

Turbulence in Tokyo

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The 2021 Tokyo Olympic games have brought a lot of anticipation and excitement alongside unexpected confusion and division that spreads across borders.

As the first week of the games is underway, gold, silver and bronze victories are being celebrated, while in other cases, Olympic dreams are being crushed.

The chaos started with the pandemic, causing the event to be delayed over a year.

The Olympics were scheduled to start July 24 and end Aug. 9, 2020, but the International Olympic Committee (IOC) postponed the event just four months before the start date.

The next setback came when it was announced that spectators would not be allowed in any event.

Just weeks before the Olympic opening ceremony, the Japanese government announced a new state of emergency for the country due to rising COVID-19 cases and the Delta variant. Limited attendance was already going to take place, however this security measure threw that possibility out the window.

Days leading up to the opening ceremony, Keigo Oyamada, one of the event's music composers, was put in the spotlight as sources revealed that he bullied a disabled classmate in middle and high school.

As the countdown ticked closer to the start, and athletes arrived in Tokyo, more confusion arose.

After arriving in Japan, the Polish Swimming Federation sent six of their athletes home due to an administration error regarding the International Swimming Federation (FINA) qualifying standards.

Some of the athletes

plan on taking legal action against the Polish Swimming Federation after the immense professional disappointment.

Frustrations closer to home include the suspension of Sha'Carri Richardson due to a positive result on a marijuana use test.

The 21-year-old Dallas athlete will be unable to compete in the 4x100 meter team relay and in the 100-meter individual race. Richardson openly admitted the test result and said that she used the drug as a coping mechanism following her mother's death.

The latest upset in Team USA is the withdrawal of gymnast Simone Biles from the Olympic competitions on July 27. After completing an unstable vault routine, the 24-year-old gold medalist stepped out of the meet alongside a medical staffer.

Later, Biles said that her mental state disabled her from giving a high-standard



COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles withdrew from team competition this year.

performance and that she chose to prioritize her mental health, stating that, while competing in such a high profile event, "outside expectations were just too hard to combat."

Despite the hardships, the Tokyo Olympics have not failed to deliver high-level competitions.

Some highlights include

Serbia's Ana Dabović's reverse pass during a basketball game against Canada; two 13-year-olds, Japan's Momiji Nishiyama and Brazil's Rayssa Leal, taking home medals in street skateboarding; and Costa Rica's Luciana Alvarado making a debut as the country's first Olympic gymnast.

TADLOCK, continued from P1

President Steve Currall unexpectedly announced his retirement on Monday, effective Aug. 2. He cited health and family as reasons for his resignation. His two-year tenure as president will be the shortest in university history.

Tadlock said he was as "surprised as anyone" by the resignation and he "received the same announcement as everyone else."

He wasn't surprised, however, that Currall asked him to extend his role as regional chancellor of the St. Petersburg campus.

Currall reached out to

Tadlock after announcing his departure plans earlier this week.

"We had actually mentioned that as a possibility a couple of months ago," Tadlock said.

He anticipates the negotiations will be resolved before Currall's departure.

"He's president until Aug. 2," Tadlock said. "I would think whatever we finally arrive at in terms of a possible extension will be done before then."

Tadlock announced in January he would be stepping down from his position on Dec. 31 and return to teaching

at the College of Education. He initially declined a one-year extension from July 2020 to July 2021 and opted instead for a six-month extension.

He has been credited by faculty and students for his level-headed approach to university challenges such as consolidation and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tadlock sees the search to fill university positions as critical to maintaining campus stability.

"We will be moving these searches forward and pursuing people who have experience, who understand this campus, this place and

this city," he said. "Coming into those roles will be important to the stability of this campus."

Whoever the next president may be, Tadlock assured they will have full support from the university.

"The support of a president lies on people in the community, the board of trustees, and the vice presidents and leadership teams. The presidential position, in my opinion, is not an island unto itself," he said. "The president works with a whole array of constituents. All of the administration officials they work with have

a responsibility to help the president be successful. No one can do that job on their own."

Tadlock attempted to calm fears during Thursday's forum and reassured faculty and staff that the future of the St. Petersburg campus remains promising.

"I know there is a lot of uncertainty with the departure of a president who chose to take a different direction for his life and career. Those things happen," he said. "What matters here is what I tried to say earlier. Don't get down, don't get in the ditch. Stay above it."

What to do this week: Aug. 2-8

By Rachel Craig
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MONDAY

Get out of your comfort zone at Dharma Kava Lounge's Open Mic Night. From 9 p.m. to midnight, artists come from all around Pinellas county to share music, comedy, poetry and more.

TUESDAY

Enjoy Gulfport's finest local vendors just blocks away from the beach during the town's weekly Tuesday Morning Market. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. booths and tents line Beach Boulevard,

where creatives share, buy and sell handmade goods.

WEDNESDAY

Unleash your inner child while exploring St. Petersburg by participating in Amazing Scavenger Hunt Adventure St. Petersburg. The hunt begins at 8 a.m. and functions as an interactive tour of the city as well as a unique team-building experience. Admission is \$44 per team and can be purchased on eventbrite.com.

THURSDAY

Take a splash at St. Pete Beach Community Center and try out aqua yoga. This event invites participants to enjoy yoga in the pool, and lasts from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Admission is \$8, and pool noodles are not supplied, so it is recommended that all participants bring their own.

FRIDAY

Cruise on down to Biff Burger and Buffy's BBQ for their monthly car show. Grab a bite to eat and relax, or get involved and show off your car. Trophies and

cash prizes are offered for a range of car classes, and live music begins at 6 p.m.

SATURDAY

Love music but hate noisy crowds? Flying Boat Brewing Company provides the perfect balance with their Silent Party. For \$10 participants are provided with a set of headphones and the option to choose between three DJ's to listen to. From 8 p.m. to midnight grab a drink and enjoy the silence..

SUNDAY

Help keep the beaches clean at Rave, Recycle, and Repeat, the first in a series of free events raising awareness about taking care of the environment. Beginning at 2 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m. at the Gandy Causeway, this event encourages participants to get together, have some fun, and clean up the beach while they're at it.