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TOKYO OLYMPICS

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GOLD HEIST

Gable Steveson staged a stunning comeback to win an Olympic title

TOKYO — In the weeks leading up to the Olympics, Gable Steveson made the same promise over and over. He was coming to Tokyo to put on a show, and to bring home a gold medal.

So he didn't lose hope when he glanced at the scoreboard Friday night. With 6.5 seconds left, and Geno Petriashvili holding an 8-7 lead in their gold medal match, the Gophers wrestler from Apple Valley just figured the ending would be a little more dramatic than he anticipated.

"I knew that after that point, it was do or die," Steveson said. "And I just had to go."

Story by RACHEL BLOUNT • Star Tribune
Photo by AARON FAVILA • Associated Press

HEAVIEST HITTER

Gophers wrestler Gable Steveson of Apple Valley roared after rallying to defeat Geno Petriashvili of Georgia 10-8 to win the freestyle heavyweight gold medal match in Tokyo. Steveson recorded two takedowns in the final 10 seconds.

Steveson delivered exactly what he promised, capturing the Olympic gold medal in unforgettable fashion. He stunned Petriashvili, a three-time world champion from Georgia, with two takedowns in the final 10 seconds for a 10-8 victory in the freestyle heavyweight final at Makuhari Messe. The winning points came with 0.2 seconds remaining on the clock.

After Steveson took an early 4-0 lead, Petriashvili stormed back in the second period and held an 8-5 advantage with 13 seconds left in the match. Gophers coach

See **STEVESON** on C6 ▶