

ATHENS 2004

Great Performance of Japanese Athletes at the 28th Olympic Games (held in Athens in 2004)

16
gold medals

9
silver medals

12
bronze medals

37
medals in total

At the Athens Olympic Games, held on August 13 – 29, 2004 Japan won a record number of medals, exceeding the 32 medals won at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984. The entire nation got excited at the performance of the Japanese athletes at the great Olympic Games.

Photo: AFLO FOTO AGENCY

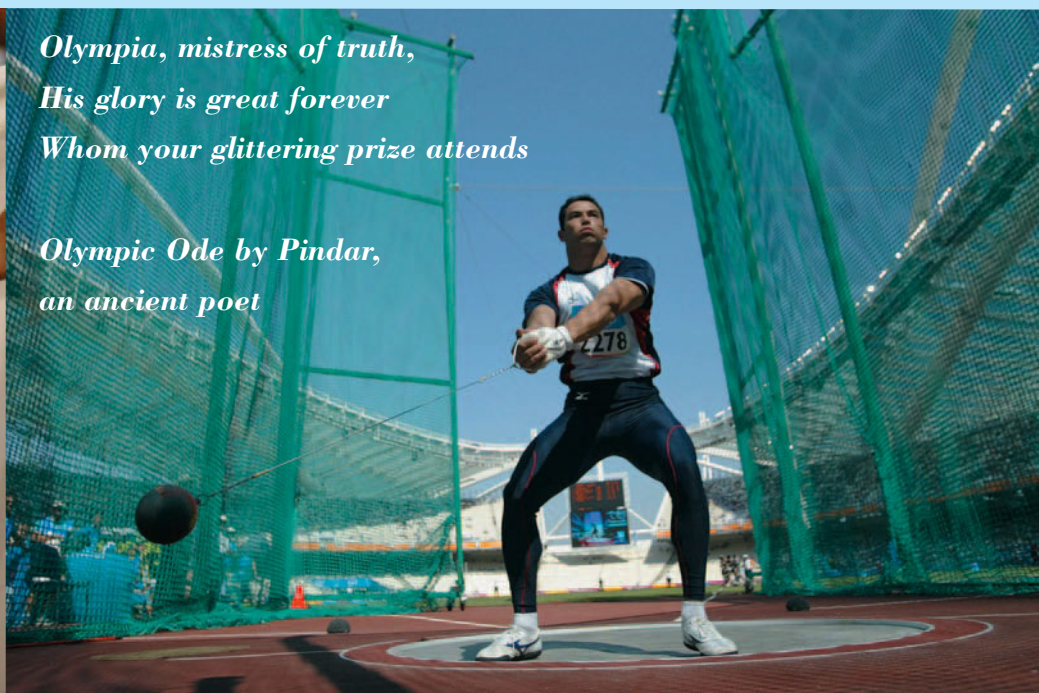


Japan's men's artistic gymnastics team winning a gold medal in team competition for the first time in 28 years since the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games

Photo: Kyodo News Service



Mizuki Noguchi, women's marathon gold medalist (Japan won a gold medal in the women's marathon two consecutive times following the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.) "I am happy. I am glad that my efforts were rewarded."



*Olympia, mistress of truth,
His glory is great forever
Whom your glittering prize attends*

*Olympic Ode by Pindar,
an ancient poet*

Koji Murofushi, Japan's first hammer thrower, winning a gold medal at the Olympic Games "It is important to continue making efforts. It is extremely important for competition to be staged in truth."

(Upper left: Poem etched on the reverse side of a gold medal)



Tadahiro Nomura, men's judo 60-kg gold medalist, became the first judo man to win a third consecutive gold medal at the Olympic Games.



Keiji Suzuki, men's judo +100-kg gold medalist, bringing back the men's +100-kg gold medal to Japan for the first time in 16 years since the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games

"I am in the fullness of my heart. It was the last day for judo, and I had a sense that my mission was to do my best also for my comrades who lost the matches. I thought I should fight squarely."



Noriko Anno, women's judo 78-kg gold medalist, finally won the gold medal at her third Olympic Games. Under the slogan of "efforts will never betray," she overcame the hardships she had at the two previous Olympic Games and finally won the gold medal.



Ryoko Tani, women's judo 48-kg gold medalist, won her second consecutive gold medal following the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.



Kosuke Kitajima, men's 100-m and 200-m breaststroke swimming gold medalist, became the first Japanese to win two gold medals for individual events at the Olympic Games.
"I stood on the starting platform, thinking I would definitely win."

Ai Shibata, women's 800 freestyle swimming gold medalist, was the first Japanese to win a gold medal for the women's 800-m freestyle swimming.



Miya Tachibana and Miho Takeda won their second consecutive silver medals.

Cheerleading group excited at the performance of Japanese wrestlers.



Kaoru Icho, women's 63-kg wrestling gold medalist

Saori Yoshida, women's 55-kg wrestling gold medalist
"I was expected to win the gold medal without fail and was under pressure. I, however, was not beaten by myself, which led me to victory."



Hiroshi Yamamoto, won a silver medal for the first time in 20 years since he won a bronze medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games.
“I didn’t want to feel ashamed of my play, which my child would watch.”



Kazuto Seki and Kenjiro Hibiki, men’s sailing 470 class bronze medalists, brought the first sailing medal to Asia.

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The women’s softball team won a bronze medal, the second consecutive medal following the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, where they won the silver medal.



Tomohiro Nagatsuka, Toshiaki Fushimi, and Masami Inoue, men’s bicycle team sprint silver medalists



The baseball team, members of which were all professional baseball players, won a bronze medal.