

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Paul Juda of Team USA celebrates his performance on the parallel bars during qualification Saturday. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

## ‘Why can’t that be me?’

Chicago-area native Paul Juda shines in Olympic debut for Team USA gymnastics

**By Stacy St. Clair**  
Chicago Tribune

PARIS — As a freshman in high school, U.S. gymnast Paul Juda attended a training camp for the junior national team where the coaches instructed the athletes to look around.

“There will be an Olympian in this room,” they said. “There will be a world champion.”

As he looked at the other gymnasts, Juda’s mind opened to the possibilities for someone with his talent and determination. He purchased an Olympic flag soon after and hung it in the bedroom of his family’s Deerfield home as a reminder of his potential.

“I knew if the coaches were saying it, they meant it,” Juda told the Tribune. “I was, like, why can’t that be me?”

There were, of course, a lot of reasons why it wouldn’t have been Juda.

He’s a first-generation American, the son of Polish immigrants who didn’t know much about the sport before he became

involved with it. He had been with the same club, around the same coaches since he was 4, when his parents put him in tumbling with the modest goal of tiring out their youngest — and most energetic — child.

The elite-level competitions, let alone the Olympics, were never part of the original plan.

Still, Juda thought, why not him?

He took the flag with him to his freshman dorm at the University of Michigan, and it has been on display everywhere he has lived since. It has hung throughout a stellar NCAA career, two devastating injuries and the disappointment of being left off the U.S. Olympic squad in 2021.

“It was just there to remind me that ... I could be that one in a million,” he said.

The flag, indeed, proved prophetic as Juda, 23, gave a standout performance in his Olympic debut Saturday, earning himself a spot in the individual



Ewa Bacher and Jozef Juda, the parents of Paul Juda, cheer while he’s introduced to compete during qualification for men’s team gymnastics Saturday at Bercy Arena during the Paris Olympics.

### 2024 OLYMPICS

Sunday’s highlights included strong performances by basketball stars LeBron James and Kevin Durant for Team USA, and a gold medal for French swimmer Leon Marchand. **Chicago Sports**

**Turn to Gymnast, Page 5**

## Mideast fears wider conflict

US seeks diplomatic solution between Israel, Lebanon

**By Melanie Lidman and Sammy Magdy**  
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — The Middle East braced for a potential flare-up in violence on Sunday after Israeli authorities said a rocket from Lebanon struck a soccer field in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, killing 12 children and teens in what the military called the deadliest attack on civilians since Oct. 7. It raised fears of a broader regional war between Israel and Hezbollah, which in a rare move denied it was responsible.

The White House National Security Council said it was speaking with Israeli and Lebanese counterparts and working on a diplomatic solution to “end all attacks once and for all” in the border area between Israel and Lebanon.

The Israeli military said it struck a number of targets inside Lebanon overnight into Sunday, though their intensity was similar to months of cross-border fighting between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah. Hezbollah said it also carried out strikes. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Saturday’s attack came as Israel and Hamas are negotiating a cease-fire proposal to end the nearly 10-month war in Gaza.

Here is a look at the broader repercussions:

### What happened?

On Saturday, a rocket slammed into a soccer field where dozens of children and teens were playing in the Druze town of Majdal Shams, about 7 miles south of Lebanon and next to the Syria border. Twelve were killed and 20 wounded, according to the Israeli military.

**Turn to Mideast, Page 10**

## Storms and heat in the forecast as Lollapalooza weekend approaches

Festivals mull how to adapt to climate change

**By Karina Atkins**  
Chicago Tribune

Lollapalooza festivalgoers will likely be drenched and sweaty again this year. Thunderstorms are in the forecast, and the temperature is expected to reach the high 80s Thursday.

The outlook could change ahead of Chicago’s signature four-day music festival, but “hope is not a plan,” said Kevin Kloesel, a meteorologist with the nonprofit Event Safety Alliance.

Sueños Music Festival was rattled by severe thunderstorms less than three months ago in Grant Park. Organizers were forced to delay the final day’s start time and then cancel the finale.

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Willis Tower in Chicago is seen in the background as workers set up a stage Thursday for Lollapalooza. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Many on West Side say they were left in dark about DNC plans

Residents worry about effect on daily lives

**By Sylvan Lebrun and Nell Salzman**  
Chicago Tribune

For the past half-century, Dee Henderson has lived in an old brick house a few hundred feet from the United Center. Henderson, 66, has raised her children and grandchildren in the house. She’s hosted parties for Chicago Bulls victories and spent summers on her back porch, sipping her favorite cocktail — Tito’s vodka, orange juice, grenadine and Sprite — and watching her kids play in an above-ground pool in the parking lot that separates her house from the large arena.

But while the nation prepares for a Democratic National Convention in late August that will bring 50,000 delegates, staff and public officials to the United Center, the site of the prime-time speeches and events of the convention from Aug. 19-22, Henderson said she wants nothing to do with the politicians who will attend the event. “None of them do what they promised to do in the first place,” Henderson said Wednesday. Local and federal authorities announced long-anticipated details of the planned security perimeter of the DNC Thursday, but nearby residents said they have felt left out of the planning conversation. They are worried about how the convention’s events could affect

**Turn to Convention, Page 2**

### Fox River dam removal on hold

The Army Corps of Engineers wants to do more research before removing nine dams. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

### Venezuelans hope for change

Venezuelans voted Sunday in a presidential election that could lead to a seismic political shift. **Nation & World**

### Barnett, Mould electrify rock fest

Courtney Barnett and Bob Mould deliver thrilling outdoor performances at a festival in Skokie. **Arts & Living**

**TODAY’S WEATHER**



High **85** Low **71**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
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