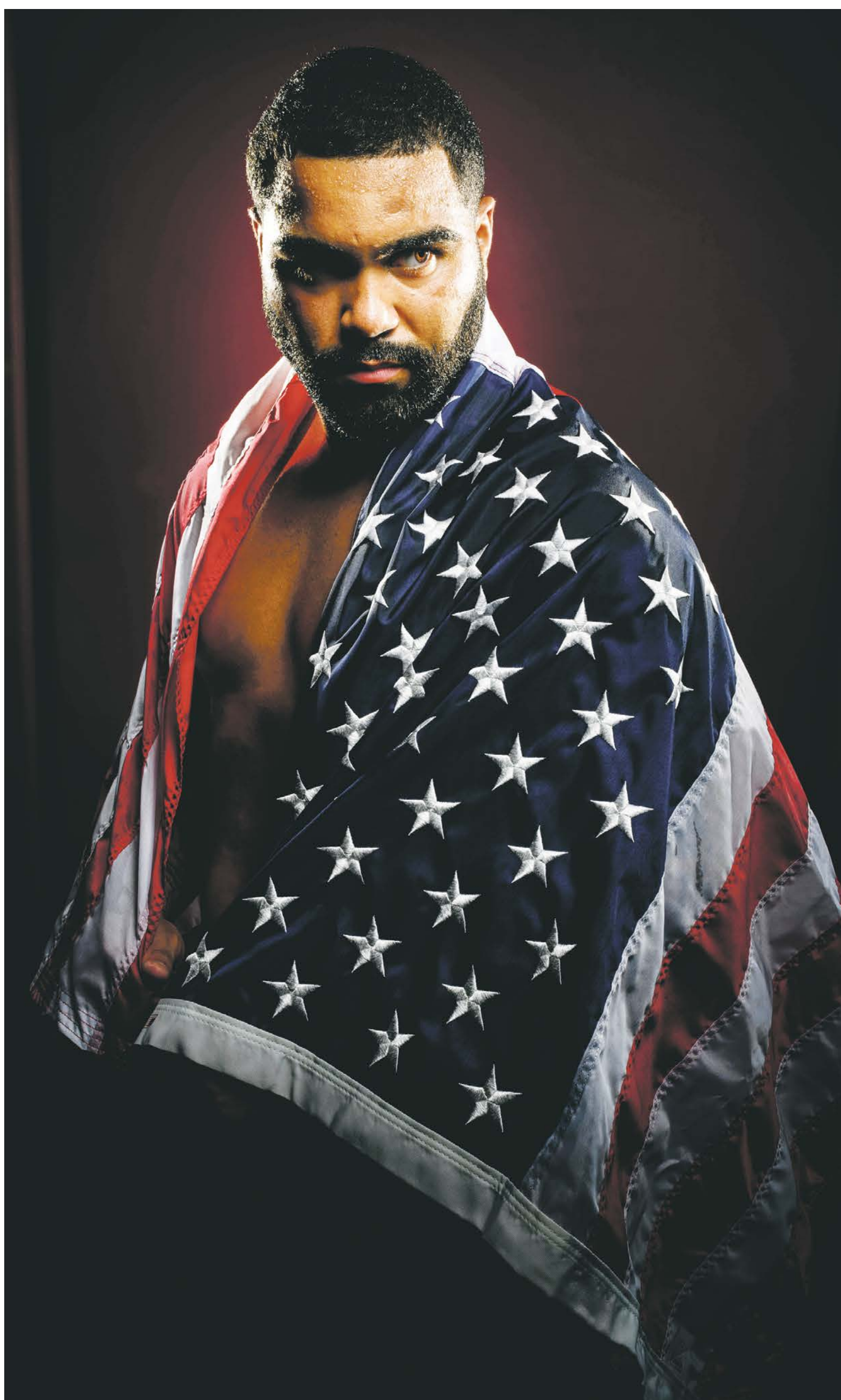


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# TOKYO OLYMPICS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021 • SECTION C



## CLIMBING

# At last, a meeting at highest of levels

Condie, USA contingent prepared to impress in climbing's Olympic debut.

By RACHEL BLOUNT  
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TOKYO - Kyra Condie noticed the connection right away. The Olympic motto — faster, higher, stronger — lines up perfectly with the three disciplines of climbing.

"Higher is lead climbing, where you're going as far as possible up the wall," Condie said. "Faster is speed climbing. Stronger is bouldering. It's kind of cool how they're related."



Condie

It's even cooler to be part of her sport's Summer Games debut. Condie, a Shoreview native, is among four U.S. athletes competing in Tokyo for the first Olympic medals awarded in climbing. The women's competition starts with Wednesday's qualification round at Aomi Urban Sports Park (3 a.m. Central on NBCOlympics.com), which will determine the eight climbers who advance to Friday's finals.

The Olympic format is an unusual one. Climbers typically specialize in one discipline, but Olympic organizers chose to award only one set of medals per gender at the Tokyo Games. The International Federation of Sport Climbing decided it would be best to create a format that would showcase all three styles.

That will make the Tokyo Games a test of adaptability, a quality Condie has in abundance. She has become one of the country's top climbers despite limited mobility in her back, caused by spinal-fusion

See **CONDIE** on C7 ►

**Up next:** Qualifications are at 3 a.m. Wednesday on NBCOlympics.com and will be replayed at 9 a.m. on USA

## Lee, Biles to compete in beam final

All-around gold medalist Suni Lee of St. Paul (top right) competes for the last time Tuesday morning in the Tokyo Olympics in the balance beam individual final. She's the first Hmong American to make the U.S. Olympic team.



Joining her will be Simone Biles (bottom right), making her first appearance in the Games after withdrawing from earlier competition to focus on her mental health.

The event, however, begins at 3:48 a.m. Central time and will likely be over by the time many of you are crawling out of bed. Curious to see who medaled? Log on to startribune.com/sports for the story.

**LEE MEDALS SO FAR**  
**Individual all-around:** Gold  
**Team all-around:** Silver  
**Uneven bars:** Bronze

# AS HE PLANNED IT

TOKYO - If you don't want any spoilers before the Olympic wrestling tournament, stop reading here. Because Gable Steveson is pretty sure he knows how the freestyle heavyweight class is going to play out. And he isn't shy about revealing it.

He will get on a bus Thursday morning. Head to Makuhari Messe Hall on the eastern edge of Tokyo. Wrestle one enormous guy, then another one. Do the same thing Friday, until someone presents him with a gold medal.

"I'm just going to show up and do my job," Steveson said. "On August 6, I should be

Steveson's Olympic moment arrives, as he performs on a stage as big as his ambition

Story by RACHEL BLOUNT  
Photo by AARON LAVINSKY  
Star Tribune

standing on top of that podium with a medal around my neck."

Where others dream about their Olympic moment, Steveson has been planning for his, with a confidence befitting a man named after an Olympic champion. The Gophers heavyweight from Apple Valley loves nothing more than to put on a show. At the Tokyo Games, he will perform on a stage as big as his ambition, before a global TV audience.

As the saying goes, it's not bragging if you can back it up. Steveson, 21, has been

See **STEVESON** on C10 ►

**Up next:** Gable Steveson's quest for an Olympic medal in the 125kg division begins at 9 p.m. Wednesday (Minnesota time).

## MORE COVERAGE INSIDE

**Shooting:** Farmington's Patrick Sunderman comes up short of final. **C7**

**Gymnastics:** American Jade Carey earns gold in individual floor exercise. **C8**

**Soccer:** Canada's 1-0 semifinal win sends U.S. women to bronze medal game. **C12**

## MEDALS RACE

After 336 events of Olympic competition:

1 **USA:** 64 (22 ● 25 ● 17) | 2 **China:** 62 (29 ● 17 ● 16) | 3 **ROC:** 50 (12 ● 21 ● 17) | **Minnesota:** 8 (2 ● 4 ● 2)

Sports section **C3** • Updates online at [www.startribune.com/olympics](http://www.startribune.com/olympics)