



The News

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by Emma Phillips

Once again, French athletes were out in force yesterday at the Paris Olympics. Titouan Castryck from Brittany brought home a silver medal in the kayak slalom while table tennis prodigy Félix Lebrun is just one step away from the final. Yesterday, Lebrun qualified for the semis and today will face the Chinese player Zhendong Fan, who is world no. 4 and reigning Olympic champion. In boxing, Sofiane Oumiha is now certain of France's first medal in the sport as he is through to this Sunday's semi-final against Canadian Wyatt Sanford. Each semi-final loser that goes out at least receives a bronze medal.

France now has a total of 27 medals. Looking at today, France's main medal hopes lie with judo players Teddy Riner and Romane Dicko, who this morning are both making their debut on the tatami mats at the Arena Champ de Mars. And of course, who could forget that swimmer Leon Marchand will be back later in a bid to win a fourth gold medal, this time in the 200m medley.

Today also sees the start of the athletics events at the Stade de France. French flag bearer Mélina Robert-Michon will be competing in the discus qualifying event.

The Paris prosecutor's office has requested that 9 CRS officers or riot police stand trial for intentional violence during a gilets jaunes protest in 2018. The CRS officers in question were filmed beating demonstrators and a journalist at a Burger King restaurant near the Champs Elysée.

And finally, US citizens who had been detained in Russia have been welcomed back home by president Joe Biden and vice-president Kamala Harris as part of a historic prisoner swap. US former detainees include journalist Evan Gershkovich who had been held in Russia since 2023 and former marine Paul Whelan, who was serving a 16-year prison sentence for espionage.