



Tokyo Games

Steven Gardiner

Kirani James

Michael Norman

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**yahoo/sports**

# The Bahamas' Steven Gardiner wins Olympic men's 400m gold as Americans miss podium

**Shalise Manza Young** · Yahoo Sports Columnist

August 5, 2021 · 2 min read

**In this article:****Tokyo Games****Steven Gardiner**  
Bahamian sprinter**Kirani James**  
Grenadian sprinter**Michael Norman**  
American sprinter

TOKYO — Steven Gardiner of the Bahamas added an Olympic gold medal to the World Championship gold he won in 2019, pulling away from the pack with 50 meters to go and winning in 43.85 seconds.

Colombia's Anthony Jose Zambrano took silver in 44.08 seconds, and Grenada's Kirani James earned the bronze (44.19), becoming the first male to win three Olympic 400m medals.



Gardiner appeared to get out a little slow over the first 100 meters and then turned things up. The Bahamas could have





@NBCOlympics

Steven Gardiner pulls away to claim the GOLD in the men's 400m final.

#TokyoOlympics

8:06 AM · Aug 5, 2021

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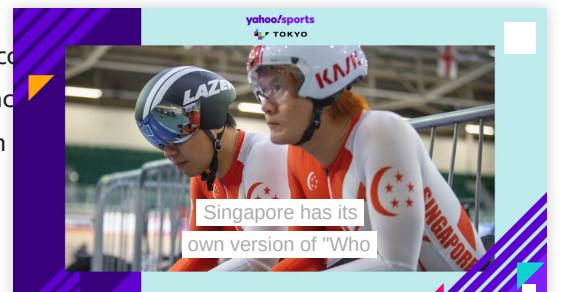
American Michael Norman got off to a very fast start, and was in the lead with about 150 meters to go. But he was unable to hold on and finished fifth (44.31). Teammate Michael Cherry was fourth in a lifetime best 44.21.

This marks the [first time in Olympic history](#) the U.S. men didn't win a single gold medal in the short sprints (100, 200, 400) and the hurdles, per NBC Sports' Nick Zaccardi.

Norman ran 44.07 seconds at the U.S. Trials but his 44.52 in the semis here was just the fifth-best time. Norman's mother was born in Japan, and he had discussed what it meant that his first Olympics was in her homeland.

James, the pride of Grenada who won Olympic gold in 2012, has been consistent for a decade and came into the final with the fastest time in the semis. It is his third straight Olympics with a medal.

South Africa's Wayde Van Niekerk, who broke the world record in the 2016 Olympics final, did not advance to the medal race in Tokyo. Playing in a celebrity tag rugby match in 2017, Van Niekerk tore his ACL and hasn't returned to form since.

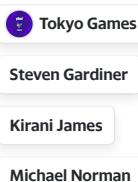




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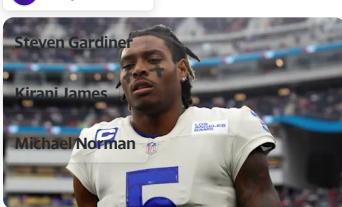


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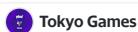
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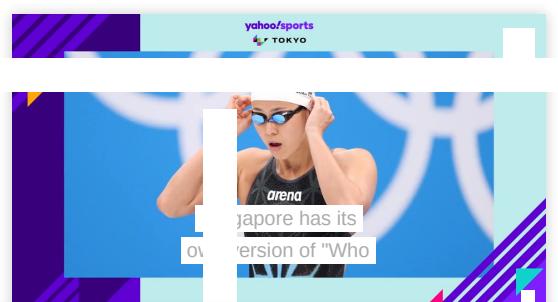
Luis Ortiz got up from two knockdowns to stop Charles Martin in six rounds Saturday in Hollywood, Florida.

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While the two CFP semifinal games resulted in blowouts, there have been some truly excellent bowl games over the last few weeks.

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