Open". The introduction of the Olympic athletes took place in 85 boats on a six-kilometre journey on the Seine River from the Pont d'Austerlitz to the Pont d'Iéna, in front of the Eiffel Tower.

IOC President and Olympic fencing gold medallist Thomas Bach gave a welcome speech, stating "The Olympic flame will make Paris and all of France shine even brighter. What better place than Paris, to share this magic of the Olympic Games with the whole world. Paris, the birthplace of our founder, Pierre de Coubertin, to whom we owe everything. Paris, City of Light, where he created the modern Olympic Games."

Mr. Bach then invited the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, to declare open the Games of the 33rd Olympiad, Paris 2024.

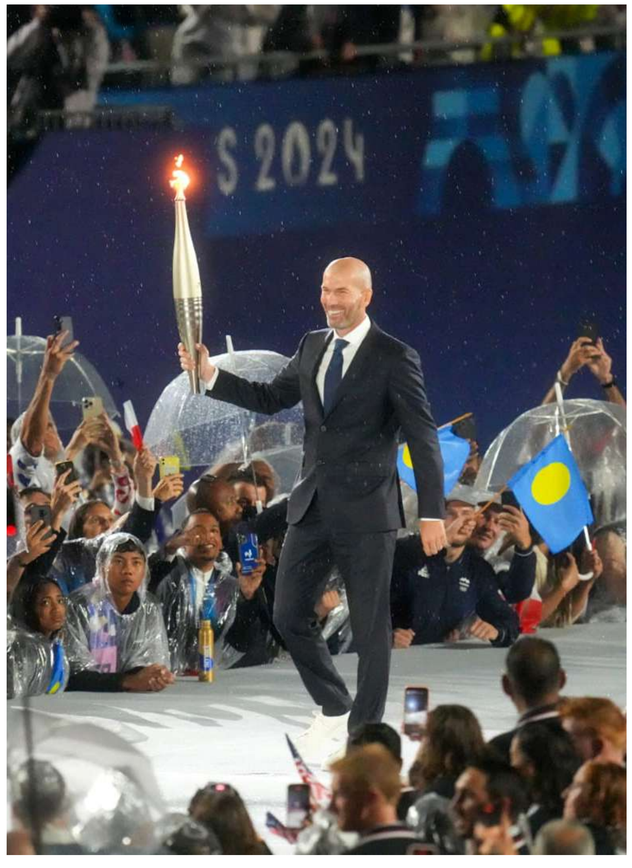
Fencing was one of the original events at the first modern Olympic Games in 1896.

Paris 2024 Organising Committee President Tony Estanguet also gave a speech to the 320,000 Opening Ceremony attendees in 124 grandstands lining the Seine River as well as the hundreds of millions of spectators watching worldwide on television and social media. "This love story was born nearly 130 years ago, just a few kilometres from here, in the main amphitheatre of the Sorbonne University, when Pierre de Coubertin proposed the rebirth of the ancient Olympic Games", he said.

Two French Olympic champion fencers participated in the final torch relay, Laura Flessel and Jean-Francois Lamour, before the lighting of the Olympic flame for Paris 2024.

Seven fencers competing in Paris 2024 served as flag-bearers for their respective countries:

- Yousef Alshamlan (Kuwait)
- Ka Long Cheung (Hong Kong, China)
- Zaynab Dayibekova (Uzbekistan)
- Maria Luisa Doig Calderon (Peru)
- Arriana Errigo (Italy)
- Emura Misaki (Japan)
- Kruz Schembri (U.S. Virgin Islands)



FENCING AT THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES CONCLUDES: "A SPECTACULAR ACHIEVEMENT!"

"You have never seen fencing until you have seen it in the Grand Palais, where thousands of people are singing and cheering for every competitor in a magnificent setting."
-IOC President Thomas Bach

PARIS, France, August 7, 2024 –
Nine days of fencing competition have completed at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in the Grand Palais between July 27 and August 4, with 12 gold medals awarded in individual and team events for women and men in epee, foil and sabre.

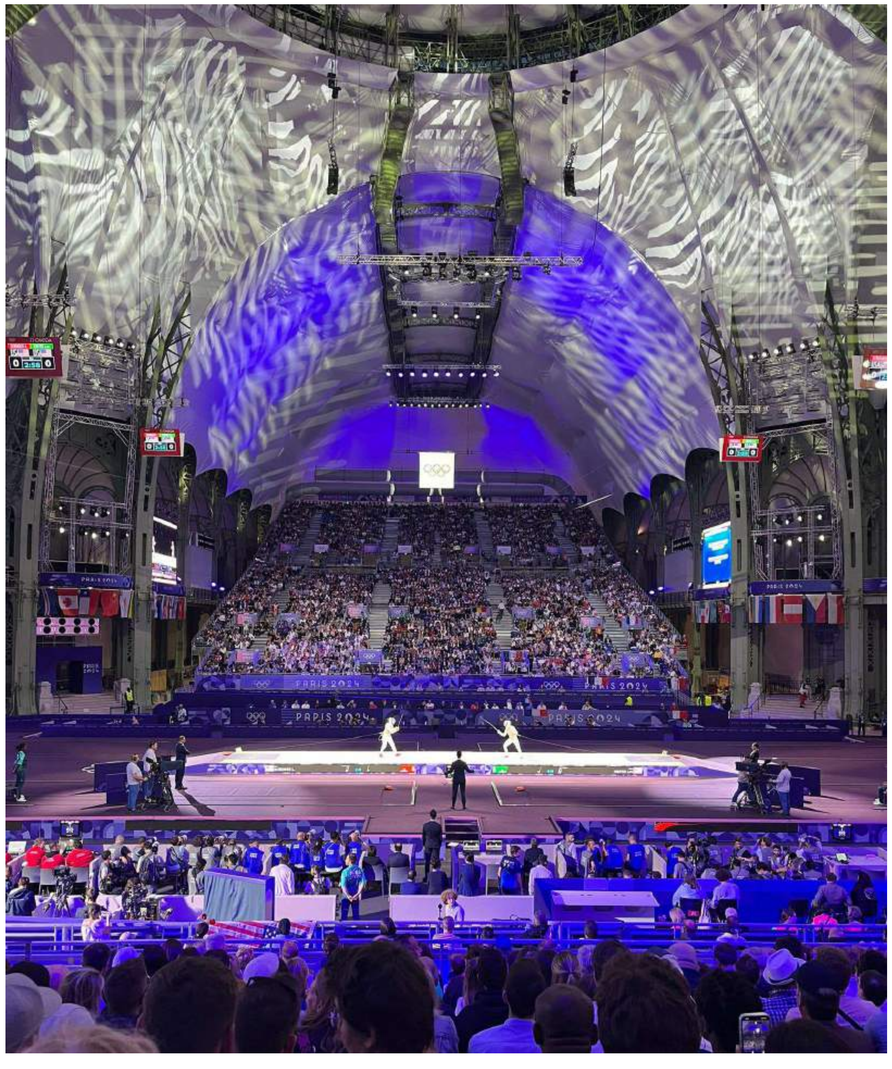
"We have seen fencing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in the Grand Palais in the most spectacular venue in our lifetime", said Emmanuel Katsiadakis, FIE Interim President.

"Fencing events at these Games will surely stand as the most memorable of all time, presenting our sport to the world as never before. I congratulate our new Olympic champions, all participating athletes, as well as all the people who made these Games possible. Fencing has absolutely entered a new era of excitement and interest, having reached millions of spectators and fans worldwide."

IOC President and Men's Team Foil Olympic gold medallist Thomas Bach presented the medals with FIE Interim President Emmanuel Katsiadakis for men's team foil.

A total of 53 NOCs participated in the Paris 2024 Olympic fencing programme, with 212 athletes, evenly divided between 106 women and 106 men.

The medals were distributed among four continents and 13 countries. Japan topped the fencing medals table with a total of five (2 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze), followed by USA with four (2 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) and Korea with three (2 gold, 1 silver).



OLYMPIC GAMES
PARIS 2024
GRAND PALAIS
27 JULY – 04 AUGUST

PARIS LOVES FENCING

MEDAL TALLY

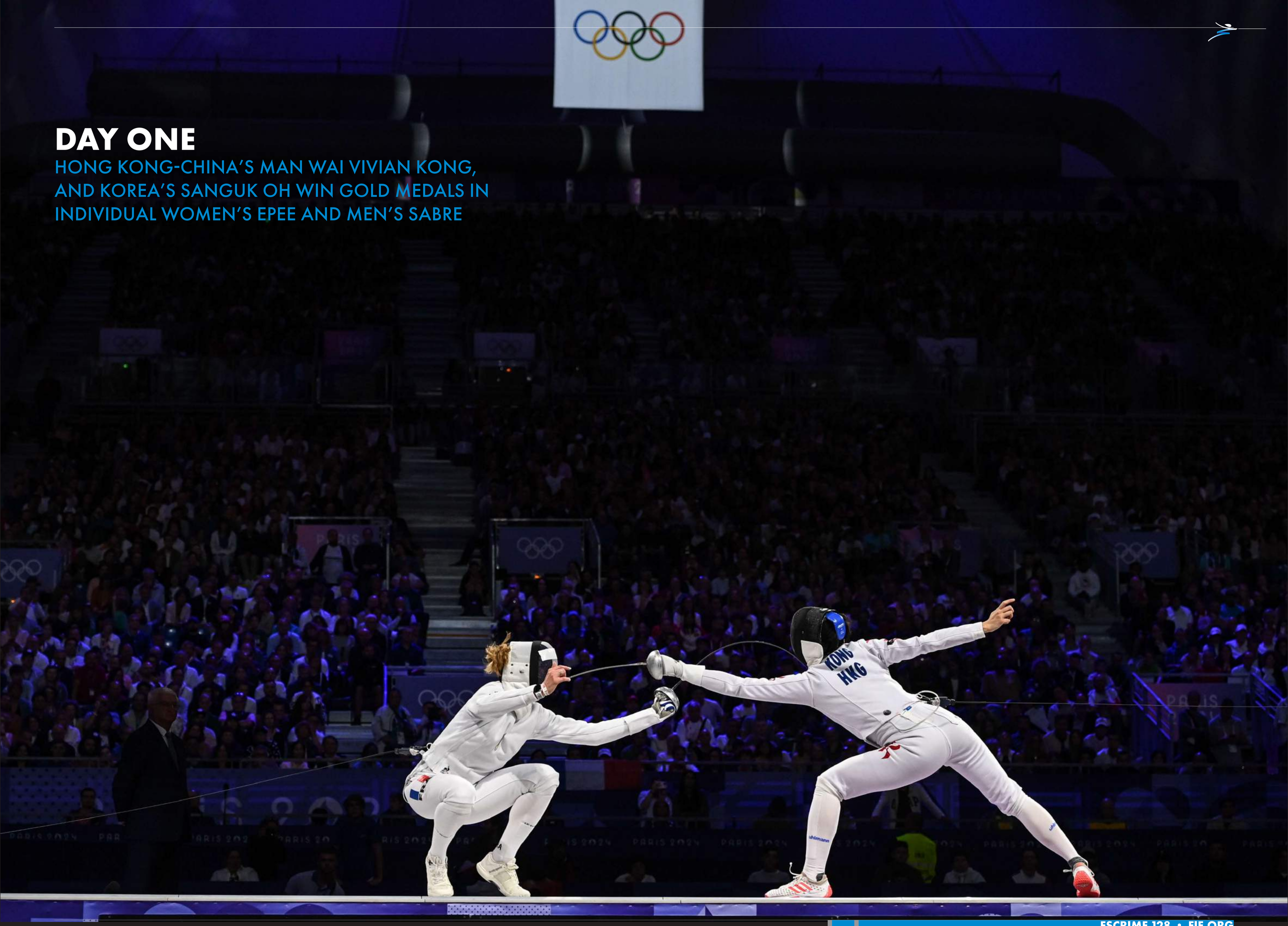
RANK	NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	JAPAN	2	1	2	5
2	USA	2	1	1	4
3	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2	1	0	3
4	HONG KONG, CHINA	2	0	0	2
5	FRANCE	1	4	2	7
6	ITALY	1	3	1	5
7	HUNGARY	1	1	1	3
8	UKRAINE	1	0	1	2
9	TUNISIA	0	1	0	1
10	CANADA	0	0	1	1

OLYMPIC GAMES
PARIS 2024
GRAND PALAIS
27 JULY – 04 AUGUST

PARIS LOVES FENCING

MEDAL TALLY

RANK	NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
10	CZECHIA	0	0	1	1
10	EGYPT	0	0	1	1
10	POLAND	0	0	1	1



DAY ONE

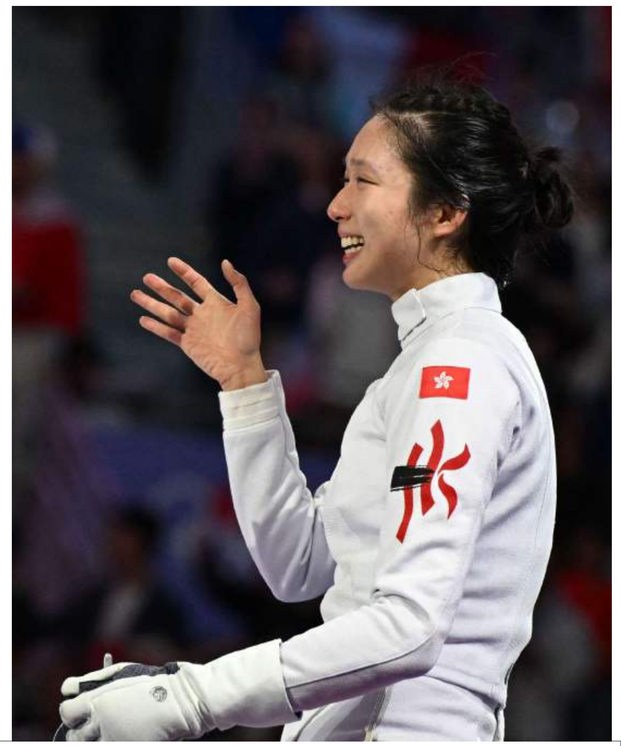
HONG KONG-CHINA'S MAN WAI VIVIAN KONG, AND KOREA'S SANGUK OH WIN GOLD MEDALS IN INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S EPEE AND MEN'S SABRE

PARIS, France, July 27, 2024 – Hong Kong, China's Man Wai Vivian Kong and Korea's world champion Sanguk Oh won gold medals in individual women's epee and men's sabre fencing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Women's Individual Epee (36 Fencers)
Kong faced France's Auriane Mallo-Breton in the final bout of women's epee, winning with a score of 13-12. This is the first-ever women's Olympic medal in fencing for Hong Kong, China. In the semifinal round, Mallo-Breton won against Hungary's Eszter Muhari, 15-9, while Kong defeated Estonia's Nelli Differt, 15-11. The bronze medal went to Muhari over Differt, 15-14. Of note, in the round of 16, Muhari beat Korea's world champion Sera Song, 15-6, and China's Sihan Yu won against France's world champion Marie-Florence Candassamy, 15-10. In the round of 32, Canada's Ruien Xiao defeated Brazil's world champion Nathalie Moellhausen, 15-11, Japan's Miho Yoshimura beat China's Olympic champion Yiwen Sun, 14-13, and USA's Anne Cebula won against Italy's two-time world champion Rossella Fiamingo, 15-14.

"I love the fencing family, I love the FIE", said Kong. "I'm so lucky to be a part of it. I think [this medal] is a gift I can give everyone who has shown so much love. I'm so grateful to be in a position to give back and thank everyone."

The top eight includes the following fencers:
1. Man Wai Vivian Kong (HKG, gold)
2. Auriane Mallo-Breton (FRA, silver)
3. Eszter Muhari (HUN, bronze)
4. Nelli Differt (EST)
5. Alberta Santuccio (ITA)
6. Sihan Yu (CHN)
7. Vlada Kharkova (UKR)
8. Olena Kryvytska (UKR)



Men's Individual Sabre (34 fencers)
Oh faced Tunisia's Fares Ferjani in the final bout of men's sabre, winning the Olympic gold medal with a score of 15-11. In the semifinal round, Ferjani won against Egypt's Ziad Elsissy, 15-11, while Oh defeated Italy's Luigi Samele, 15-5. The bronze medal went to Samele over Elsissy, 15-12. Of note, in the round of 32, Hungary's Csanad Gemesi beat USA's world champion Eli Dershwitz, 15-10, France's Bolade Apithy won against Hungary's world champion Andras Szatmari, 15-13, and Canada's Fares Arfa defeated Hungary's world and three-time Olympic champion Aron Szilagyi, 15-8.

"I listened to my coach, who told me to work hard", said Oh. "I tried that and ended up coming in first place, and it's an honour. I think that if it wasn't this time, the next time would be difficult, because I would be older."

The top eight includes the following fencers:
1. Sanguk Oh (KOR, gold)
2. Fares Ferjani (TUN, silver)
3. Luigi Samele (ITA, bronze)
4. Ziad Elsissy (EGY)
5. Matyas Szabo (GER)
6. Mohamed Amer (EGY)
7. Chenpeng Shen (CHN)
8. Fares Arfa (CAN)

MAN WAI VIVIAN KONG LOOKS BACK ON HER HISTORIC OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL FOR HONG KONG AND DISCUSSES HER RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

How does it feel to be an Olympic champion?
It feels amazing, unreal, and I feel incredibly lucky and grateful for the whole team. All the hard work we've put in paid off, and I'm thankful I could properly honour them with a medal.

What does winning this medal mean to you and to your country?
I hope this medal has brought more happiness, joy, and love for sports, encouraging people to try fencing. I know many people in Hong Kong stayed up really late to watch us, and I'm so grateful for that. I want to thank them, as well as the Hong Kong fans who came all the way to Paris to support us.

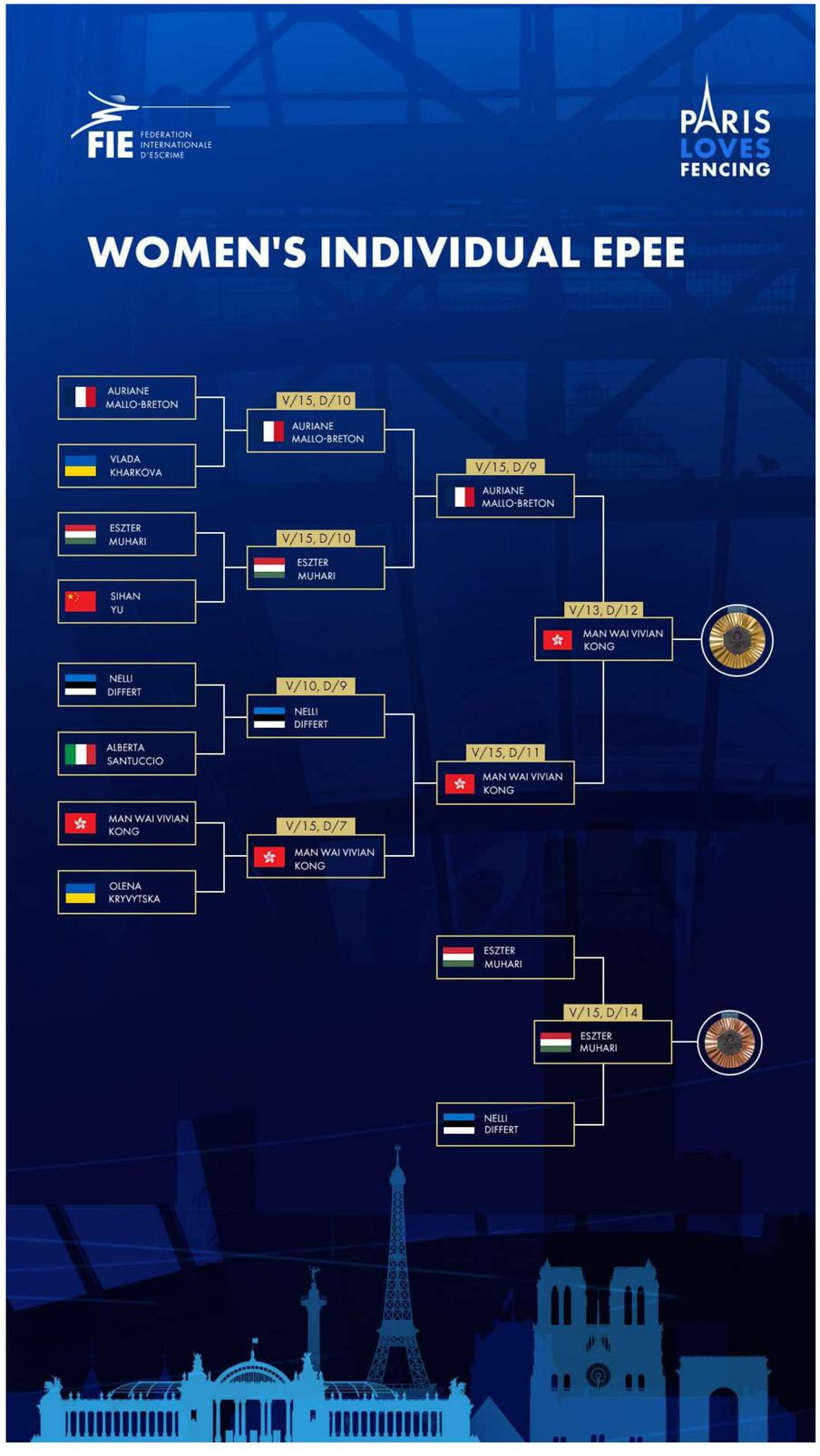
After your medal, you announced your retirement. How did you decide to retire from fencing after such a great success?
It was really hard, but I believe that "once a fencer, always a fencer". I'll be fencing for the rest of my life because I love it so much. I've been fencing for almost 20 years, and for the longest time, especially when I was a full-time athlete, I measured success by whether or not I would win a gold medal. But leading up to Paris, I wasn't confident. I wasn't sure if I had it in me, so I channelled all my stress and doubt into training. I worked really hard and kept reminding myself that even if I didn't win, the journey was worth it because of how much I love the sport. I made the decision at the beginning of the year to enjoy every moment leading up to the Olympics, and I'm so happy it ended well. But this isn't the end—I will fence for the rest of my life.

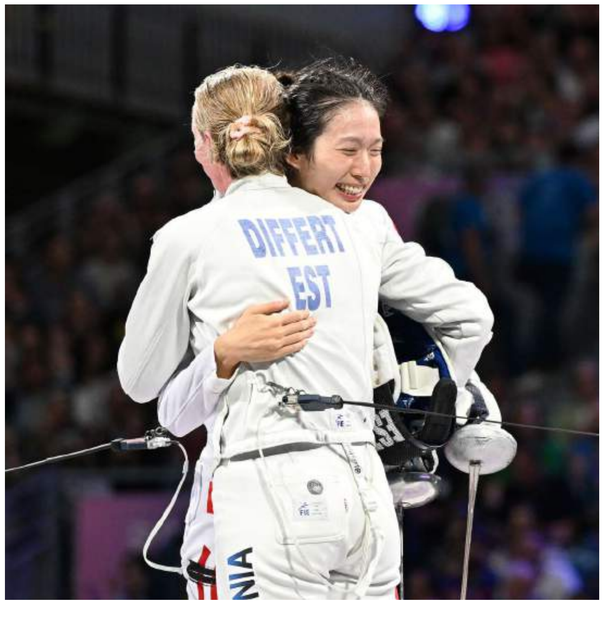
What was the hardest part of making this decision?
The hardest part was telling my coach. I love him very much, and I know he loves fencing more than anyone I've ever met. So, telling him I wanted to take a break or step back felt like I was saying I didn't love fencing anymore. But I need him to know that I'll still be around, still be a training partner for the Hong Kong team, and I'll still see him. This isn't goodbye.

What do you believe will miss you most from your professional athlete career?
I didn't get the chance to say goodbye to all the women's epee fencers that I love and admire so much. So, I plan to travel and attend as many competitions as I can, just as a supporter, to properly say goodbye or visit all the countries again. I want to see all the fencers I love to thank them for making fencing so much more enjoyable. They've given me so many role models to look up to and the privilege of fencing alongside them.

I feel incredibly lucky to have had the chance to be a part of this amazing community of women.

Ka Long Cheung also from Hong Kong also won a gold medal in Paris 2024. What does it mean for the growth of fencing in Hong Kong?
Ka Long Cheung won our first gold medal, which was also Hong Kong's second-ever gold, at the Tokyo Olympics. After that, many kids became interested in fencing, and more clubs have opened up as interest in the sport has grown. It's been incredible to witness because I truly believe fencing is the best sport in the world. Now, with his latest victory and my own success, it's clear that fencing is for everyone—not just boys, but girls too. We hope more people can enjoy fencing, or at least watch the Olympics and appreciate all the sports.


FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL EPEE
AURIANE MALLO-BRETON
VLADA KHARKOVA
ESZTER MUHARI
SIHAN YU
NELLI DIFFERT
ALBERTA SANTUCCIO
MAN WAI VIVIAN KONG
OLENA KRYVYTSKA
V/15, D/10
AURIANE MALLO-BRETON
V/15, D/10
ESZTER MUHARI
V/10, D/9
NELLI DIFFERT
V/15, D/7
MAN WAI VIVIAN KONG
V/15, D/9
AURIANE MALLO-BRETON
V/15, D/11
MAN WAI VIVIAN KONG
V/13, D/12
MAN WAI VIVIAN KONG
ESZTER MUHARI
NELLI DIFFERT
V/15, D/14
ESZTER MUHARI


DIFFERT
EST

ANOTHER OLYMPIC HISTORY MAKER AS SANGUK OH WINS MEN'S SABRE
IN BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM EVENTS

How do you feel about winning the men's individual sabre gold medal in Paris?
I was incredibly happy and excited, as if I were living in a dream for a month and a half, receiving calls and messages from a sea of people, even from people I don't know. After winning the individual gold, I didn't have much time to celebrate, given the team match coming up, but we eventually secured another gold in the team event, making it two gold medals. The sense of relief and accomplishment was overwhelming, knowing that I had achieved the best possible results. Now, I'm headed back into domestic tournaments and returning to normal life.

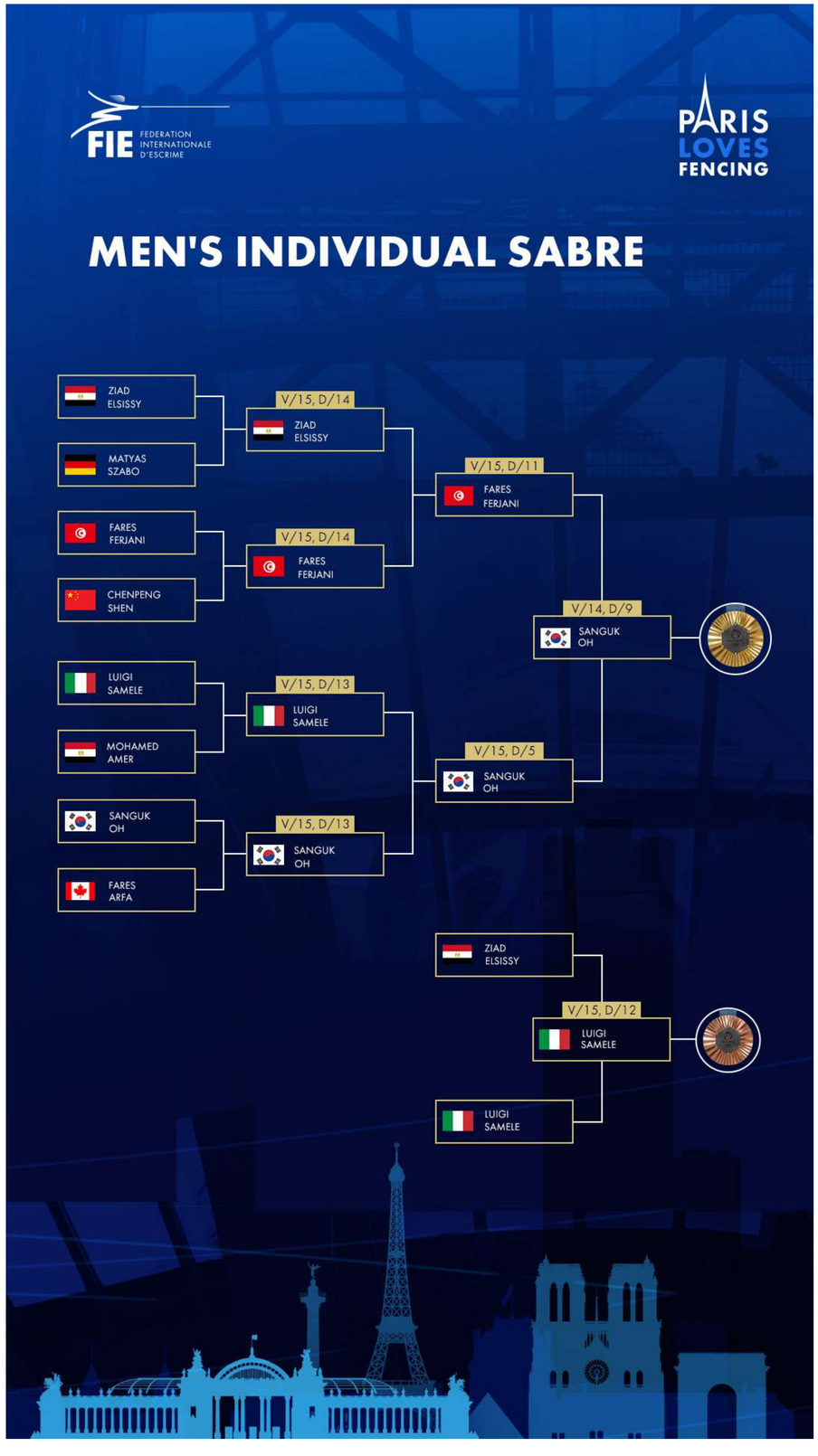
What was the experience of becoming an olympic champion in the men's individual and team sabre events like for you?
This was the first gold medal for Korea in all sports in Paris, in both individual and team events, and also the first 'grand slam.' I received the most heartfelt celebrations and congratulations from people. I was delighted because a lot of people told me it inspired, encouraged, and motivated young kids. That means the world to me.

What was your biggest challenge on the day you won?
On that day, it was all about mind control. I wasn't too nervous or 'all over the place.' Fencing is not the most popular sport in Korea, so it was one of the few times it could receive attention from many people. I felt a burden on my shoulders to impress others, and I wasn't really used to this kind of circumstance, especially since the Olympics only happen every four years. I kept telling myself I needed to stay focused only on the game and pull myself together. I'm not usually nervous, but I found myself feeling nervous in this situation, which was the biggest challenge in winning the medal.

What stands out as your biggest memory of Paris 2024?
After everything was over, my biggest memory was having that 'legit' meal with my teammates. I finally felt relieved and free, knowing that I had achieved everything and that I had made it – that was the best feeling.

What was your impression of Paris overall at this time?
I could sense the vibrant fashion and culture in Paris. I noticed many fashionable people and could see just how much Parisians embrace it, which left a strong impression on me. The city's love for fashion, luxury goods, and similar things truly stood out.

ITALIA


FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
MEN'S INDIVIDUAL SABRE
ZIAD ELSISSY
MATYAS SZABO
FARES FERJANI
CHENPENG SHEN
LUIGI SAMELE
MOHAMED AMER
SANGUK OH
FARES ARFA
V/15, D/14
ZIAD ELSISSY
V/15, D/14
FARES FERJANI
V/15, D/13
LUIGI SAMELE
V/15, D/13
SANGUK OH
V/15, D/11
FARES FERJANI
V/15, D/5
SANGUK OH
V/14, D/9
SANGUK OH
ZIAD ELSISSY
V/15, D/12
LUIGI SAMELE
LUIGI SAMELE

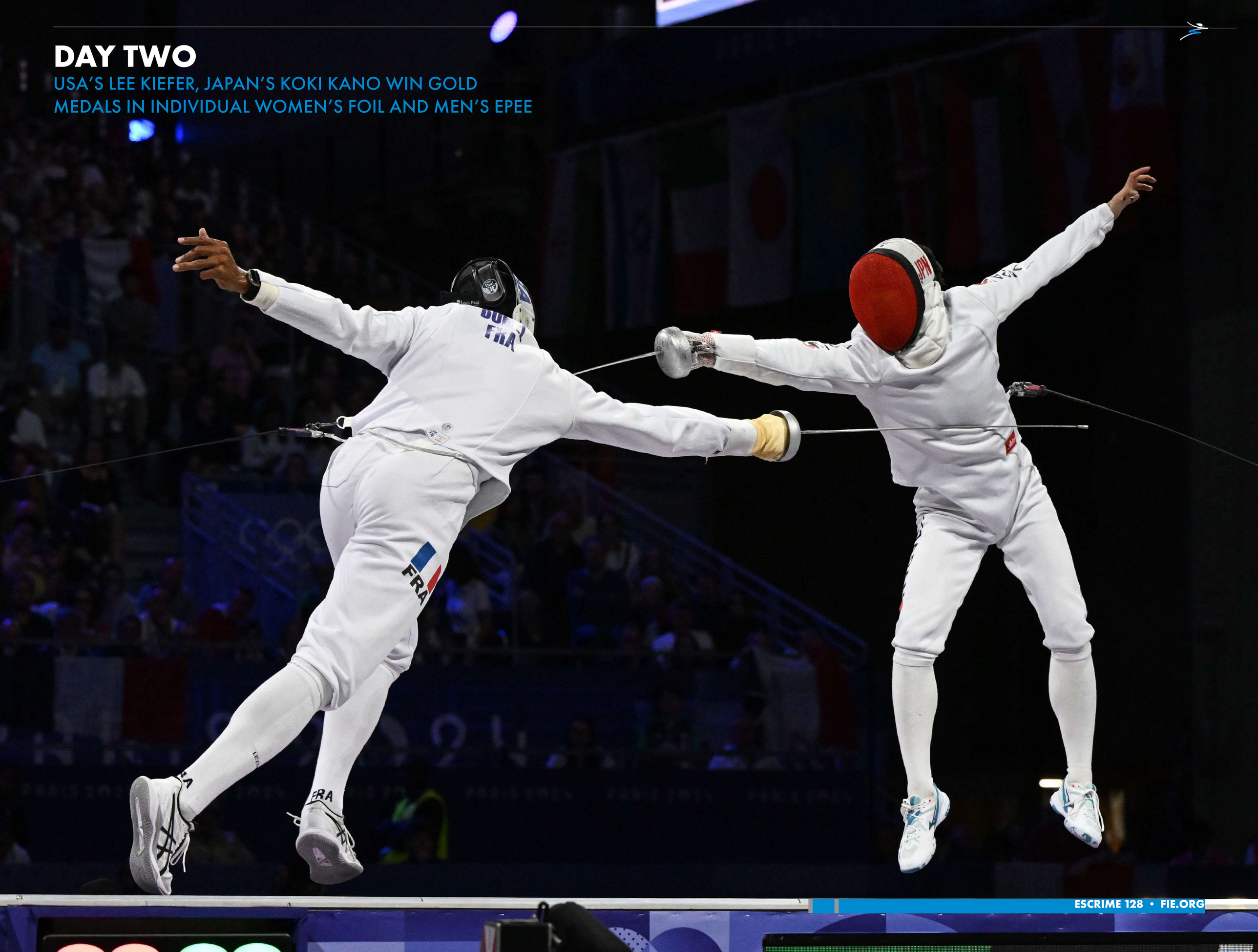
SZABO
GER

SAMELE
ITA

ARFA
CAN

DAY TWO

USA'S LEE KIEFER, JAPAN'S KOKI KANO WIN GOLD MEDALS IN INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S FOIL AND MEN'S EPEE



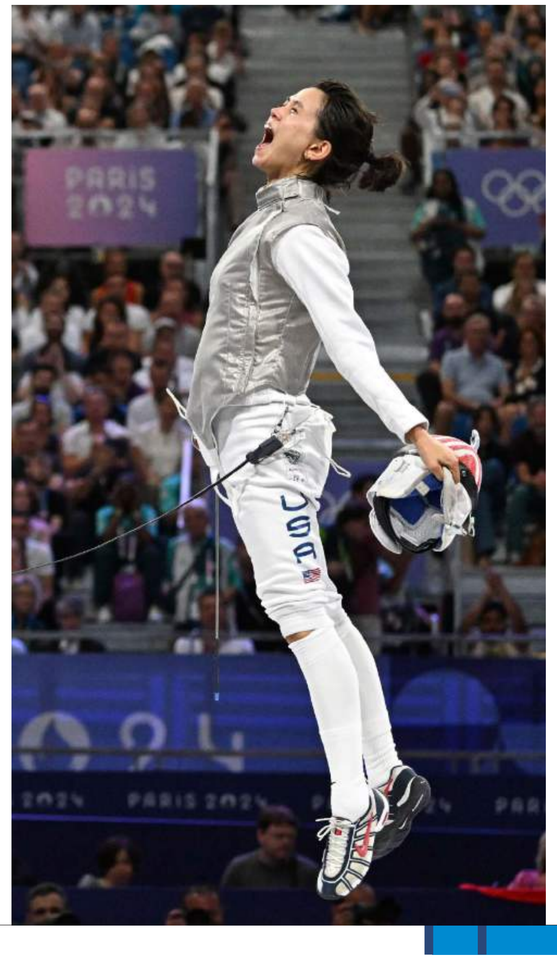
DAY TWO

PARIS, France, July 28, 2024 – USA's Olympic champion Lee Kiefer and Japan's Koki Kano won gold medals in individual women's foil and men's epee fencing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Women's Individual Foil (34 Fencers)
Kiefer faced teammate Lauren Scruggs in the final bout of women's foil, winning the Olympic gold medal with a score of 15-6. She is the third woman in history to win multiple Olympic gold medals in women's individual foil, after Valentina Vezzali (ITA, 3) and Ilona Elek (HUN, 2). In the semifinal round, Scruggs won against Canada's Eleanor Harvey, 15-9, while Kiefer defeated Italy's two-time world champion Alice Volpi, 15-10. Harvey won the bronze medal bout against Volpi, 15-12. Of note, in the quarterfinals Scruggs beat Italy's two-time world champion Arianna Errigo, 15-14, and in the round of 32, Poland's Julia Walczyk-Klimaszyk won against France's world champion Ysaora Thibus, 15-12.

"I feel good, I feel relaxed, my face hurts from smiling so much", said Kiefer. "No matter how much I prepare, I put pressure on myself and work to fence well and stay present. As a woman, we've seen so much growth in our women's programs in the past decade for me and for Lauren to be on the podium, it really makes a statement."

The top eight includes the following fencers:
1. Lee Kiefer (USA, gold)
2. Lauren Scruggs (USA, silver)
3. Eleanor Harvey (CAN, bronze)
4. Alice Volpi (ITA)
5. Arianna Errigo (ITA)
6. Martina Favaretto (ITA)
7. Anne Sauer (GER)
8. Flora Pasztor (HUN)



Men's Individual Epee (35 Fencers)
Kano faced France's world champion Yannick Borel in the final bout of men's epee, winning the gold medal with a score of 15-9. This is the first-ever Olympic gold medal in an individual fencing event for Japan. In the semifinal round, Borel won against Egypt's Mohamed Elsayed, 15-9, while Kano defeated Hungary's Tibor Andrasfi, 14-13. Elsayed won the bronze medal against Andrasfi, 8-7, the first Olympic individual epee medal for Egypt. Of note, in the round of 16, Kazakhstan's Ruslan Kurbanov defeated France's world and Olympic champion Romain Cannone, 15-10 and Belgium's Neisser Loyola beat Hungary's world champion Gergely Siklosi, 14-13. In the round of 32, Venezuela's Grabiel Lugo won against Hungary's world champion Mate Tamas Koch, 15-10, and Andrasfi beat Venezuela's Olympic champion Ruben Limardo Gascon, 15-10.

"I am so very happy, but I am tired", said Kano. "It's a very good feeling. I had to focus very much today. This is so important, because it's the first individual gold medal in fencing in Japan, and this is history."

The top eight includes the following fencers:

1. Koki Kano (JPN, gold)
2. Yannick Borel (FRA, silver)
3. Mohamed Elsayed (EGY, bronze)
4. Tibor Andrasfi (HUN)
5. Federico Vismara (ITA)
6. Ruslan Kurbanov (KAZ)
7. Masaru Yamada (JPN)
8. Neisser Loyola (BEL)

USA'S LEE KIEFER CAPTURES TWO GOLDS IN MEMORABLE OLYMPIC FINALS AND REFLECTS ON INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM SUCCESS

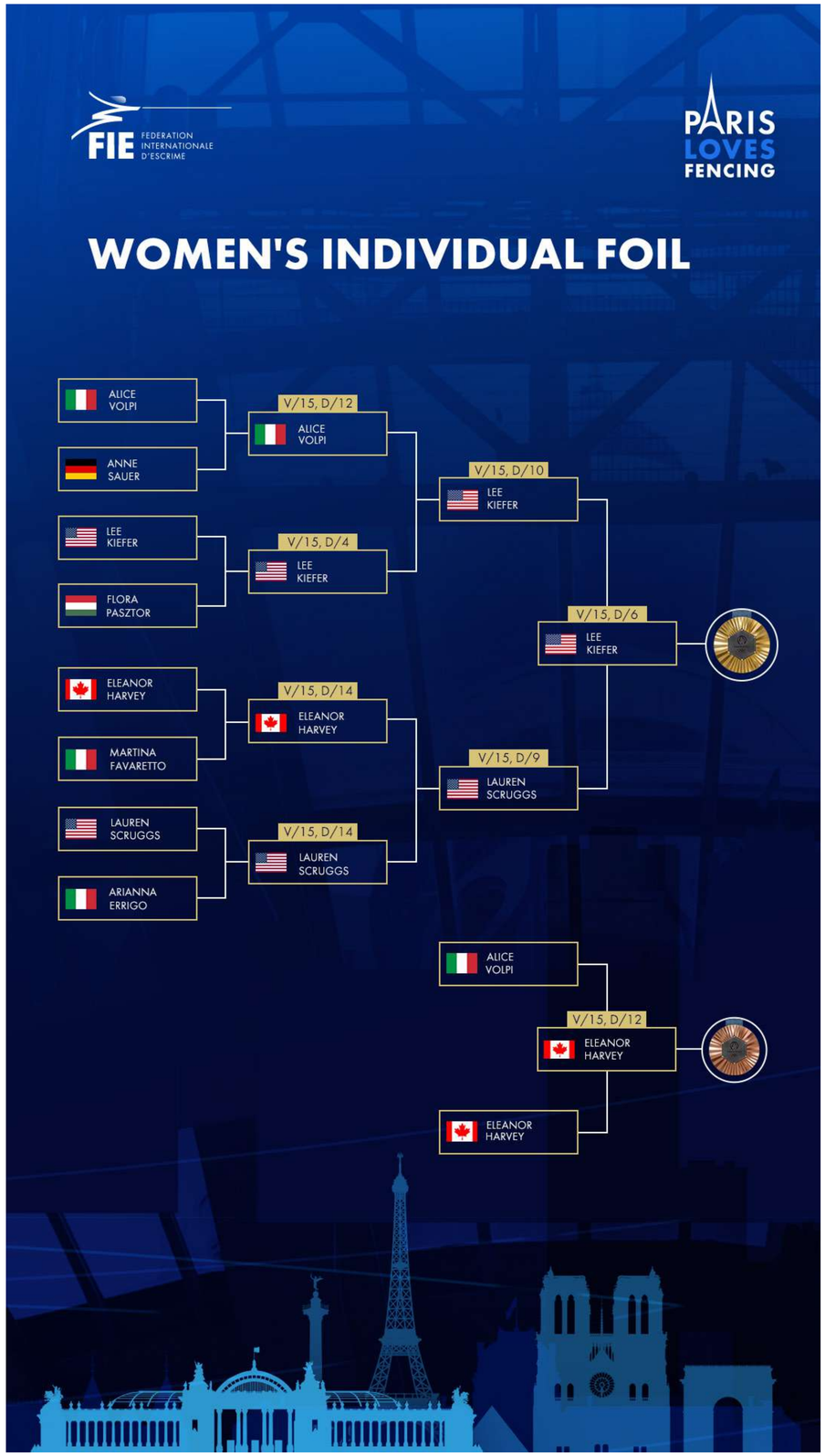
How did you feel about being in the final with somebody from your team?
It was amazing being in the final with Lauren [Scruggs]. I was really proud of both of us, and I don't think we expected to walk away with both gold and silver, so it was a really special moment — surprising in the best way possible.

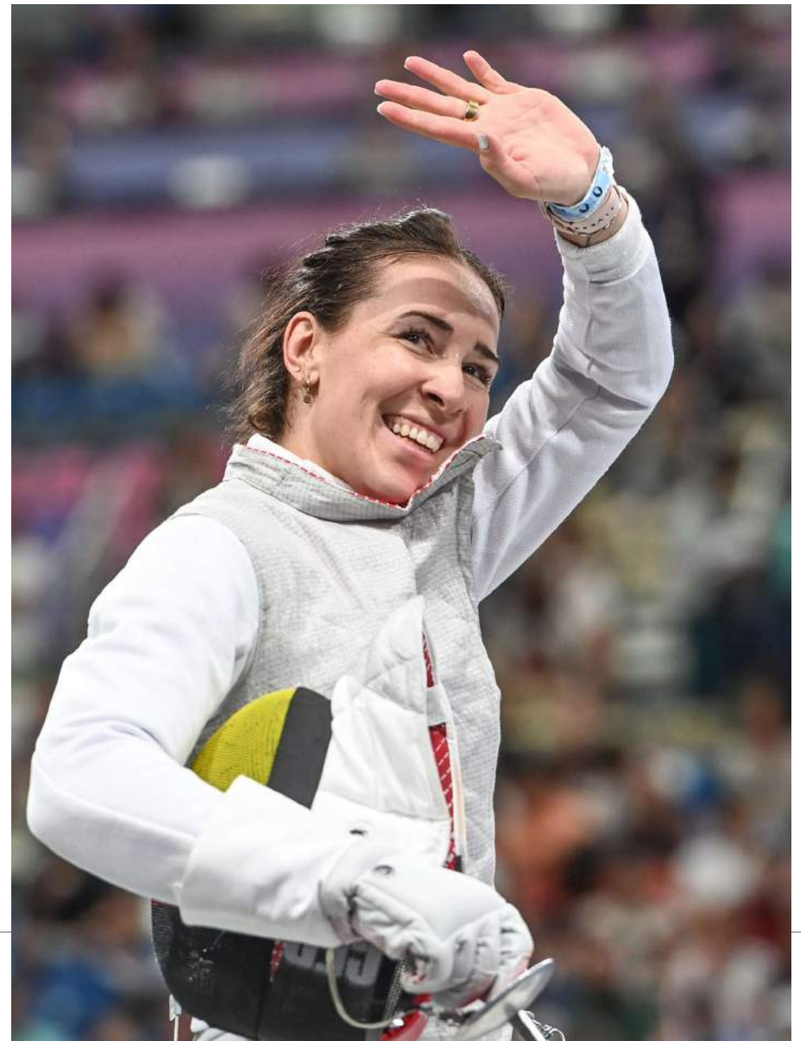
How does it feel to be a champion in the individual and team events?
Winning individual and team each has its own flavors, but both were incredible. The team victory, in particular, was something special — having everyone come together and put in the effort made it a truly satisfying and beautiful experience.

What was your biggest challenge on the day you won your Paris 2024 medal?
No matter what tournament I'm in, I always feel incredibly nervous, especially for the first bout. It's like my feet are glued to the strip and my body feels all out-of-sorts. So, stepping out there for that first bout is definitely the toughest part for me.

What does winning this individual medal means for the USA?
It's been amazing to be part of the growth of the USA Fencing program for over a decade. We hope to see even more high-level fencers emerge in the U.S., and that the sport continues to grow in popularity overall.

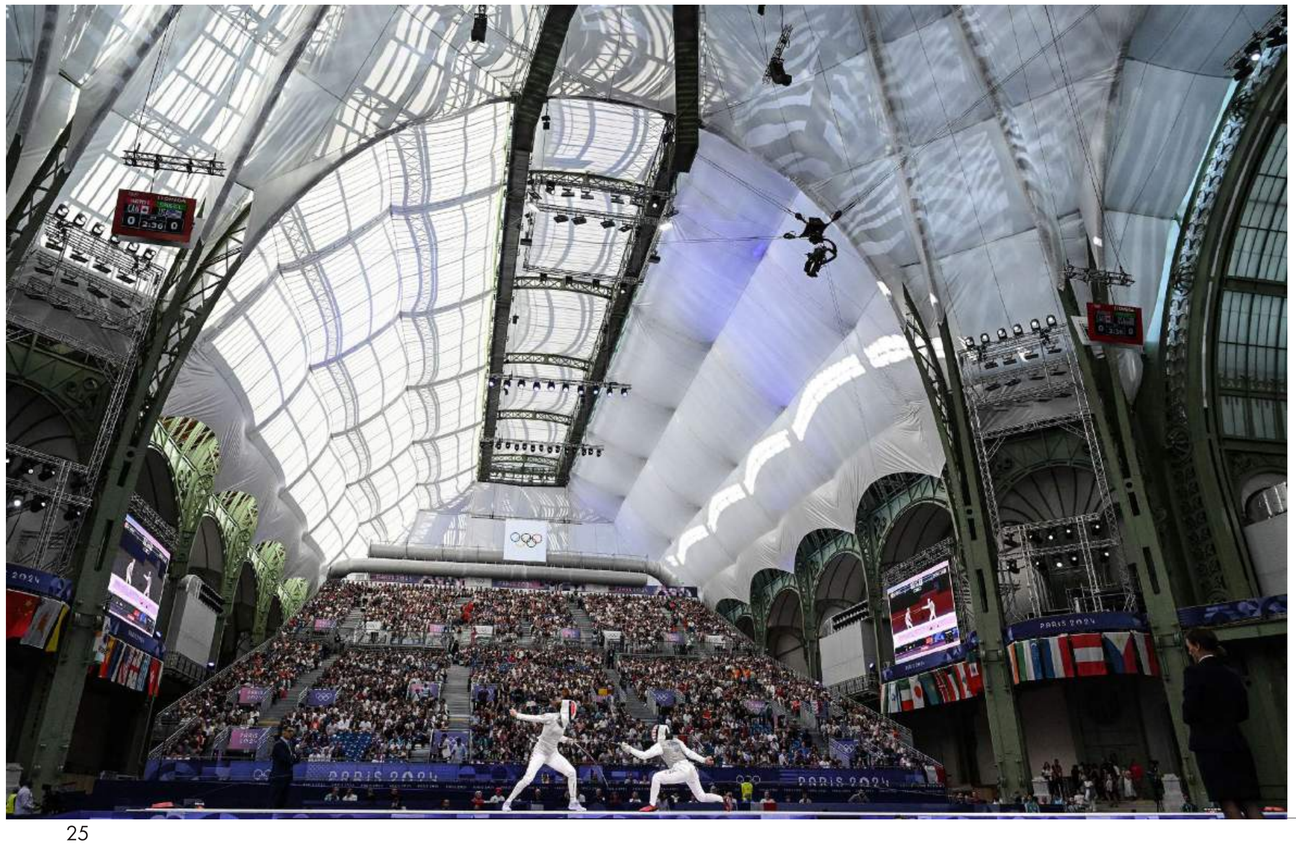
How did you celebrate your victory?
I had so many family members and friends in Paris, so there were plenty of hugs, lots of tears and it was truly the best.


FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL FOIL
ALICE VOLPI
ANNE SAUER
LEE KIEFER
FLORA PASZTOR
ELEANOR HARVEY
MARTINA FAVARETTO
LAUREN SCRUGGS
ARIANNA ERRIGO
V/15, D/12
ALICE VOLPI
V/15, D/4
LEE KIEFER
V/15, D/14
ELEANOR HARVEY
V/15, D/14
LAUREN SCRUGGS
V/15, D/10
LEE KIEFER
V/15, D/9
LAUREN SCRUGGS
V/15, D/6
LEE KIEFER
ALICE VOLPI
V/15, D/12
ELEANOR HARVEY
ELEANOR HARVEY



KIEFER
USA
ITA

KIEFER
USA



ITA

KOKI KANO LOOKS BACK ON WINNING GOLD IN MEN'S INDIVIDUAL EPEE AND SILVER IN TEAM,
PROUD TO REPRESENT JAPAN

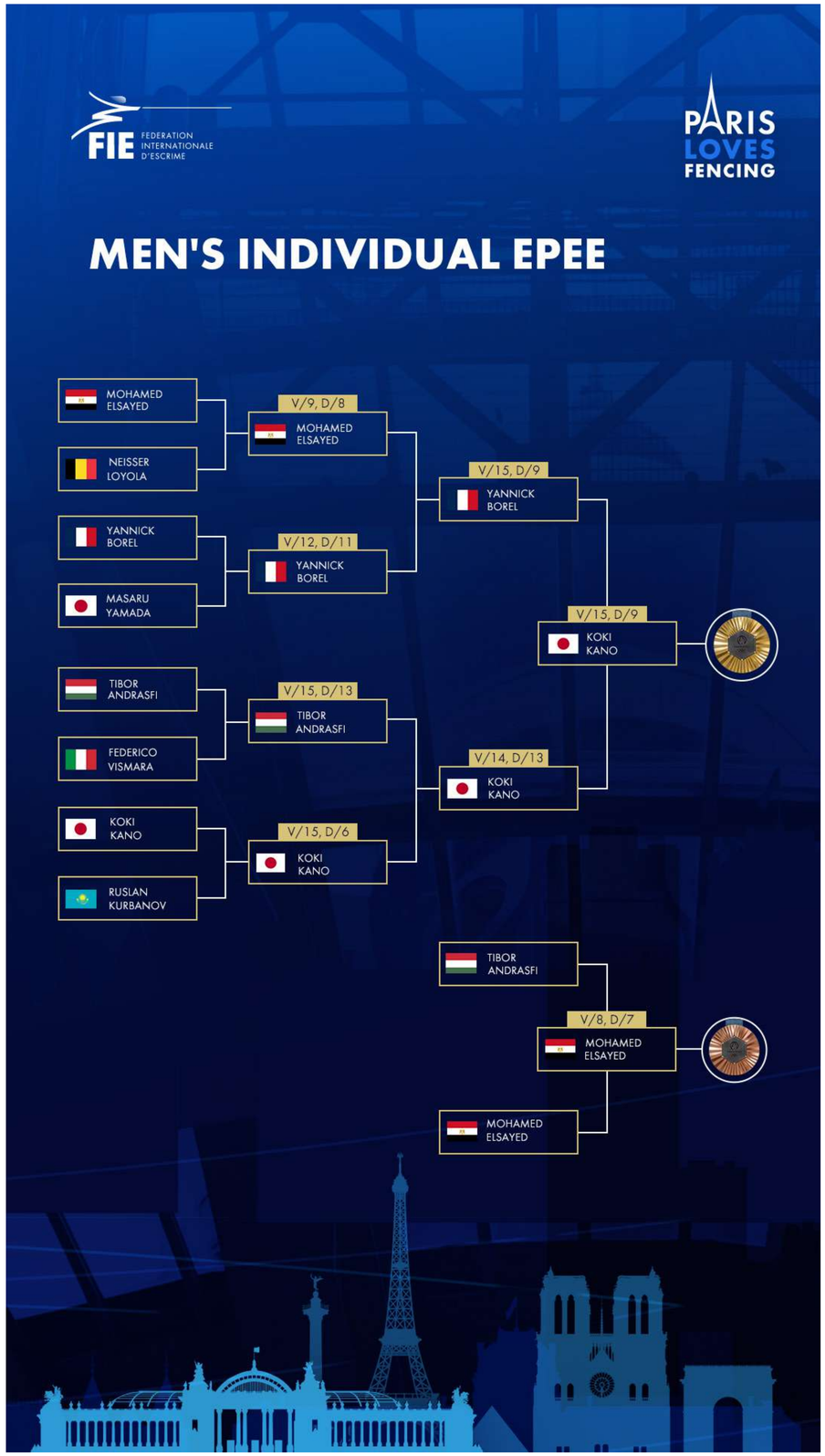
How does it feel to be an Olympic champion?
It's the best feeling! This achievement has given me even more confidence going into upcoming competitions. I was able to manage my nerves and overcome them, which prevented me from losing focus before I could find my rhythm. This success proves that Japanese athletes can succeed on the world stage in epee.

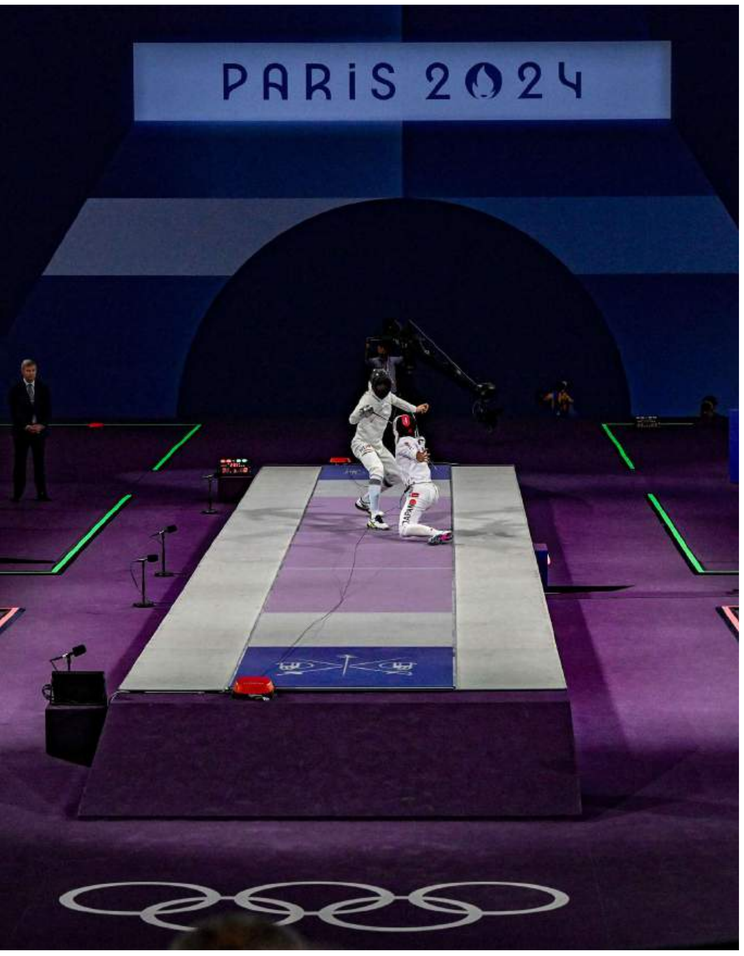
How proud does it make you to represent the Japanese people?
As a Japanese athlete, I felt it was essential to compete in a way that wouldn't bring shame to my country. I was very happy to win gold, especially with that mindset.

How did you celebrate your victory?
We celebrated by enjoying delicious food with many of the people who supported us.

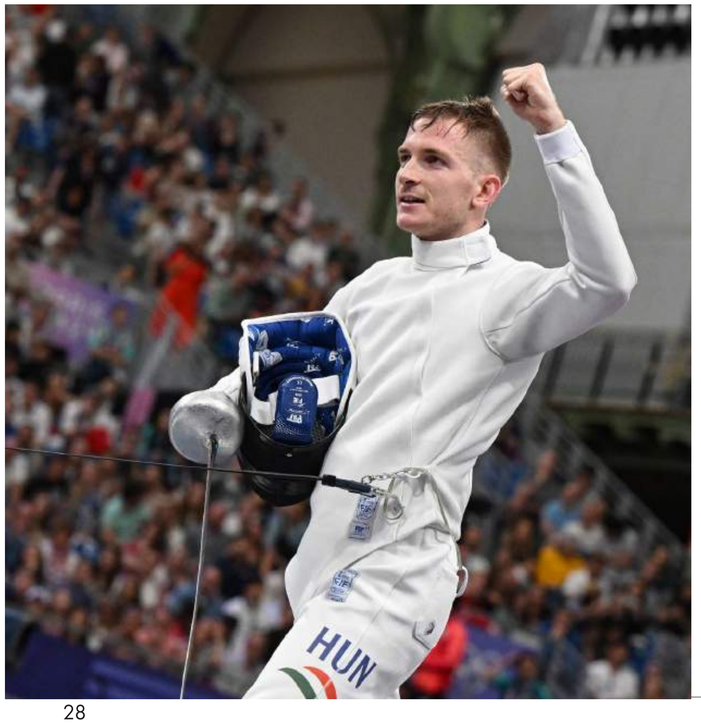
What stands out as your best memory of Paris 2024?
The most memorable moment was participating in the Olympic Games and fencing on the stage of the Grand Palais. I also had the opportunity to meet many fans, which was fantastic.

How does it feel to have also won a silver medal in the team event?
I felt a bit disappointed to "only" win silver, but being able to bring home a medal with the team gave me a different kind of joy compared to my individual medal.


FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
MEN'S INDIVIDUAL EPEE
MOHAMED ELSAYED
NEISSER LOYOLA
V/9, D/8
MOHAMED ELSAYED
YANNICK BOREL
MASARU YAMADA
V/12, D/11
YANNICK BOREL
V/15, D/9
YANNICK BOREL
TIBOR ANDRASFI
FEDERICO VISMARA
V/15, D/13
TIBOR ANDRASFI
KOKI KANO
RUSLAN KURBANOV
V/15, D/6
KOKI KANO
V/14, D/13
KOKI KANO
V/15, D/9
KOKI KANO
TIBOR ANDRASFI
MOHAMED ELSAYED
V/8, D/7
MOHAMED ELSAYED


PARIS 2024

YAMADA
JPN
JAPAN


HUN

DAY THREE

FRANCE'S MANON APITHY-BRUNET, AND HONG KONG-CHINA'S KA LONG CHEUNG WIN GOLD MEDALS IN INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S SABRE AND MEN'S FOIL

DAY THREE

PARIS, France, July 29, 2024 – France's Manon Apithy-Brunet and Ka Long Cheung won gold medals in individual women's sabre and men's foil fencing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. International Olympic Committee President and Olympic men's foil gold medallist Thomas Bach attended the evening's finals.

Women's Individual Sabre (36 Fencers)
Apithy-Brunet faced teammate Sara Balzer in the final bout of women's sabre, winning the Olympic gold medal with a score of 15-12. This was France's first-ever Olympic gold medal in women's sabre. In the semifinal round, Balzer won against Ukraine's four-time world champion Olga Kharlan, 15-7, while Apithy-Brunet defeated Korea's Sebin Choi, 15-12. The bronze medal went to Kharlan over Choi, 15-14. Of note, in the round of 16, Choi beat Japan's two-time world champion Misaki Emura, 15-7.

"This morning when I woke up I was thinking I was scared, I'm alive, and I'll just do my best and just enjoy all the people here and we'll see", said Apithy-Brunet. "Tonight, I'll take my medal and sleep with it. Today I felt many emotions – every match was difficult. I was scared, I'm happy, I'm stressed, and I just accepted them, I said to myself if you want to cry, cry; if you want to smile, smile; and go all the day with this."

"I got the first women's sabre medal for France in Tokyo, and now I am happy and proud for my country that I have the first gold, in Paris."

"I got the first women's sabre medal for France in Tokyo, and now I am happy and proud for my country that I have the first gold, in Paris."

The top eight includes the following fencers:
1. Manon Apithy-Brunet (FRA, gold)
2. Sara Balzer (FRA, silver)
3. Olga Kharlan (UKR, bronze)
4. Sebin Choi (KOR)
5. Theodora Gkountoura (GRE)
6. Hayoung Jeon (KOR)
7. Luca Virag Szucs (HUN)
8. Anna Marton (HUN)

Men's Individual Foil (37 Fencers)
Cheung faced Italy's Filippo Macchi in the final bout of men's foil, winning his second Olympic gold medal with a score of 15-14. In the semifinal round, Macchi won against USA's Nick Itkin, 15-11, while Cheung defeated Japan's Kazuki Iimura,15-11. Itkin won the bronze medal bout against Iimura, 15-12. Of note, in the quarterfinals, Cheung beat France's two-time world champion Enzo Lefort, 15-14, and in the table of 16, France's Maxime Pauty won against Italy's world champion Tommaso Marini, 15-14.

"This is wonderful, one of the best days of my life,- said Cheung. "I got back-to-back golds, and with my French coach, in Paris—that means so much. In the final tonight, I was down 14-12, and in my mind I said I have to try my best, and I made a comeback."

"When I got my last gold Olympic gold medal, everyone in Hong Kong went crazy and everyone was psyched to fence and be a fencer. I hope like last time this will create even more fencers in Hong Kong. This is a very beautiful competition, one of the best in my life."

The top eight includes the following fencers:
1. Ka Long Cheung (HKG, gold)
2. Filippo Macchi (ITA, silver)
3. Nick Itkin (USA, bronze)
4. Kazuki Iimura (JPN)
5. Mohamed Hamza (EGY)
6. Enzo Lefort (FRA)
7. Guillaume Bianchi (ITA)
8. Maxime Pauty (FRA)

FROM FOURTH IN RIO 2016 TO GOLD IN PARIS 2024:
MANON APITHY-BRUNET WINS FRANCE'S FIRST-EVER OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL IN WOMEN'S SABRE.

After being fourth in Rio and third in Tokyo, can you tell us your path to becoming an Olympic Champion in Paris?
In Tokyo, I won a bronze medal [ed. in individual] and silver in team, and I thought, "Alright, I need one more colour." So I came back to Paris, made a big change in my life, and decided, "I'm going to stop training at INSEP [ed. the French National Institute of Sport, Expertise, and Performance] and join the Christian Bauer Academy in Orléans." My husband [ed. French Olympic fencer Boladé Apithy] and I moved there together.

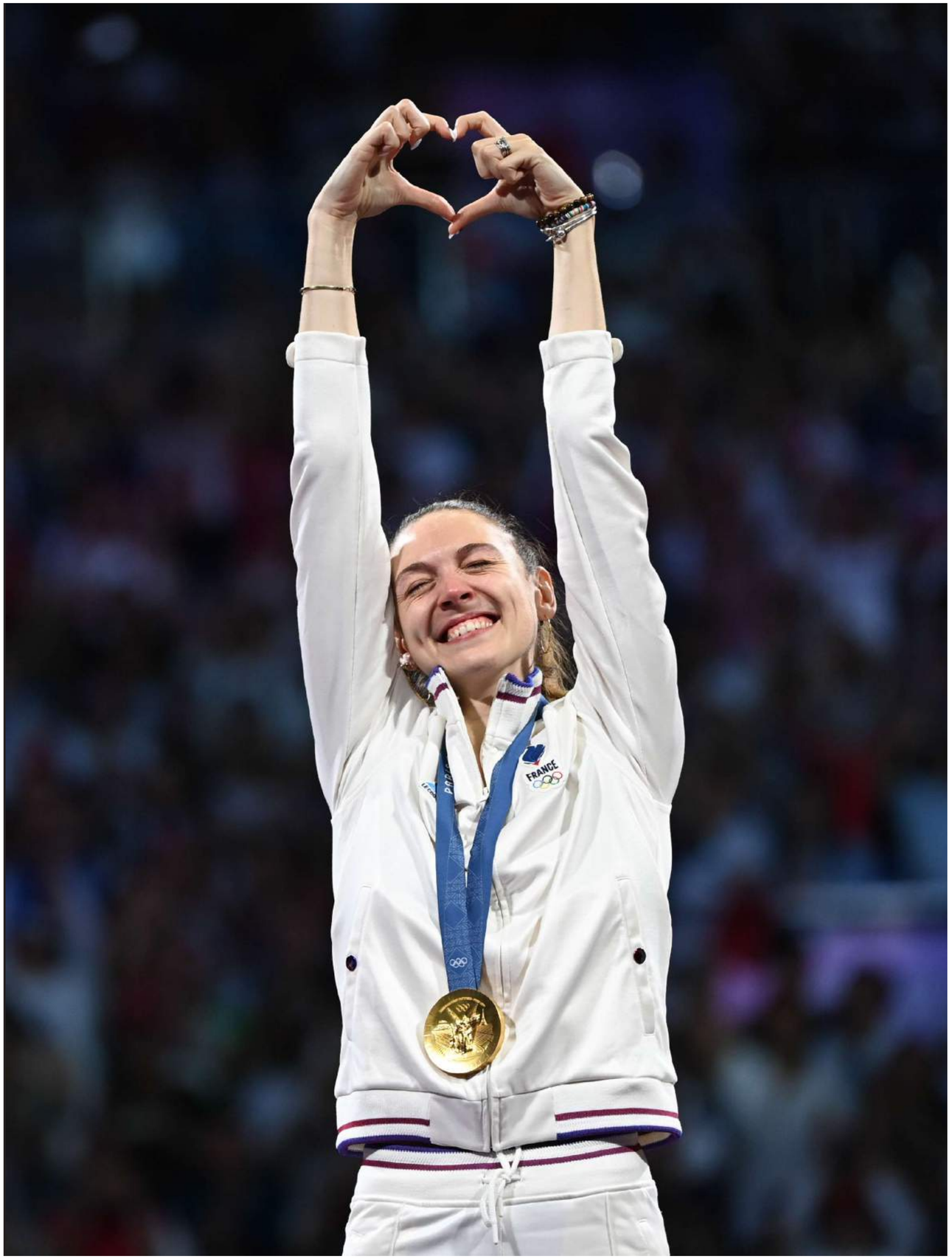
For the past three years, I've been training with a new team under Christian Bauer and adopting his fencing style. It felt like starting fencing from scratch again. There were so many new things to learn, and I got to train not only with French fencers but with athletes from all over the world, which was really great.

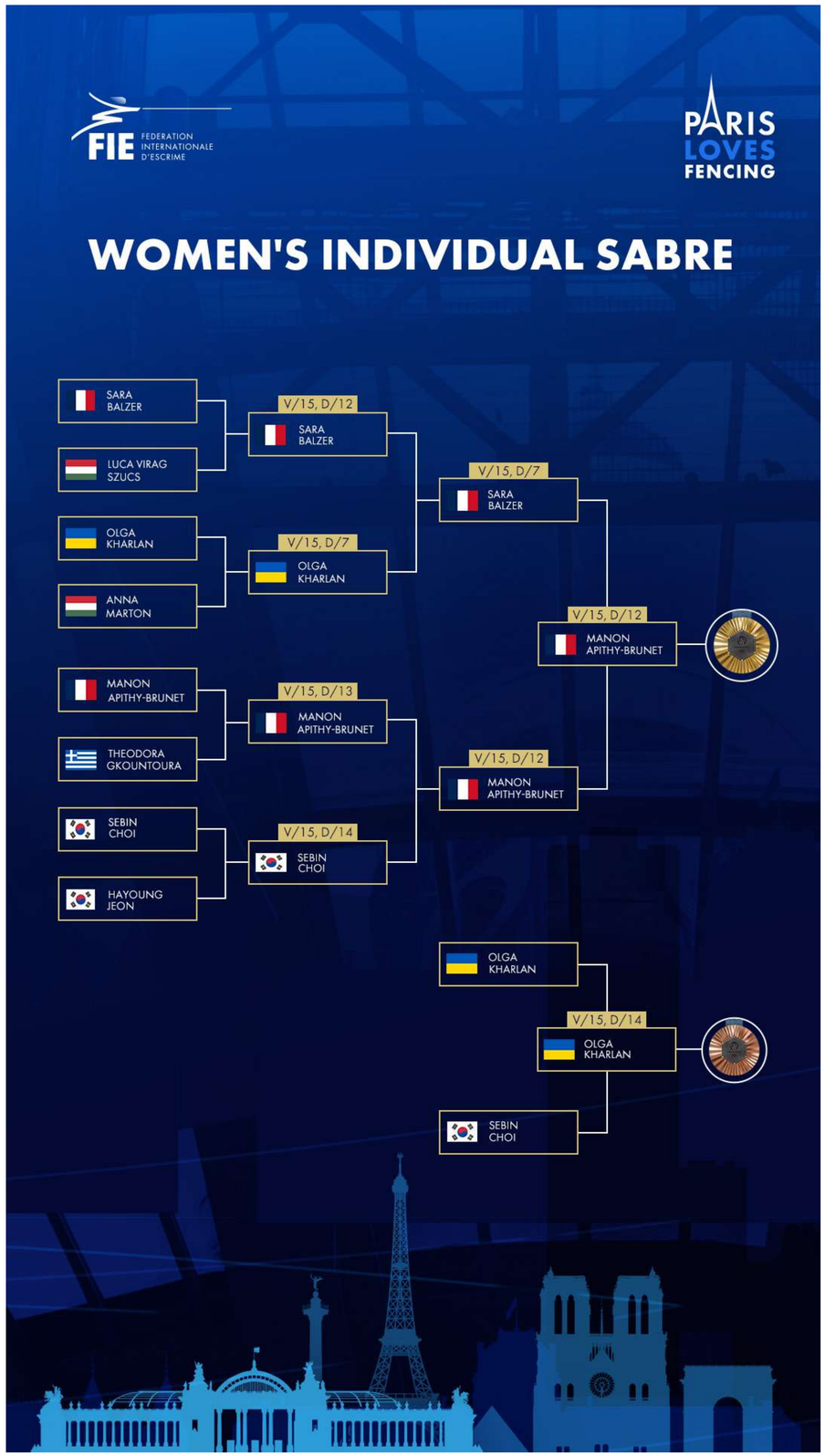
How does it feel to be an Olympic champion?
It's difficult to realise. I asked some Olympic champions, "Do you ever fully realise it?" and they told me, "It will take a few months to sink in, but for now, just enjoy the moment."

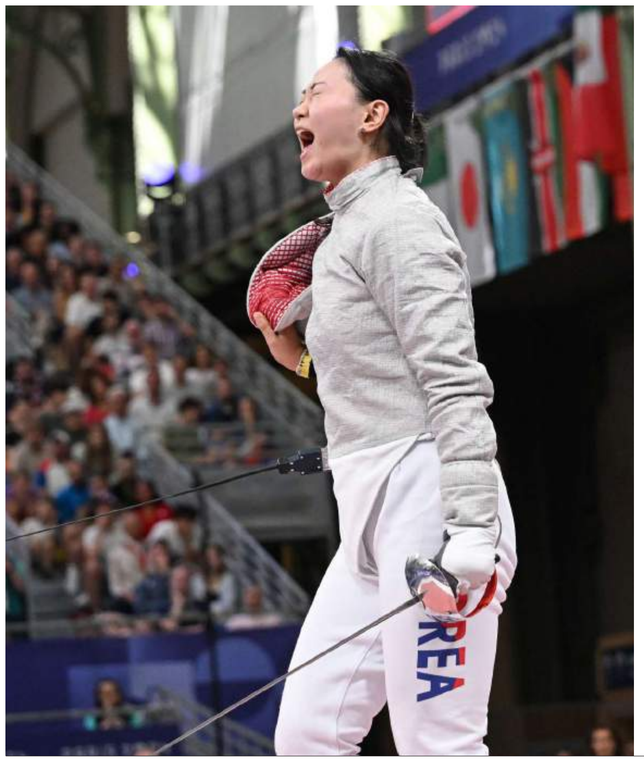
What does winning this medal mean for your country?
Winning a gold medal for France is a significant achievement. Many people were watching, and the Grand Palais was packed. A lot of kids saw the fencing event and are now inspired to start themselves, which makes me very proud. As the first French female sabre fencer to win a gold medal, this is a great milestone for French fencing.

What was your biggest challenge on the day you won your Paris 2024 medal?
On the day of the competition, I remember my semifinal match against the Greek fencer Theodora Gkountoura. Every point was hard-fought, and it was impossible to tell who would land the final touch and win until the very end.

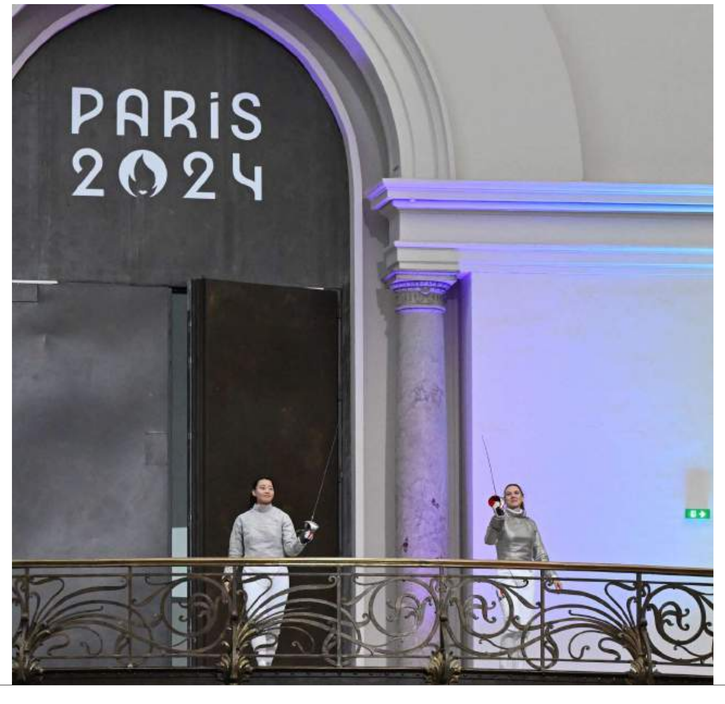
What stands out as the biggest memory of Paris 2024?
My favourite memory was when my husband embraced me after the win. I wanted to win the gold medal and celebrate with him, and that's exactly what we did.




FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL SABRE
SARA BALZER
LUCA VIRAG SZUCS
OLGA KHARLAN
ANNA MARTON
MANON APITHY-BRUNET
THEODORA GKOUNTOURA
SEBIN CHOI
HAYOUNG JEON
V/15, D/12
SARA BALZER
V/15, D/7
OLGA KHARLAN
V/15, D/13
MANON APITHY-BRUNET
V/15, D/14
SEBIN CHOI
V/15, D/7
SARA BALZER
V/15, D/12
MANON APITHY-BRUNET
V/15, D/12
MANON APITHY-BRUNET
OLGA KHARLAN
V/15, D/14
OLGA KHARLAN
SEBIN CHOI



KOREA


PARIS
2024

HUN

TWO-TIME OLYMPIC CHAMPION KA LONG CHEUNG
REFLECTS ON MAKING HISTORY FOR HIS COUNTRY

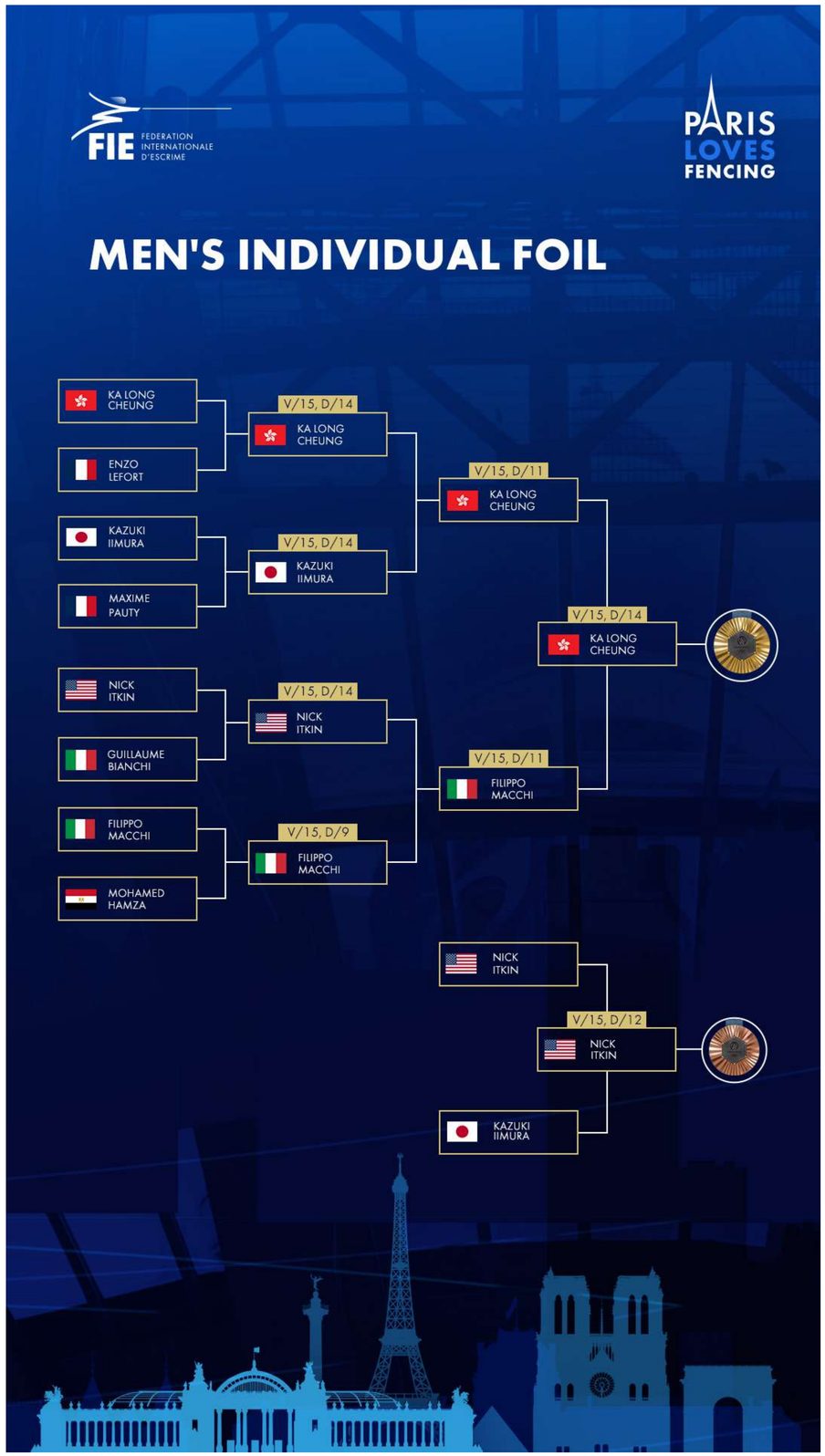
How does it feel to be a two-time Olympic champion?
Winning my first Olympic title in Tokyo was incredible—it was everything I had been working for. I started fencing when I was about nine or ten, and at each stage of my journey, I set new goals. Once I became a professional athlete, my ultimate dream was to become an Olympic champion. I could hardly believe it in Tokyo, and now, having won again in Paris, the feeling is still amazing. I never imagined as a kid, watching the World Cup and seeing all the great fencers, that one day I would be one of them.

Looking back at how hard I've worked over the past three years to stay in top form for Paris, it was tough, but I enjoyed the journey—and it was absolutely worth it.

Vivian Kong, also from Hong Kong, also won a gold in the women's individual epee event. What it means for the growth of fencing in Hong Kong?
Honestly, it feels surreal—absolutely crazy. Typically, the French and Italians dominate fencing; they're always ranked at the top and usually fighting for gold. But now, with both Vivian Kong and I winning gold medals, it's like we've shaken up the rankings. We're so excited because this is something that's never happened before in our history. For Hong Kong, it means so much. In the past, we've always just aimed for a single Olympic medal, but now we have two in fencing—it's incredible.

This has given us a huge boost in confidence, showing everyone from Hong Kong who fences that it's possible—we did it! For my country, it's monumental. Hong Kong's first Olympic gold medal was in 1996, and now I'm the second to win a medal, and it's been such a long time. I wasn't even born yet—I was born in 1997! So this achievement is amazing, and the support from the people of Hong Kong has been overwhelming. It means the world to them, and it means the world to me that we've been able to accomplish this.

What was your greatest challenge during that competition day before winning gold?
I think almost every match was tough because anyone who makes it to the Olympics is a strong fencer. They're all highly skilled, and at that level, it's more about mental strength and who is best prepared at the moment. So for me, every match felt challenging because you're up against the best fencers in the world.


FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
MEN'S INDIVIDUAL FOIL
KA LONG CHEUNG
ENZO LEFORT
KAZUKI IIMURA
MAXIME PAUTY
NICK ITKIN
GUILLAUME BIANCHI
FILIPPO MACCHI
MOHAMED HAMZA
V/15, D/14
KA LONG CHEUNG
V/15, D/14
KAZUKI IIMURA
V/15, D/14
NICK ITKIN
V/15, D/9
FILIPPO MACCHI
V/15, D/11
KA LONG CHEUNG
V/15, D/11
FILIPPO MACCHI
V/15, D/14
KA LONG CHEUNG
NICK ITKIN
KAZUKI IIMURA
V/15, D/12
NICK ITKIN

PARIS 2024

JAPAN
PARIS 2024

FRA

JAPAN

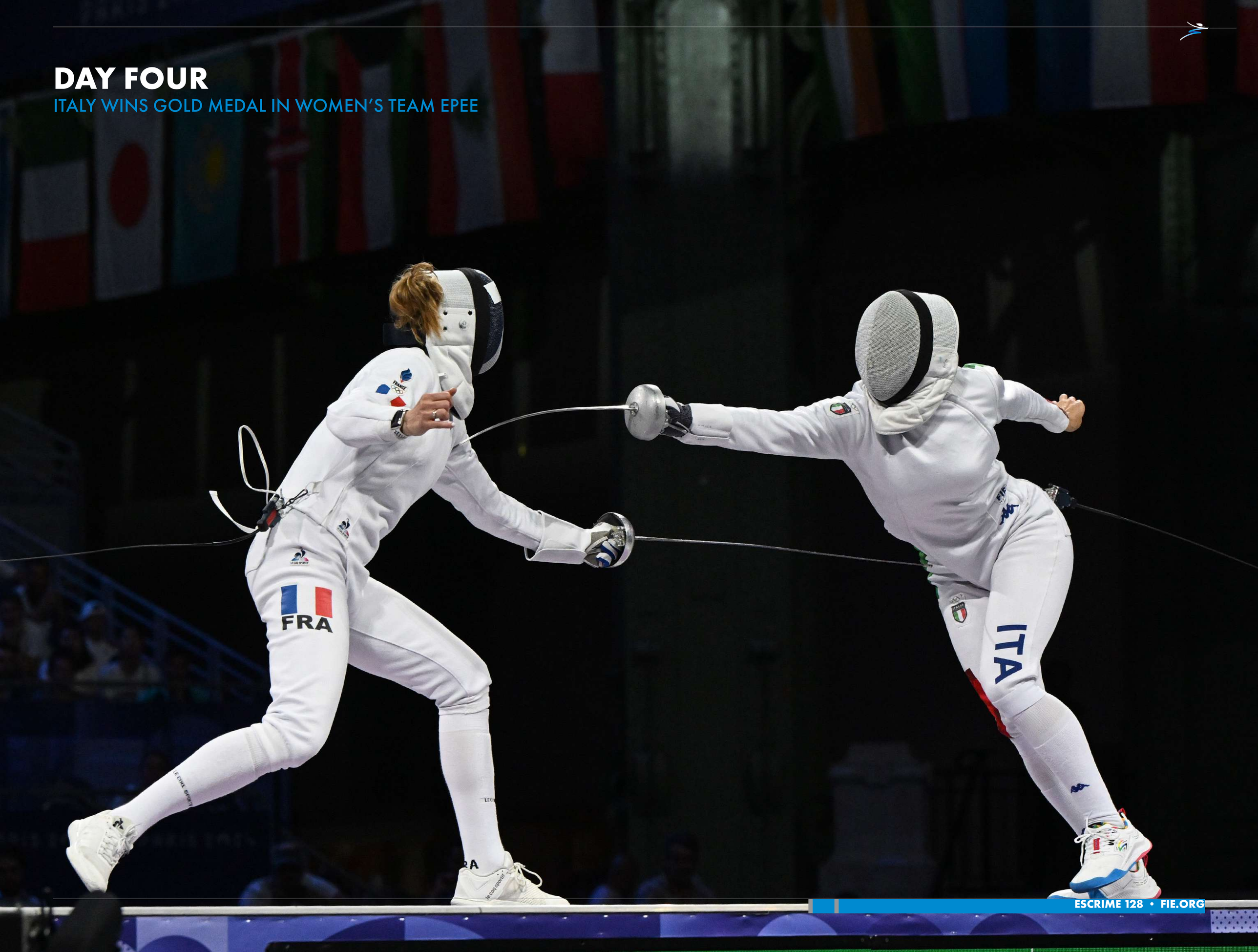
CONFIDENCE.
INNOVATION.
QUALITY.

uhlmann
FENCING

uhlmann-fencing.com

DAY FOUR

ITALY WINS GOLD MEDAL IN WOMEN'S TEAM EPEE



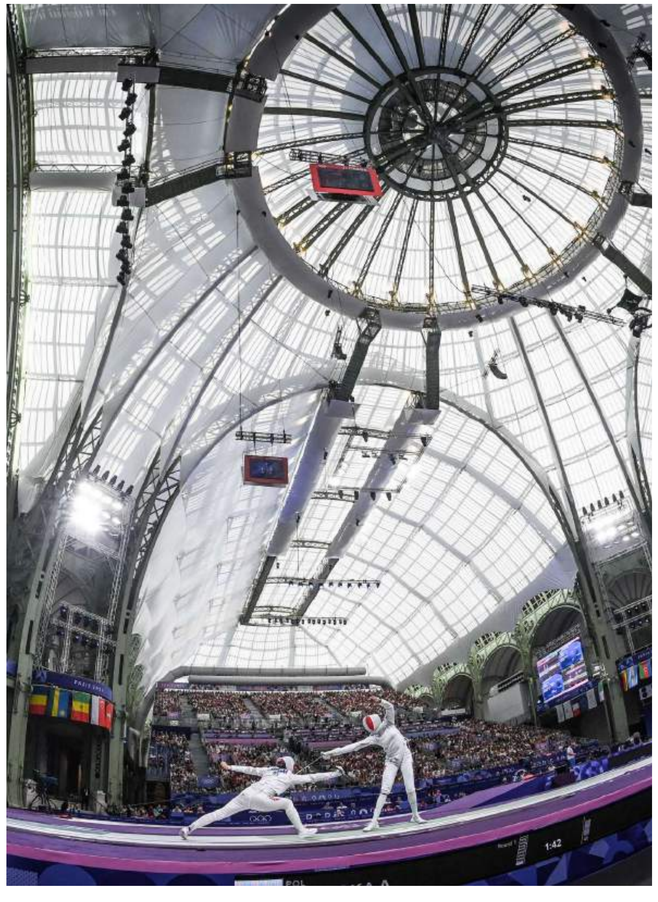
DAY FOUR

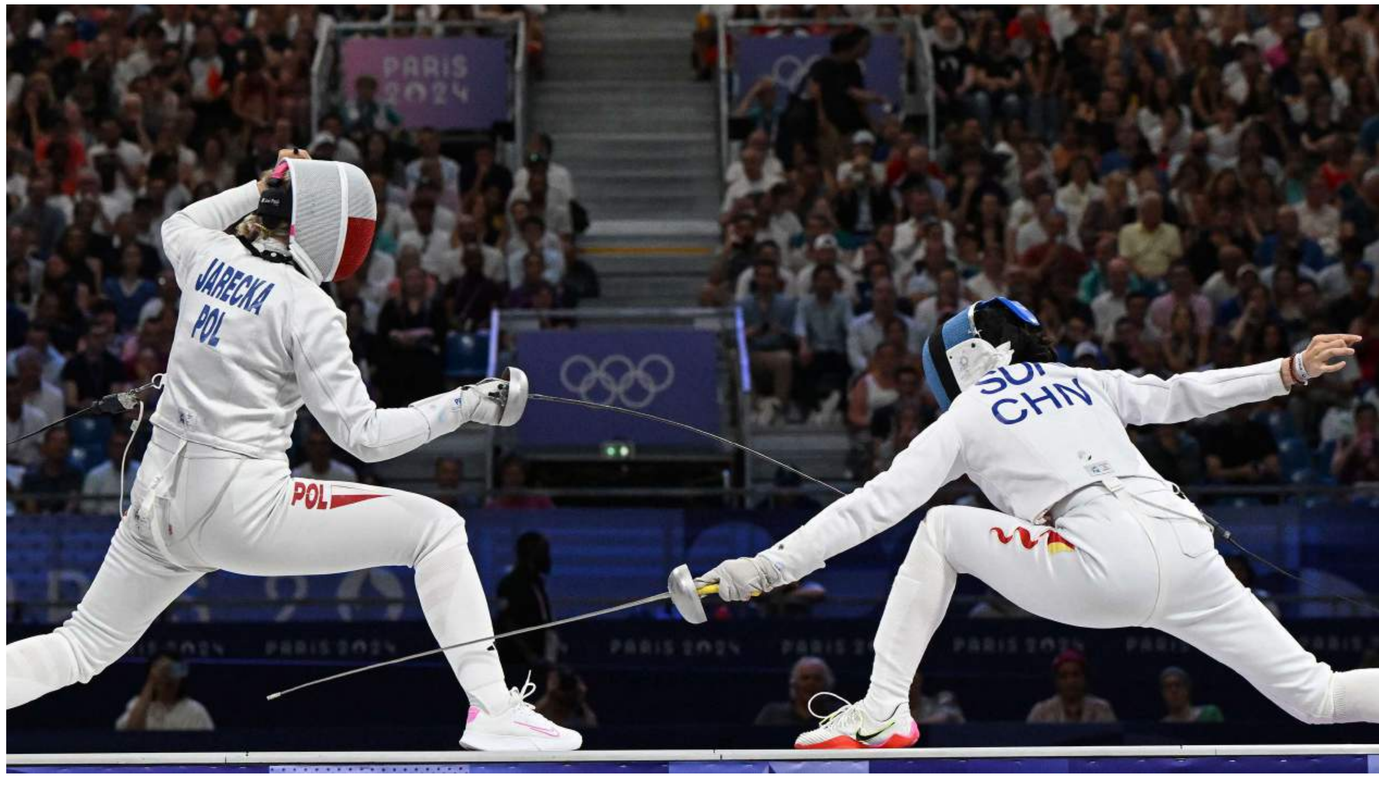
PARIS, France, July 30, 2024 – Italy won its first-ever gold medal in women's team epee fencing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. In all, 12 gold-medal events in epee, foil and sabre individual and team competitions are being held from July 27 to August 4 at the Grand Palais.

Women's Team Epee (8 Teams)
Italy faced France in the final match of women's team epee, winning the Olympic gold medal with a score of 30-29. In the semifinal round, Italy won against China, 45-24, while France defeated Poland, 45-39. Poland won the bronze medal match over China, 32-31.
"We are friends, we put our hearts in what we do, we work hard for one touch, one touch, one touch", said Italy's Mara Navarria. "For Italy, this is so important for the young, the girls and for dreamers. If they work hard, they can do it. And the Grand Palais is spectacular!"

The teams included the following countries:

1. Italy (gold)
2. France (silver)
3. Poland (bronze)
4. China
5. Korea
6. Ukraine
7. USA
8. Egypt





POL

LOUIS-MARIE
FRA
FRA
FRA
FRA
FRA

VILALIS
FRA
ITA
ITA

ITA
ITA
ITA
ITA

DAY FOUR

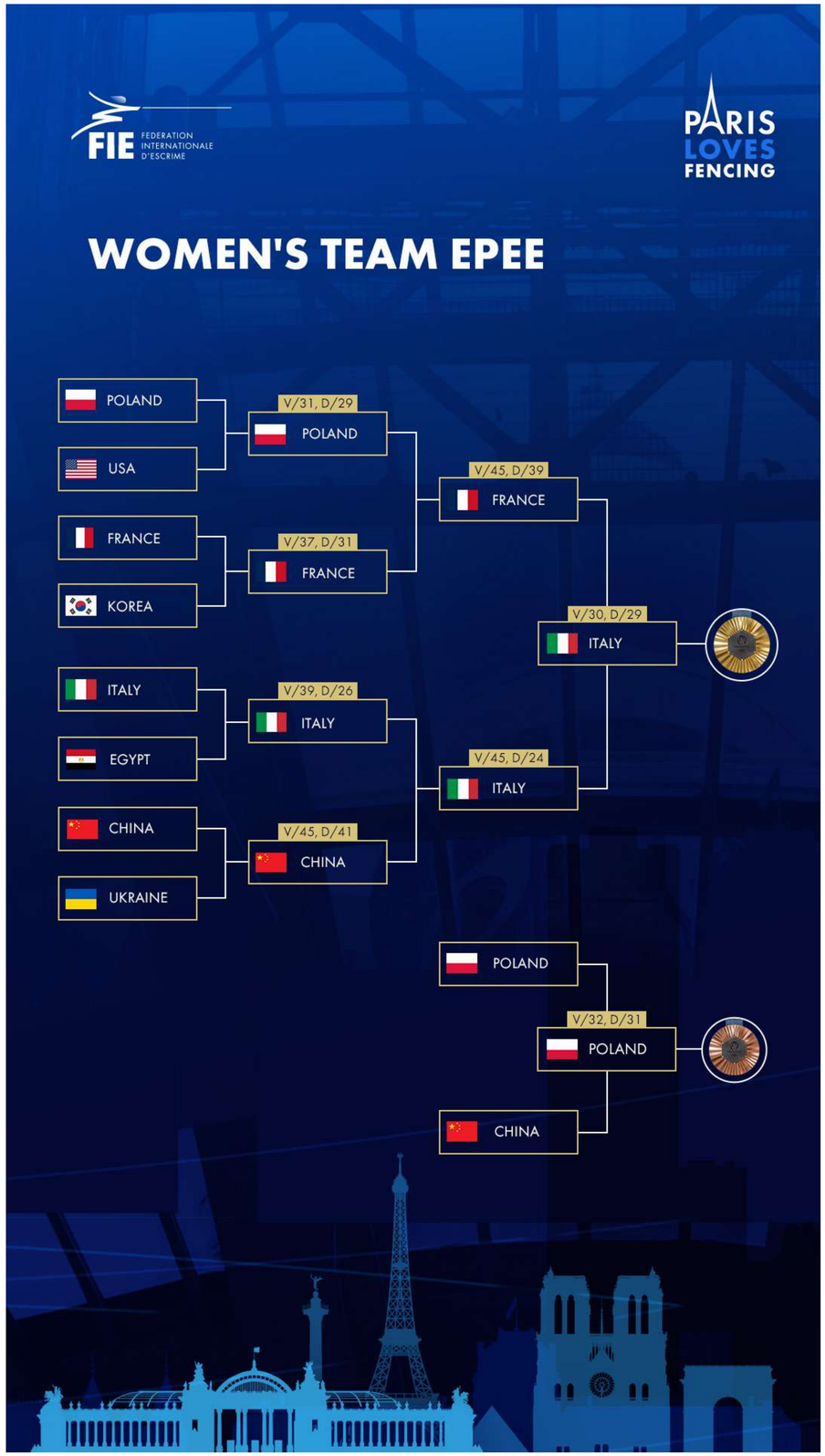
ITALIAN WOMEN'S EPEE TEAM WINS HISTORIC OLYMPIC GOLD. TEAM MEMBER ROSSELLA FIAMINGO SPEAKS ABOUT STRONG TEAMWORK AND STRATEGIC PREPARATION LEADING TO VICTORY IN A TENSE FINAL.

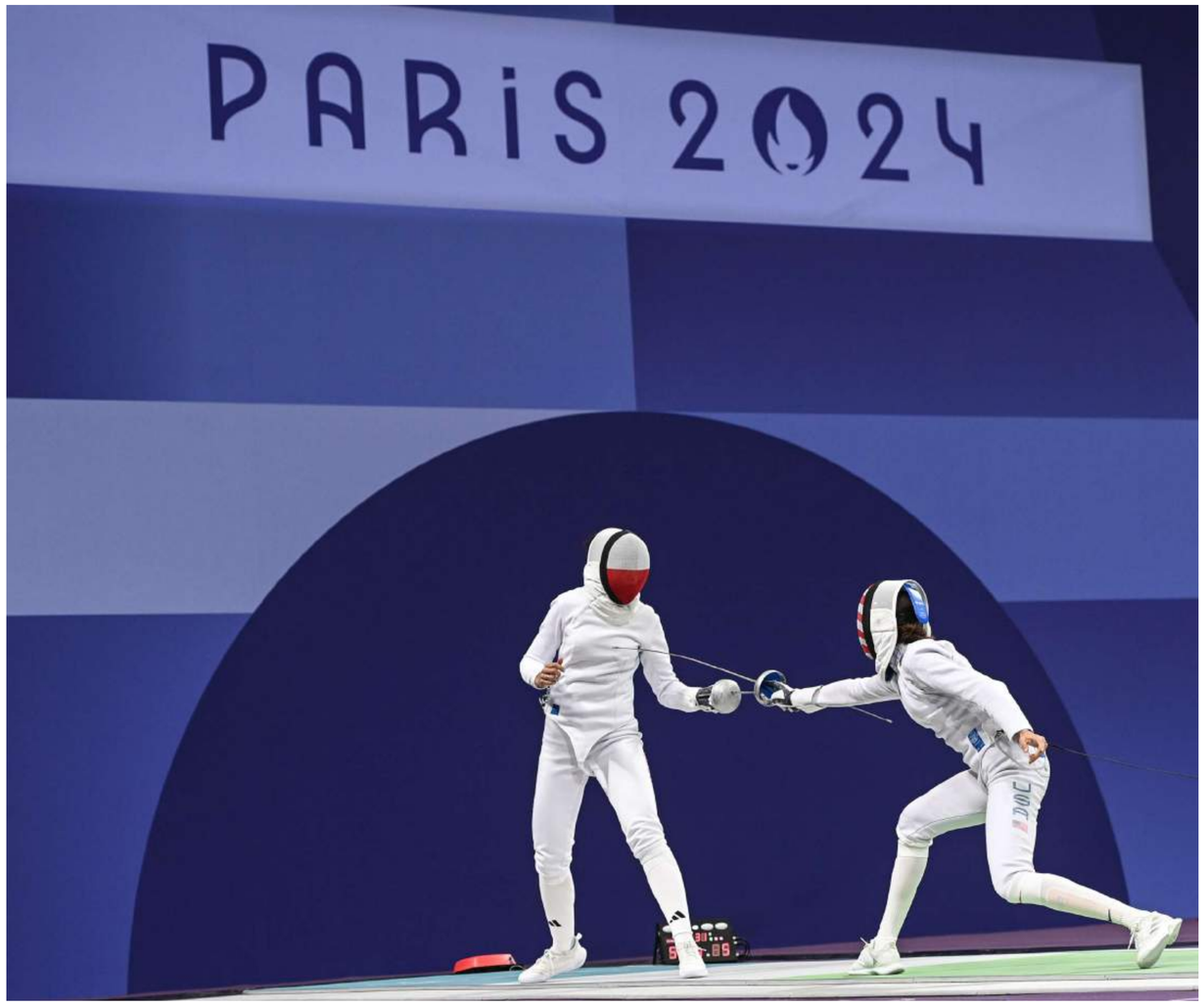
How does it feel to be an Olympic champion in team?
It was a wonderful emotion, and it was also the first time for Italian women's epee. I am honoured to be the first epee fencer to have won the first individual medal ('16) and the first team gold ('24). We knew we were very strong, but the level of competition is very high right now, so turning our dreams into reality was incredible.

Winning the first Olympic medal in women's team epee for Italy—how special was that victory?
It was wonderful because we are a very close team, and we have won a lot over the years; the Olympic gold was the icing on the cake! The Italian epee fencers are very strong, and it's also thanks to the entire training group that we were able to train in the best possible way.

Team Italy won the final by just one point. How does the team handle the pressure of making that crucial last touch?
Teamwork was crucial. We started at a disadvantage, but we never let the match slip away. We didn't get discouraged, and in the end, we channelled all our energy to Alberta, who then delivered that beautiful final touch.

How did your work together throughout the day to reach the gold medal?
We trained together a lot, and during the training camps team events were a priority. We knew that if we played all our cards right, we could make it. All four of us tried different roles and practiced every situation to make sure we were never caught off guard by our opponents. We even watched and analysed some videos, and our coach prepared audio recordings with French crowd noise to help us get used to the loud home support!


FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
WOMEN'S TEAM EPEE
POLAND
USA
V/31, D/29
POLAND
FRANCE
KOREA
V/37, D/31
FRANCE
V/45, D/39
FRANCE
V/30, D/29
ITALY
ITALY
EGYPT
V/39, D/26
ITALY
V/45, D/24
ITALY
CHINA
UKRAINE
V/45, D/41
CHINA
POLAND
V/32, D/31
POLAND
CHINA


PARIS 2024

SONG S.
KOR
KOREA
FRA

DAY FIVE

KOREA WINS GOLD MEDAL IN MEN'S TEAM SABRE

DAY FIVE

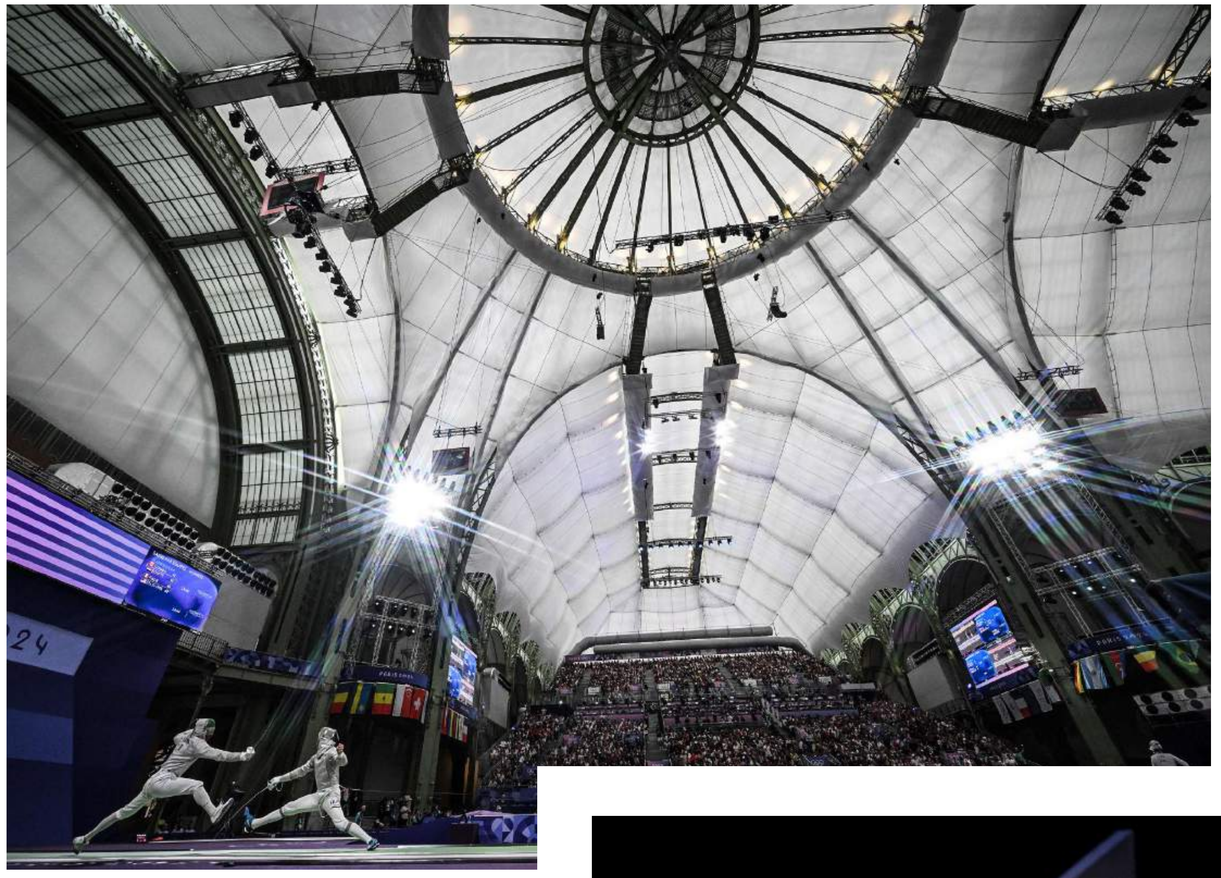
PARIS, France, July 31, 2024 – Korea won men's team sabre fencing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the third time winning the Olympic gold medal in this event. In all, 12 gold-medal events in epee, foil and sabre individual and team competitions are being held from July 27 to August 4 at the Grand Palais.

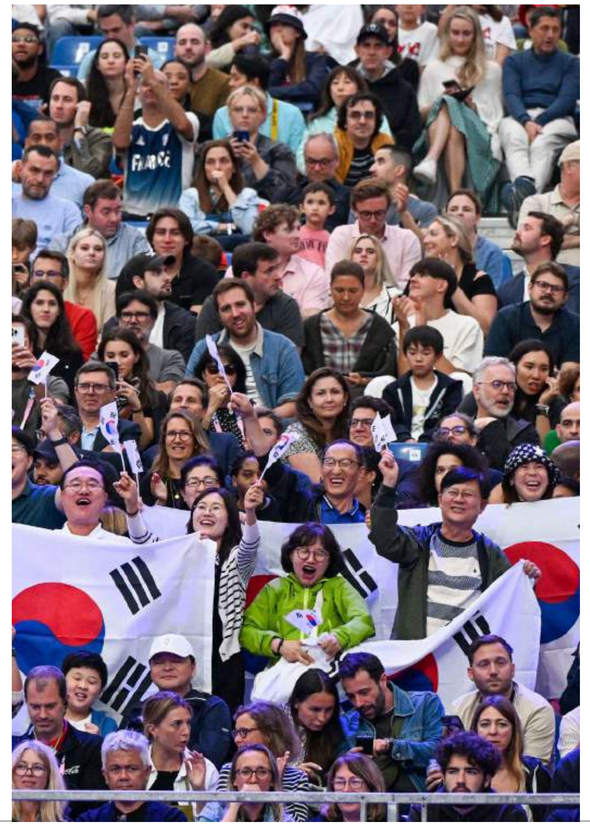
Men's Team Sabre (8 Teams)
Korea faced Hungary in the final match of men's team sabre, winning the Olympic gold medal with a score of 45-41. In the semifinal round, Hungary won against Iran, 45-43, while Korea defeated France, 45-39. France won the bronze medal match over Iran, 45-25.

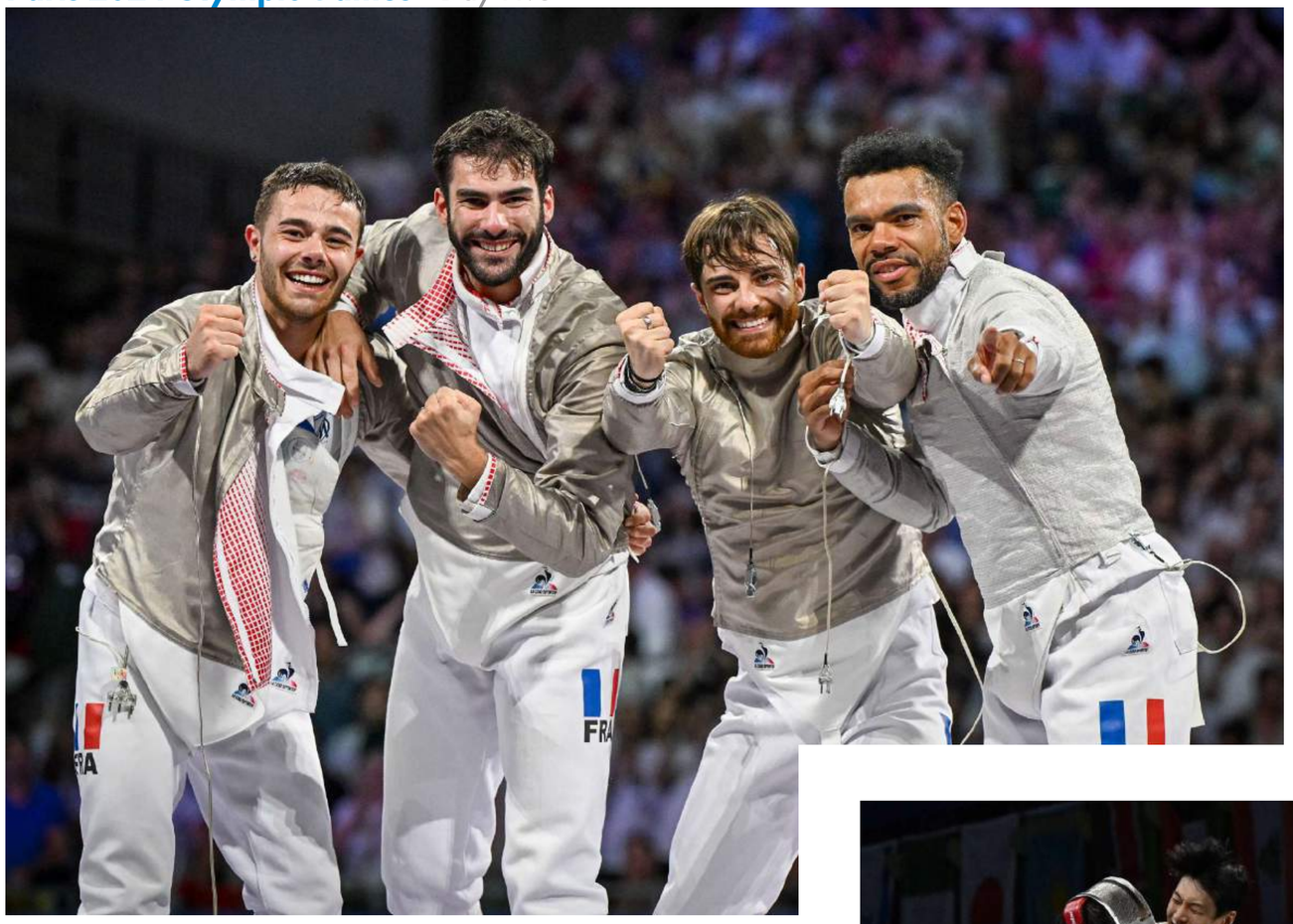
"At the moment I won the gold medal, I had tears in my eyes", said Korea's Sanguk Oh, who also won the Paris 2024 gold medal in men's individual sabre. "We had a great deal of burden on us, and this was a very important moment for us as a team. But even though our team members are changing, we are getting stronger and our team is performing well."

The teams include the following countries:

1. Korea (gold)
2. Hungary (silver)
3. France (bronze)
4. Iran
5. Italy
6. Egypt
7. USA
8. Canada







KOREA

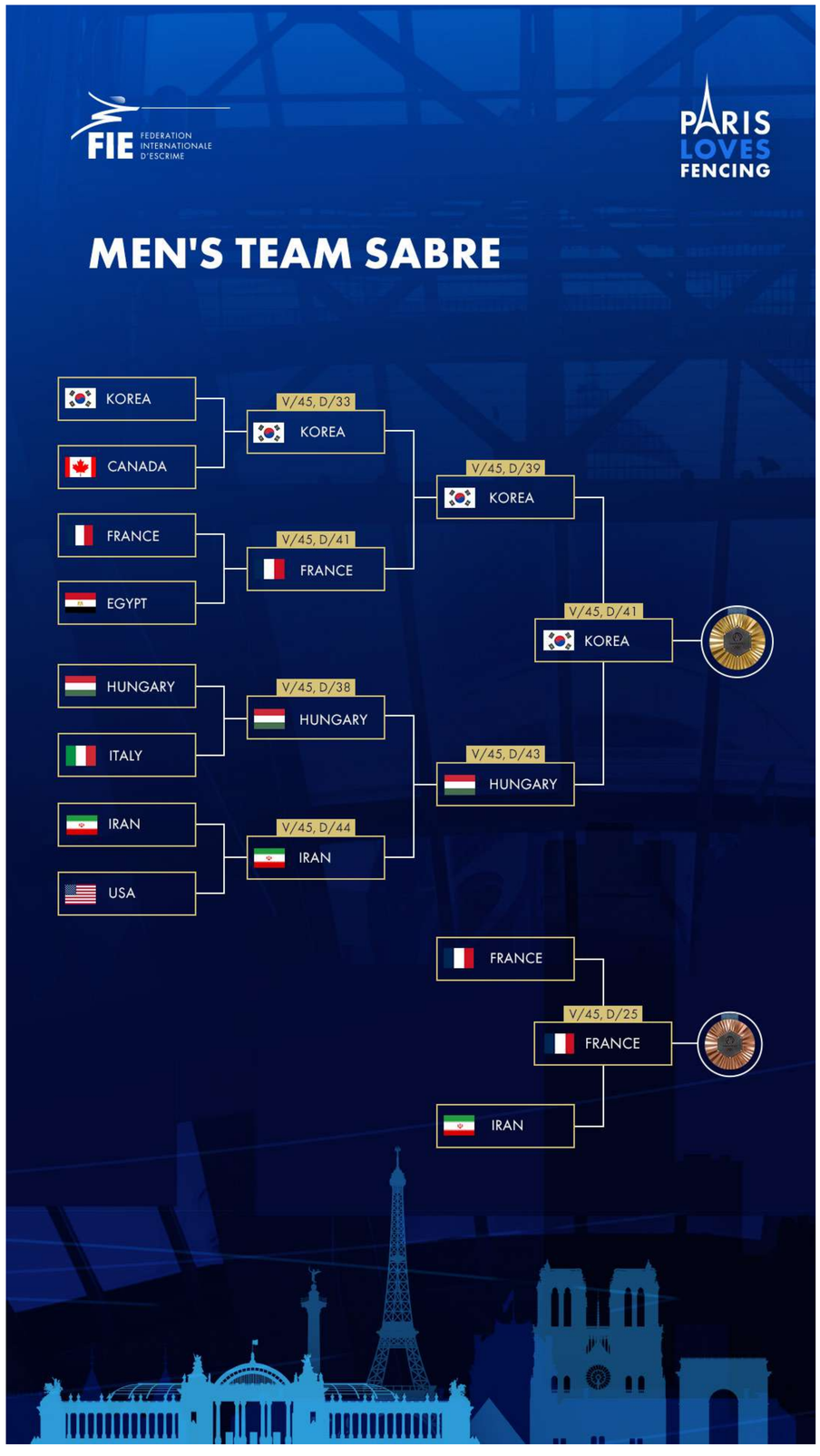
REIGNING OLYMPIC CHAMPION IN MEN'S TEAM SABRE, BONGIL GU DISCUSSES WINNING A THIRD OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL WITH TEAM KOREA AND THEIR ROAD TO PARIS 2024.

How does it feel to be a three-time Olympic champion in team?
I'm thrilled to have become a three-time Olympic champion in the team event, and I'm incredibly grateful to my teammates who have stood by me through the 2012, 2020 and 2024 Olympics.

What it like preparing as a team for Paris 2024?
For this Paris Olympics, we took on the challenge with a team that had been together for less than a year. I believe that the journey we undertook to win the gold medal was our greatest challenge.

You've been part of this team for many years, how has it been to see the members change while always winning gold at the Olympic Games?
I believe the reason the Republic of Korea secured its third team gold medal is that since the 2012 London Olympics, the gold medallists have remained committed until the younger generation was ready to take over, ensuring a smooth transition. This continuity allowed us to win gold medals in both 2020 and 2024 as well.

Being Olympic champion in team again, what does it say about fencing in Korea? How are you hoping to see fencing grow in Korea?
I believe that Olympic medals symbolize the future of fencing in the Republic of Korea. My hope is that fencing evolves into a popular sport, not just one that shines during the Olympics. I also wish for the athletes who were part of this Paris Olympics team to continue their journey, so that in the next Olympics, they can win another gold medal and inspire the younger generation to dream big.


FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
MEN'S TEAM SABRE
KOREA
CANADA
FRANCE
EGYPT
HUNGARY
ITALY
IRAN
USA
V/45, D/33
KOREA
V/45, D/41
FRANCE
V/45, D/38
HUNGARY
V/45, D/44
IRAN
V/45, D/39
KOREA
V/45, D/43
HUNGARY
V/45, D/41
KOREA
FRANCE
V/45, D/25
FRANCE
IRAN

PARIS 2024

FRA
FRA

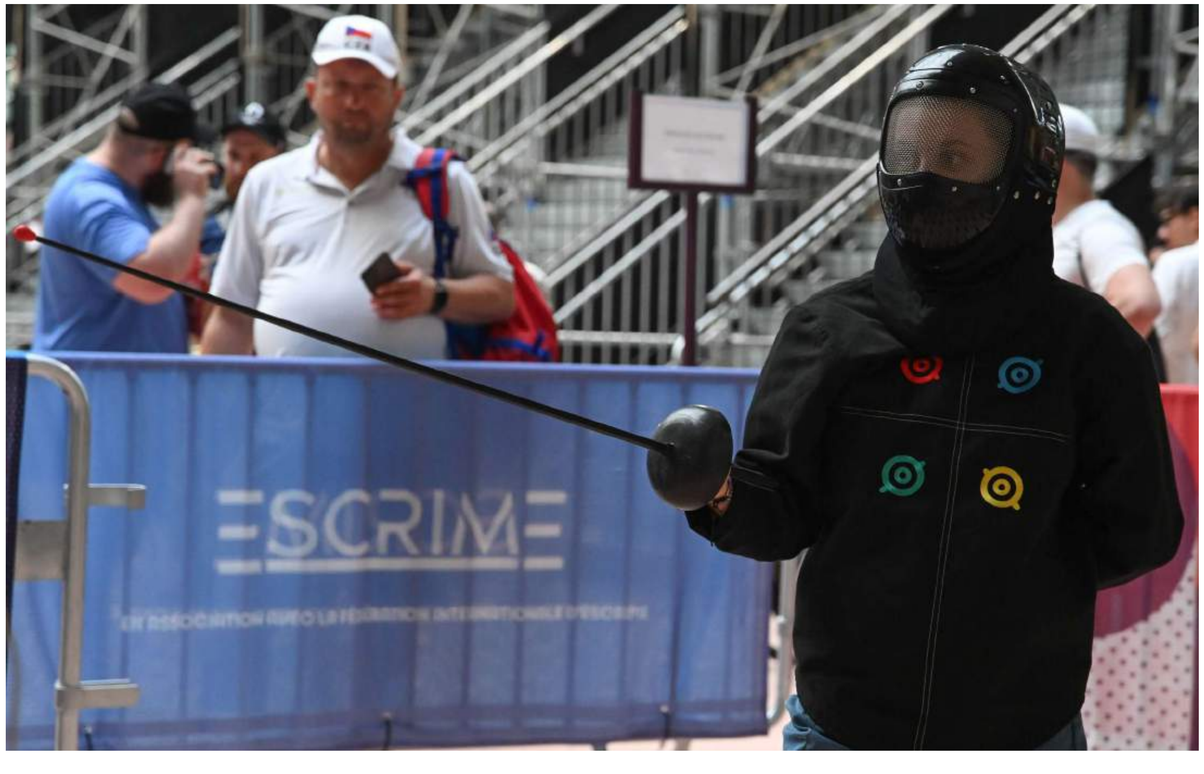
CAUCHON
CAN

DERSHWITZ
USA
USA

FENCING INITIATION AT THE GRAND PALAIS

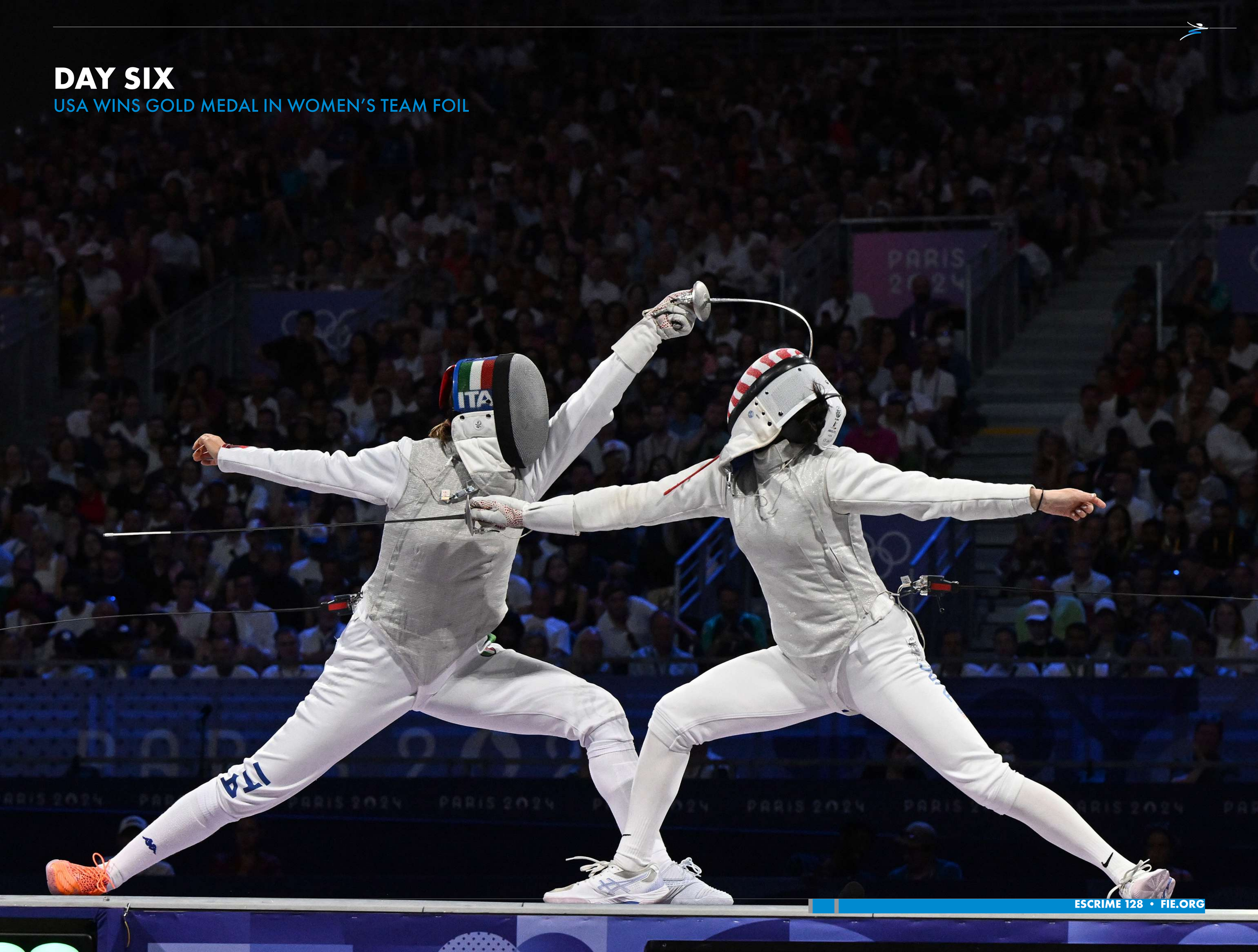
The FIE hosted programmes at the Olympic Games to introduce the public and guests to fencing, including giving visitors to the Grand Palais the opportunity to learn the basics of the sport. Under the umbrella of the French Fencing Federation and direction of French fencing masters, spectators were able to try fencing each day of competition.

The official International Olympic Committee “UAP” programme gave “elite” IOC sponsors and partners such as Bridgestone and Allianz a full, private Grand Palais fencing tour and fencing initiation. The “behind the scenes” look gave sponsors a unique look into how athletes “progress” from their arrival at the Grand Palais to when the begin fencing on the piste. Then they had an opportunity to try fencing, instructed by French fencing masters. Overall, of the 36 guests who attended the FIE programme was given “excellent” five-out-of-five scores in IF “Friendliness and Professionalism”, “Content Quality Rating” and “Overall UAP Experience.”



DAY SIX

USA WINS GOLD MEDAL IN WOMEN'S TEAM FOIL



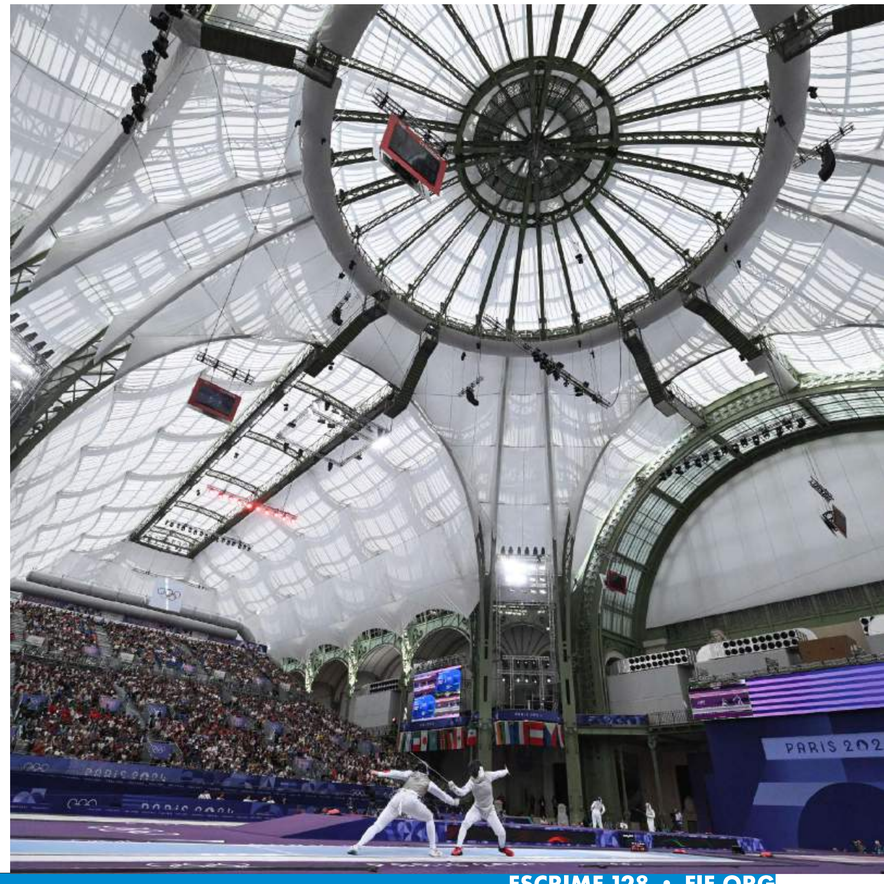
DAY SIX

PARIS, France, August 1, 2024 – USA won the gold medal in women's team foil fencing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the first time the country has won an Olympic gold medal in any team fencing event. In all, 12 gold-medal events in epee, foil and sabre individual and team competitions are being held from July 27 to August 4 at the Grand Palais.

Women's Team Foil (8 Teams)
USA faced Italy in the final match of women's team foil, winning the Olympic gold medal with a score of 45-39. In the semifinal round, Italy defeated Japan, 45-39, while USA won against Canada, 45-31. Japan won the bronze medal match over Canada, 33-32.

"I'm very shocked, I have no words to describe it", said USA's Lauren Scruggs. "I think it's super-cool and unbelievable to make history. The last bout was a tough one, I was dealing with some injuries, and Errigo is super-good and it's so stressful to be the anchor. I locked-in, kept fighting, had a good lead, and I managed to close it out. Our strategy was just to be better fighters, we doubled-down and we fought better. I'm proud of my teammates, happy to make my country proud, and hopefully this is the start of a long continuation of great women's foil and American fencing. This is a whole family effort, and thank you to everyone for your support."

The teams include the following countries:
1. USA (gold)
2. Italy (silver)
3. Japan (bronze)
4. Canada
5. France
6. Poland
7. China
8. Egypt



ITA
ITA

USA
USA

JAPAN
JAPAN
JAPAN
JAPAN

DAY SIX

USA WOMEN'S FOIL TEAM WINS ITS FIRST-EVER OLYMPIC GOLD IN FENCING.

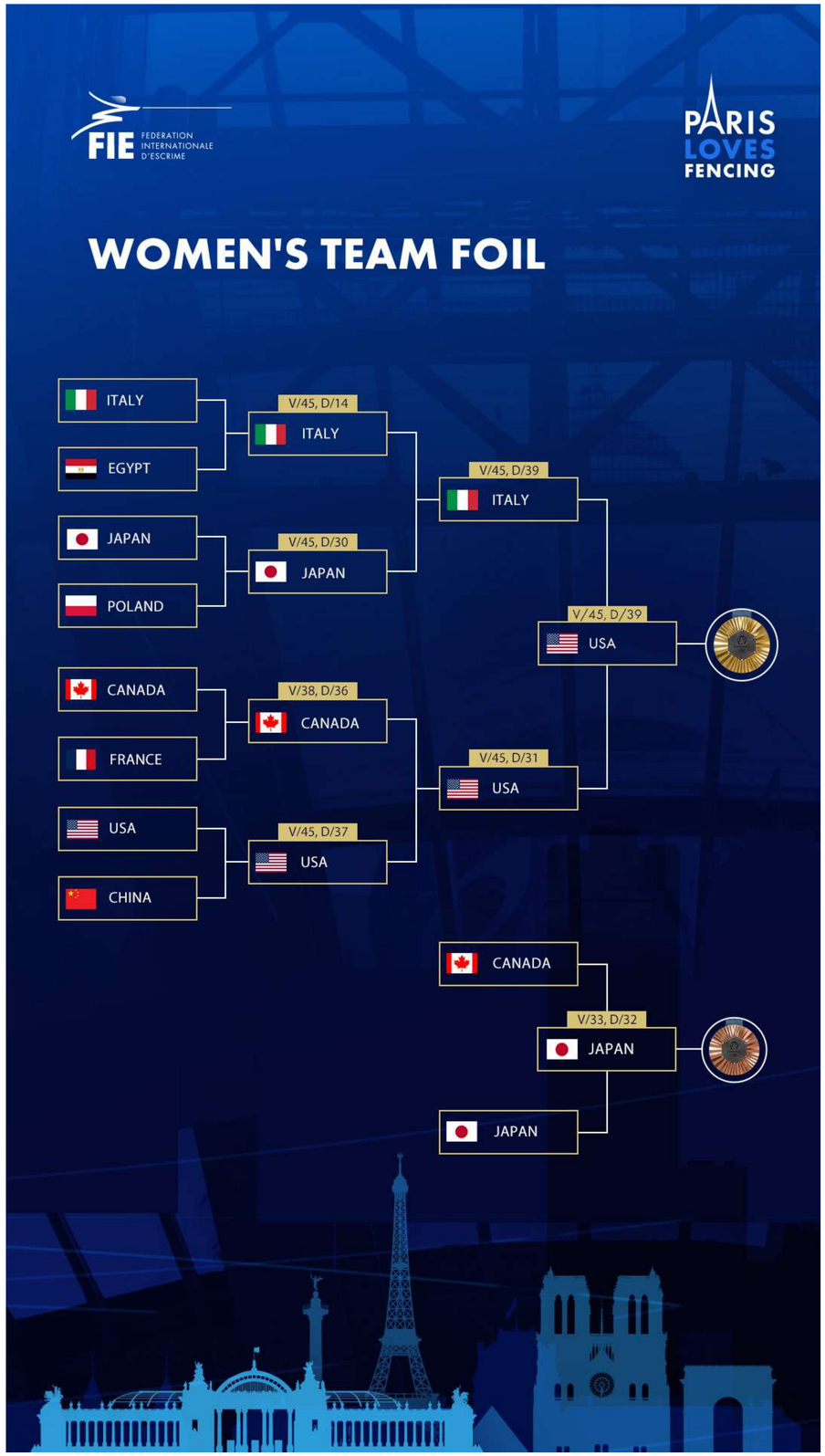
INDIVIDUAL SILVER MEDALLIST LAUREN SCRUGGS REFLECTS ON THE CHALLENGES THEY FACED REBUILDING THE TEAM AFTER TOKYO.

How does it feel to be an Olympic champion in team?
It feels amazing! We've been working toward this dream for the past four years. There have been ups and downs, but I'm really glad that in the end, everything came together.

Winning the first Olympic medal in fencing team for the USA—how special was that victory?
This medal is very special to us. The U.S. has always been close to winning gold, so it feels fitting that it finally happened. I'm glad we could make those who came before us proud and prove to the world that we are the best in women's foil.

What was your greatest challenge as a team before winning gold?
The greatest challenge was figuring out how to tap into each of our strengths. We're a relatively new team—two of us are in college while the other two are older—so we had to do a lot of rebuilding after Tokyo. This involved experimenting with the team order and adjusting to competing together.

How did your team support each other throughout the day to reach the gold medal?
I think our greatest strength that day was our energy. We were all very supportive of each other, which translated into strong and passionate fencing. That extra emotional boost helped us perform exceptionally well.


FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
WOMEN'S TEAM FOIL
ITALY
EGYPT
JAPAN
POLAND
CANADA
FRANCE
USA
CHINA
V/45, D/14
ITALY
V/45, D/30
JAPAN
V/38, D/36
CANADA
V/45, D/37
USA
V/45, D/39
ITALY
V/45, D/31
USA
V/45, D/39
USA
CANADA
V/33, D/32
JAPAN
JAPAN

CHEN Q.Y.
CHN

ITA
ITA

LACHERAY
FRA

Kempa

DAY SEVEN

HUNGARY WINS GOLD MEDAL IN MEN'S TEAM EPEE

DAY SEVEN

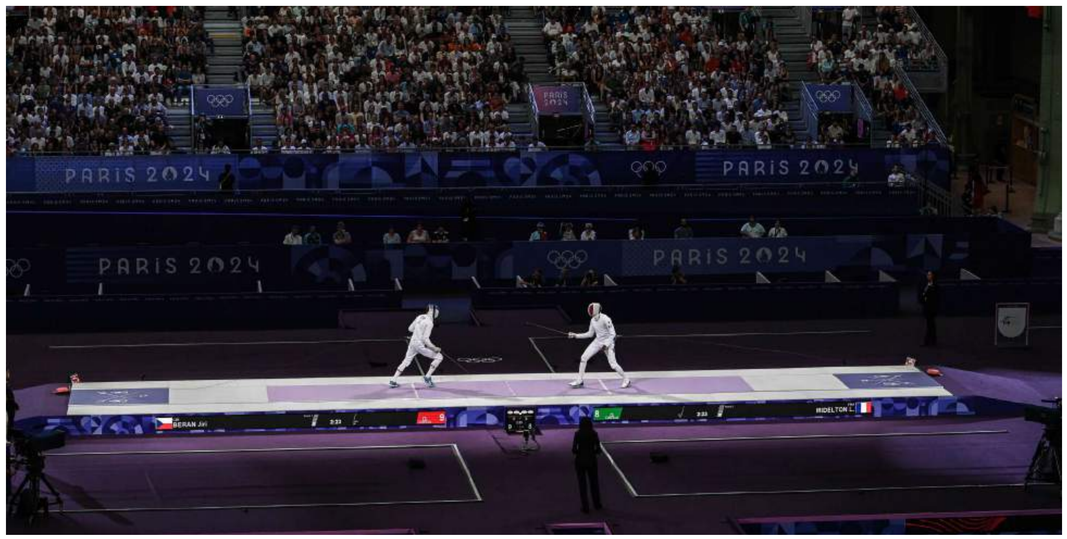
PARIS, France, August 2, 2024 – Hungary won the gold medal in men's team epee fencing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. This was Hungary's fourth time winning the men's team epee event at the Olympics, last taking the title in 1972. In all, 12 gold-medal events in epee, foil and sabre individual and team competitions are being held from July 27 to August 4 at the Grand Palais.

Men's Team Epee (8 Teams)
Hungary faced Japan in the final match of men's team epee, winning the Olympic gold medal with a score of 26-25. In the semifinal round, Japan won against Czechia, 45-37, while Hungary defeated France, 45-30. Czechia won the bronze medal over France, 43-41.

"I knew there was something special about the team event", said Hungary's Gergely Siklosi. "We worked a lot these past months and were absolutely ready for this challenge. We had different strategies for each team, and against Japan we knew they want to use defensive tactics and we had to attack them and it was crucial that we had the lead. Still, they managed to equalize it. This event and venue have been on our minds since being announced, and the Grand Palais is the most beautiful place I have ever fenced in my life."

Final rankings for men's team epee include the following countries:

1. Hungary (gold)
2. Japan (silver)
3. Czechia (bronze)
4. France
5. Italy
6. Kazakhstan
7. Venezuela
8. Egypt



PARIS 202
KANO
JAPAN
JAPAN

PARIS 2024

DAY SEVEN

OLYMPIC CHAMPION GERGELY SIKLOSI REFLECTS ON HIS TEAM'S VICTORY AND HUNGARY'S HISTORIC GOLD AFTER DECADES. HE EMPHASISES THE PRESSURE OF SECURING THE NARROW WIN IN THE FINAL.

How does it feel to be an Olympic champion in team?
Being an Olympic champion in a team event is different from winning individually. You get to share that exact moment with your teammates, go through it together and help each other process what happened. When you win with the team, you're definitely not alone.

1972 was the last time that team Hungary won gold, how does it make it even more special?
In 1972, the Hungarian epee team won gold, and the last Hungarian team to win at all was our men's sabre team in 1988. That was a long time ago as well. We have now joined a special club, and with that comes the responsibility to behave and live up to the standards that this group requires.

Team Hungary won the final by just one point. How does the team handle the pressure of making that crucial last touch?
By now, I think they're used to it. This season, I've had many matches that came down to a single touch, and I can proudly say I've won them all. I had prepared for that moment when it came at the Olympics, and my mind didn't let me down. I can't speak for what went through their minds when I lost the two-point lead, but I'm sure they're happy with the final touch.

What was your greatest challenge as a team before winning gold? (during that day)
Our greatest challenge was to not get satisfied with the result, I kept saying all day, we came for gold, and the stages when you make the top four, then the final, you have to be happy, but stay focused for the upcoming challenges.

How did you celebrate your win?
We are moderate in our celebrations. We were happy, couldn't sleep for days and were smiling all the time. We still are.

FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
MEN'S TEAM EPEE
ITALY
CZECHIA
V/43, D/38
CZECHIA
JAPAN
VENEZUELA
V/39, D/33
JAPAN
V/45, D/37
JAPAN
EGYPT
FRANCE
V/45, D/39
FRANCE
HUNGARY
KAZAKHSTAN
V/45, D/30
HUNGARY
V/45, D/30
HUNGARY
V/26 D/25
HUNGARY
CZECHIA
V/43, D/41
CZECHIA
FRANCE

HUN

KAZ

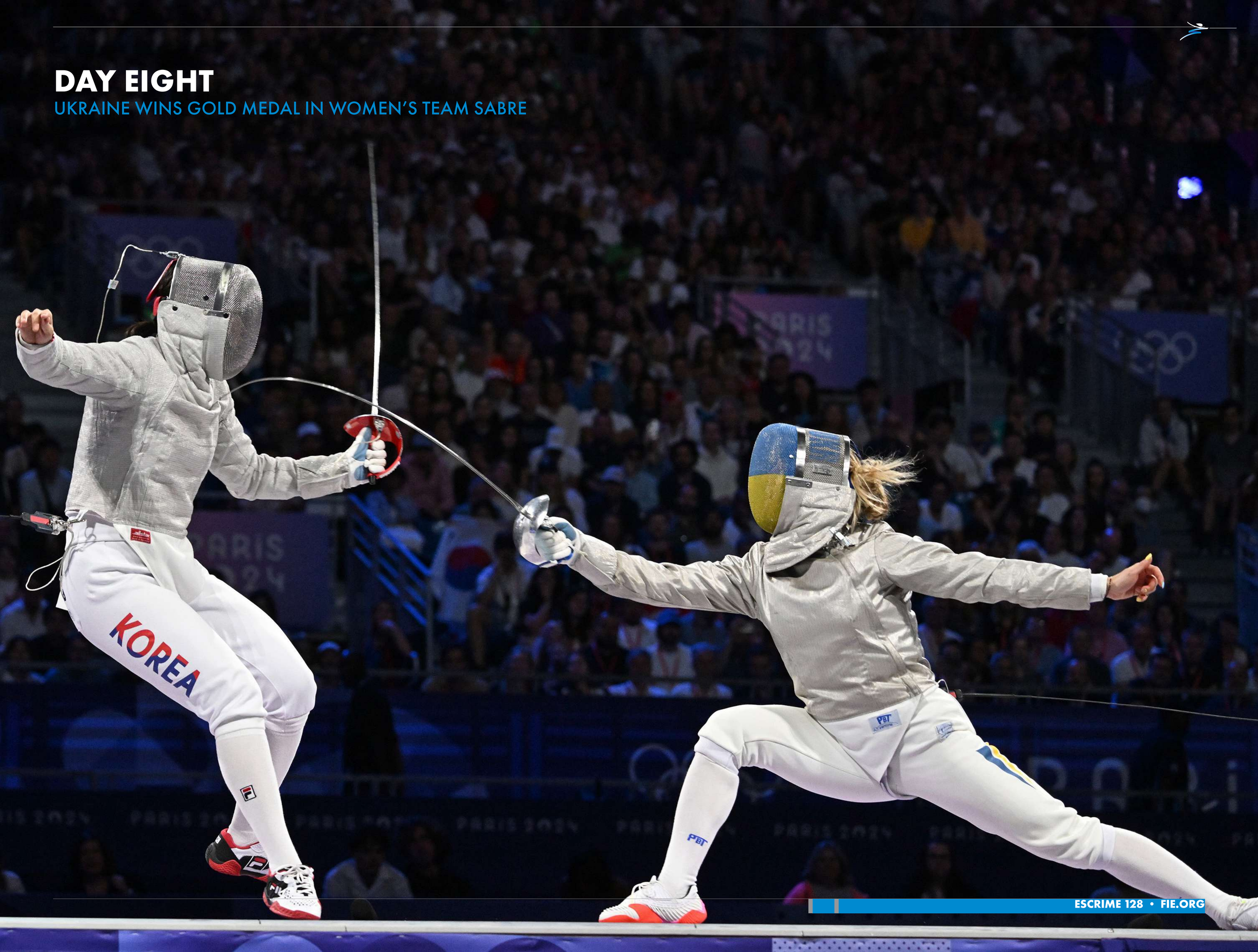
CZE

ITA
CZE

VEN
JPN

DAY EIGHT

UKRAINE WINS GOLD MEDAL IN WOMEN'S TEAM SABRE



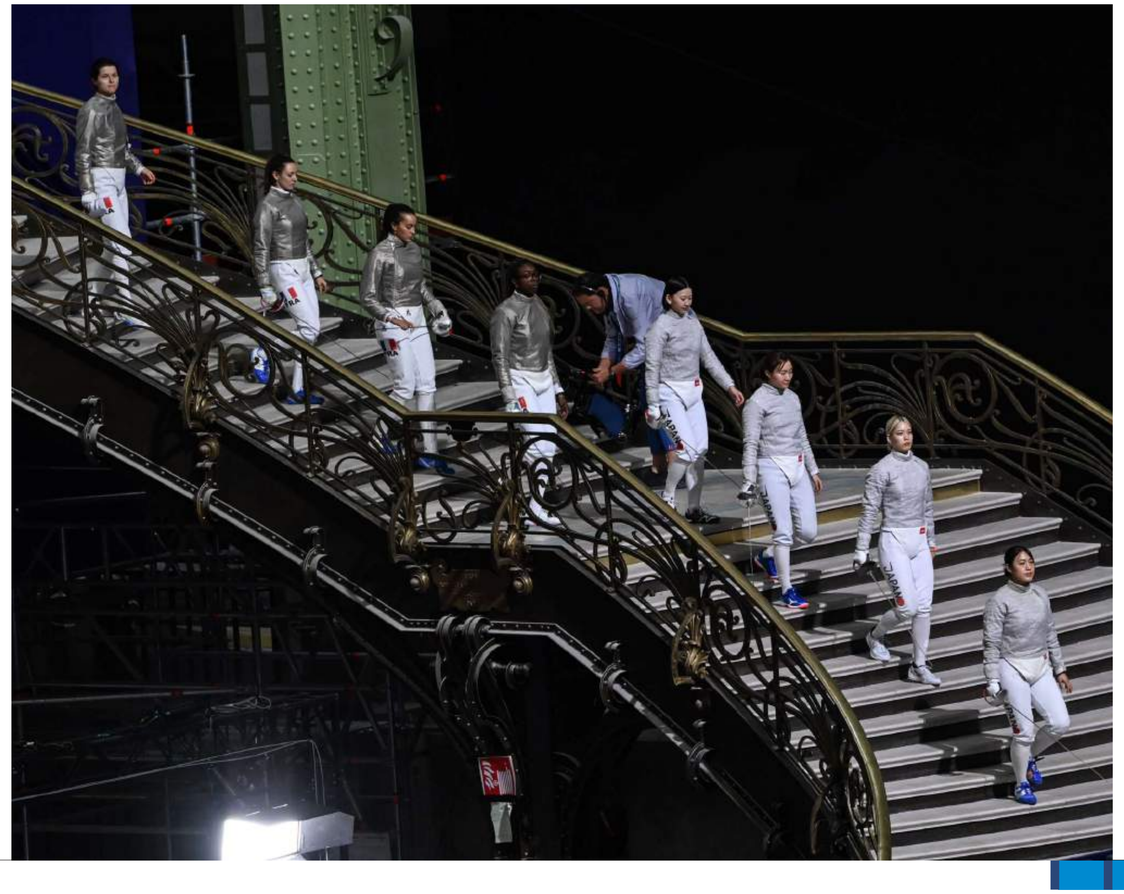
DAY EIGHT

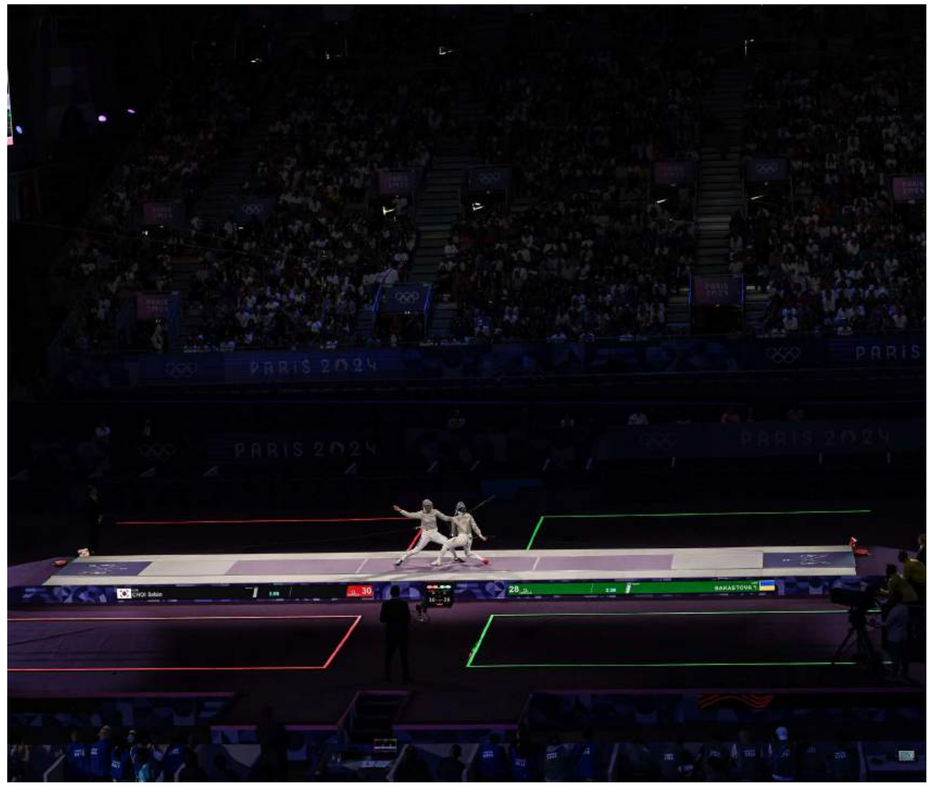
PARIS, France, August 3, 2024 – Ukraine won the gold medal in women's team sabre fencing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. In all, 12 gold-medal events in epee, foil and sabre individual and team competitions are being held from July 27 to August 4 at the Grand Palais.

Women's Team Sabre (8 teams)
Ukraine faced Korea in the final match of women's team sabre, winning the Olympic gold medal with a score of 45-42. In the semifinal round, Korea won against France, 45-36, while Ukraine defeated Japan, 45-32. Japan won the bronze medal match over France, 45-40. "My emotions are part of my actions, and it's the Olympic Games, which is all about emotions", said Ukraine's Olga Kharlan. "It was about emotions in this amazing hall with all the people cheering. All the matches were important and challenging, but the semifinals were probably the most important because if you win you surely have a medal, and then you must accept that you can make it even more. Thank you, Ukraine, thank you Paris and this amazing venue and all the people cheering for us."

Final rankings for women's team sabre include the following countries:

1. Ukraine (gold)
2. Korea (silver)
3. Japan (bronze)
4. France
5. USA
6. Hungary
7. Italy
8. Algeria





KOREA
FILA

JAPAN

UKRAINE'S OLGA KHARLAN CLINCHES BRONZE IN INDIVIDUAL AND GOLD IN TEAM FENCING AT PARIS 2024, MARKING HER SECOND TEAM OLYMPIC VICTORY AFTER 16 YEARS. SHE REFLECTS ON THE EMOTIONAL JOURNEY AND STRONG TEAM SUPPORT THAT LED TO HER DUAL MEDAL SUCCESS.

After winning bronze in individual, how does it feel to be an Olympic champion in team, for a second time?
It feels amazing, of course. I was also really happy with my bronze medal, which was unexpected since my bout against the Korean fencer [ed. Choi Sebin] was incredibly tough. Competing for bronze at the Olympics for the third time isn't easy, but I was proud to bring home Ukraine's first medal at Paris 2024. After the individual event, though, I set my bronze medal aside and didn't look at it again until the competition was over, because I knew I had to focus on the team event. Winning gold after 16 years since our victory in Beijing is just unbelievable, and I'm beyond happy with what we accomplished in Paris.

In the final, Korea was leading throughout. How did your team work together under this pressure to win gold?
I think we didn't feel too much pressure because we knew we already had a medal secured. Of course, we were focused on winning the final, but we weren't fixated on the colour of the medal. We were simply thinking about how to win the match, knowing that if we succeeded, everything would fall into place.

It was ironic to feel that calm in the Olympic final, with so much pressure, but I'm so happy I managed to deliver exactly what I'd been working toward throughout the season and the entire Olympic cycle. My team and I believed in each other, we trusted our coaches, and in that moment, we went for it and made it happen.

How did your team support each other throughout the day to reach the gold medal?
We've always been incredibly supportive of each other. We've fenced together for many years, through countless seasons, and we've faced some very difficult moments as a team. It's during those hard times that you truly test the strength of your team and your friendships. To us, we're more than just a team—we're like family, best friends who have shared the same life and the same dream throughout this whole Olympic cycle.

What was your greatest challenge during that competition day as a team before winning gold?
All of the matches that day were extremely tough because we were fighting for a medal, for our dream. The first one, against Italy, was especially challenging because it was the crucial first step we had to overcome. We succeeded because we had put in so much work and preparation for that match. Afterwards, we just waited to see who our next opponent would be, and it turned out to be Japan. They were a team we hadn't faced often in competition, which made it interesting. We stayed positive, knowing we had to be stronger and that no matter what, we couldn't give up.

"This is a powerful example that with an open heart, hard work and amazing spirit, you can achieve anything you dream."

FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
WOMEN'S TEAM SABRE
ITALY
UKRAINE
V/45, D/37
UKRAINE
JAPAN
HUNGARY
V/45, D/37
JAPAN
V/45, D/32
UKRAINE
V/45 D/42
UKRAINE
ALGERIA
FRANCE
V/45, D/32
FRANCE
KOREA
USA
V/45, D/35
KOREA
V/45, D/36
KOREA
JAPAN
V/45, D/40
JAPAN
FRANCE

PARIS 2024
JAPAN
JAPAN

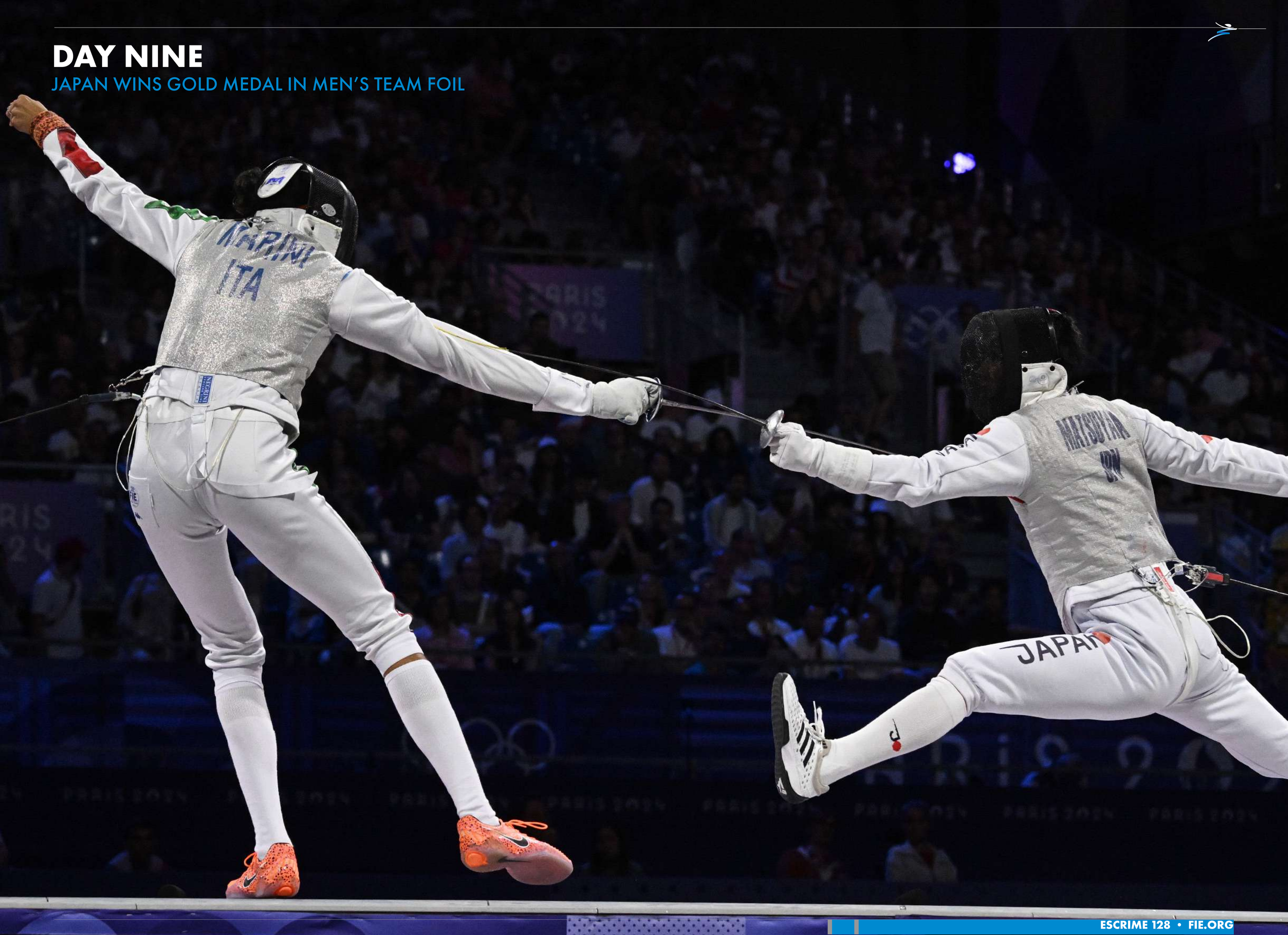
KOREA

ITA
ITA

FRA

DAY NINE

JAPAN WINS GOLD MEDAL IN MEN'S TEAM FOIL



DAY NINE

PARIS, France, August 4, 2024 – Japan won the gold medal in men's team foil on the final day of fencing competition at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the first time the country has ever won this event. International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, who is an Olympic gold medallist in men's team foil, presented the medals with FIE Interim President Emmanuel Katsiadakis.

In all, 12 gold-medal events in epee, foil and sabre individual and team competitions have been held from July 27 to August 4 at the Grand Palais.

Men's Team Foil (8 teams)
Japan faced Italy in the final match of men's team foil, winning the Olympic gold medal with a score of 45-36. In the semifinal round, Italy won against USA, 45-38, while Japan defeated France, 45-37. France won the bronze medal match over USA, 45-32.

"I can't believe what we've achieved here today", said Japan's Kyosuke Matsuyama. "This is for the future, for the kids in Japan, and I hope in the future there will be many Japanese medals in fencing. France was our very hardest match today, this is their home country, and everyone was cheering for them but we stayed focused on each touch and we beat them. This is a really amazing venue—at the last Olympics in Tokyo there were no crowds, but here everyone was cheering, even for us."

Final rankings for men's team foil include the following countries:

1. Japan (gold)
2. Italy (silver)
3. France (bronze)
4. USA
5. China
6. Poland
7. Canada
8. Egypt

JAPAN

OLYMPIC CHAMPION KYOSUKE MATSUYAMA REFLECTS ON HIS TEAM'S HISTORIC GOLD AND ITS IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF THE FENCING IN JAPAN.

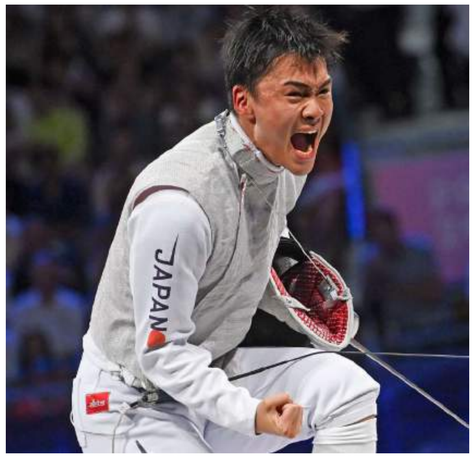
How does it feel to be an Olympic champion in team?
I still can't believe what we accomplished. We proved our skills in fencing at that time, which is why we became champions and I'm satisfied with how we worked together.

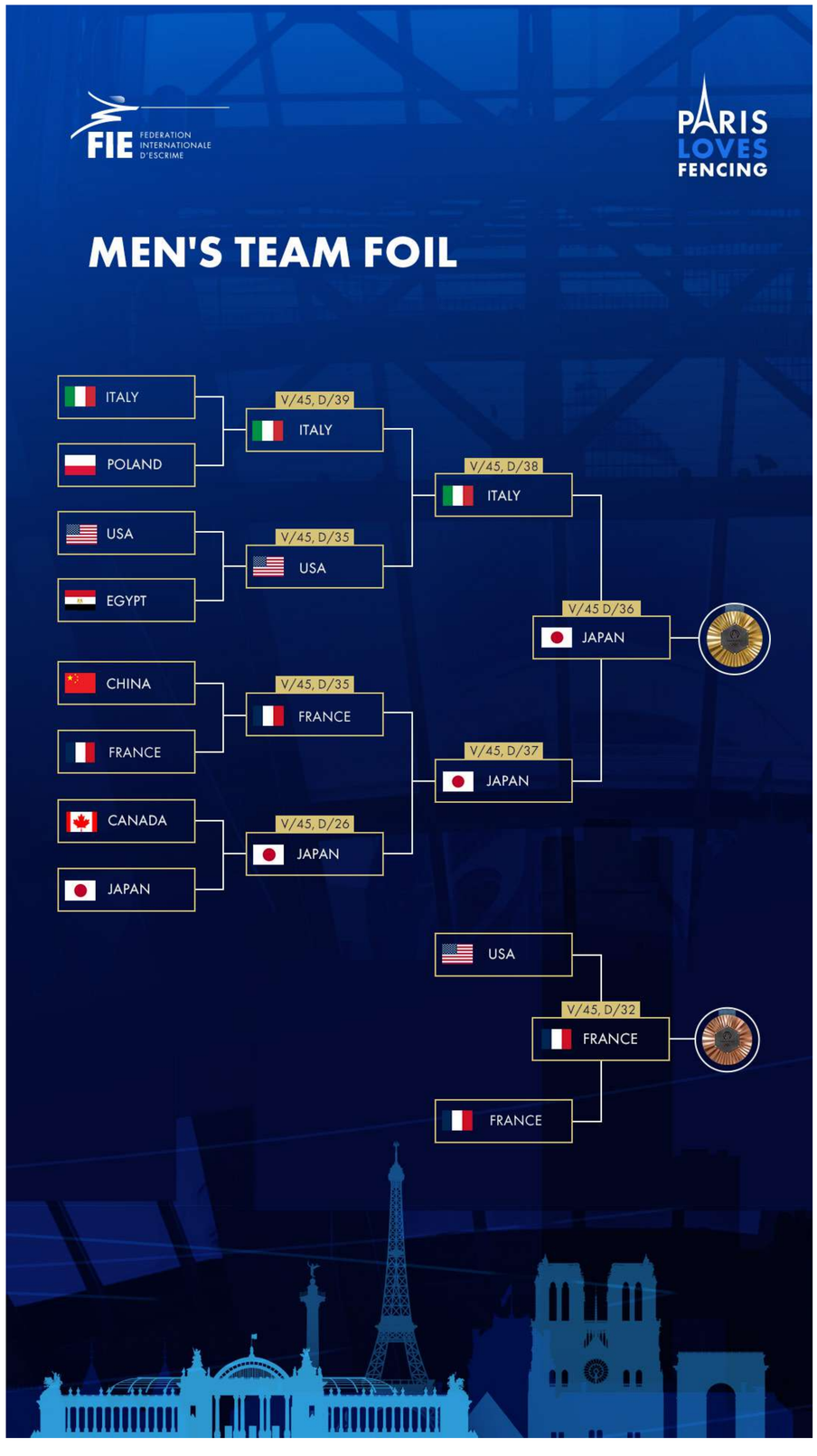
What was your greatest challenge as a team before winning gold?
It's really difficult to fence as usual in the Olympics, but our key we simply to fence. We didn't expect anything special; we just focused on every match and every moment.

How did your team support each other throughout the journey to reach the gold medal?
We always respected each other and weren't afraid to show our emotions and we spoke positive words to one another.

What does this Olympic gold mean for the future of fencing in Japan?
I think a lot of kids dream of winning the Olympic Games, and it's not just for kids—it has motivated many people to work hard at something in their own lives.

How did you celebrate your win?
Actually, right after the competition, we didn't have time to celebrate because we had a TV appearance at Champions Park, in front of the Eiffel Tower. I cherish this as a great memory.




FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
PARIS LOVES FENCING
MEN'S TEAM FOIL
ITALY
POLAND
V/45, D/39
ITALY
USA
EGYPT
V/45, D/35
USA
V/45, D/38
ITALY
CHINA
FRANCE
V/45, D/35
FRANCE
CANADA
JAPAN
V/45, D/26
JAPAN
V/45, D/37
JAPAN
V/45 D/36
JAPAN
USA
V/45, D/32
FRANCE
FRANCE

2024

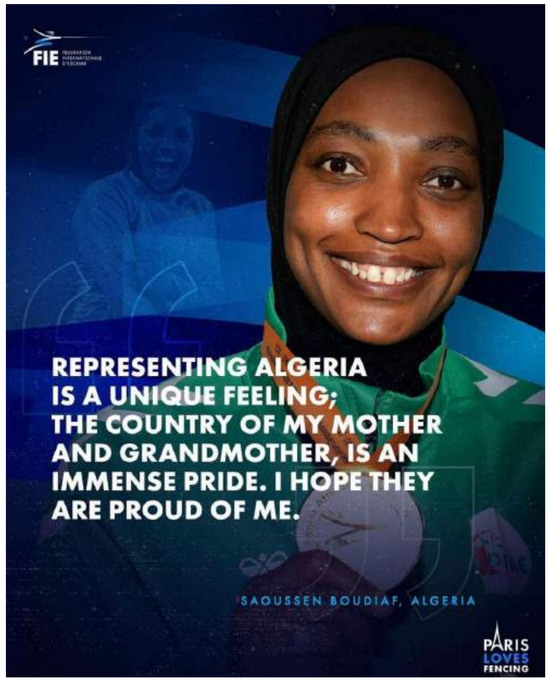
USA
USA

NOTABLE RESULTS, RECORDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN PARIS 2024

- The Paris 2024 Opening Ceremony included two French Olympic champions participating in the final torch relay, Laura Flessel and Jean-Francois Lamour
- Seven fencers competing in Paris 2024 served as flag-bearers for their respective countries, including Yousef Alshamlan (KUW), Ka Long Cheung (HKG), Zaynab Dayibekova (UZB), Maria Luisa Doig Calderon (PER), Arianna Errigo (ITA), Emura Misaki (JPN) and Kruz Schembri (ISV)
- Five countries had athletes participating in fencing at the Olympic Games for the first time in history: Cape Verde, Cyprus, Kenya, Niger and Rwanda
- Hong Kong, China's Man Wai Vivian Kong won her country's first-ever women's Olympic fencing medal, gold in women's individual epee
- USA's women's foil fencer Lee Kiefer is the first U.S. fencer in history to win three Olympic gold medals, including individual and team titles in Paris 2024 events
- Japan's Koki Kano won the first-ever gold medal in an individual Olympic fencing event for Japan, in men's epee
- France's Manon Apithy-Brunet won the first-ever Olympic gold medal for France in women's sabre, in the individual event
- Italy won its first-ever gold medal in women's team epee
- USA won the gold medal in women's team foil, the first time the country has won an Olympic gold medal in any team fencing event
- For the first time in 52 years, Hungary won the Olympic gold medal in men's team epee
- Japan won the men's team foil gold medal, the first time the country has ever won the event

SOCIAL MEDIA AT THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

In addition to a sold-out audience in the Grand Palais for every day of fencing competition, millions of people worldwide followed fencing on television and social media. The FIE posted more than 1200 updates on the Games, engaging with followers on its website as well as X/Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Weibo, reaching approximately 30 million impressions over the nine days of competition.



allstar

MAKE
THE PISTE
YOUR
STAGE.

Always winning with allstar

HONOURED VIP VISITORS AND GUESTS VISITING FENCING AT THE GRAND PALAIS DURING PARIS 2024

Multiple dignitaries and VIPs visited fencing at the Grand Palais throughout the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, most notably President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Olympic fencing gold medallist Thomas Bach, President of France Emmanuel Macron, French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, French Minister for Sport and the Olympic and Paralympic Games of France Amélie Oudéa-Castéra, HSH Albert II Prince of Monaco (IOC member), HRH Grand Duke Henri de Luxembourg (IOC member), Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo, Paris 2024 Organising Committee President Tony Estanguet, as well as numerous members of the IOC Executive Board and IOC members, such as five-time Olympic champion in biathlon Martin Fourcade, Balázs Fürjes of Hungary, German Olympic Champion in women's individual Epee Britta Heidemann, President of the Korean Sport & Olympic Committee Kee Heung Lee, Nawal El Moutawakel of Marrocco, and Korean table tennis Olympic Champion Seung Min Ryu.

Presidents and Prime ministers of several countries included President of Estonia Alar Karis, Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Kobakhidze, President of Hungary Tamás Sulyok, former President of Hungary Mr. Pál Schmitt (former IOC member, Olympic champion fencer), President of Italy Sergio Mattarella, Prime Minister of Italy Giorgia Meloni, President of Kosovo Vjosa Osmani, President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of Slovakia Peter Pellegrini and USA First Lady Dr. Jill Biden.

HONOURED VIP VISITORS AND GUESTS VISITING FENCING
AT THE GRAND PALAIS DURING PARIS 2024

Guests attending fencing also included former President of France Francois Hollande, multiple French government ministers, mayors and members of the French parliament and senate, and numerous foreign countries government ministers, officials and dignitaries.

Several French and international fencing Olympic medallists attending most notably included Laura Flessel (FRA and former French Minister of Sports from 2017-2018), Britta Heidemann (GER and former IOC member), Jean-François Lamour (FRA and former French Minister of Sports from 2002 to 2007) and Yuki Ota (JPN, IOC member).

French and international sports celebrities included Olympic champion figure skater Brian Boitano, Antoine Griezmann, Sir Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton MBE HonFREng, track-and-field Olympic champion Marie-José Pérec, snowboarding three-time Olympic gold medallist Shaun White and Zinedine Zidane.

Other notable celebrities and international figures visiting Paris 2024 fencing included Bruce Dickinson of Iron Maiden, actress Nina Dobrev, Snoop Dogg, Sir Michael (Mick) Philip Jagger of the Rolling Stones and former Miss France Marine Lorphelin, M.D.

S 2024

BLUE GAUNTLET
FENCING
ADVANCE
PERFORMANCE
BY DESIGN
201 . 797 . 3332
SERVICE@BLUE-GAUNTLETSERVICE.COM
WWW.BLUE-GAUNTLET.COM

European Quality Made In China
Join Us, To Be Champion.
GUAN DA
GFENCING.COM
READY FOR YOU
www.gfencing.com
sales@gfencing.com

SWORD
HELLAS
Aliveriou 22, 12135 - Peristeri • +30 210 5731807

ABSOLUTE® FENCING

Cairo 2021, 2022
Dubai 2022

Worldwide Supplier

World Championships - Grand Prix - World Cup

Wuxi 2018
Toruń 2019
USA 2020