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Lafayette Alum, Mondo Duplantis, Wins Second Olympic Gold with Historic Pole Vault Performance in Paris

PARIS – On the fifth day of track & field events, Armand "Mondo" Duplantis delivered a performance that will be remembered as one of the greatest in pole vault history, and possibly in the annals of track and field. Competing at the Stade de France, Duplantis achieved a new Olympic milestone, solidifying his status as the sport's preeminent vaulter.

Duplantis clinched his second consecutive Olympic gold medal, becoming the first pole vaulter to achieve back-to-back gold medals since Bob Richards of the USA in 1952 and 1956. This remarkable feat also ties Duplantis with Richards for the most pole vault gold medals in Olympic history, each with two.

The competition began with Duplantis effortlessly clearing the opening height of 5.50 meters (18' 0.5"). His performance continued to impress as he smoothly navigated heights of 5.70 meters (18' 8.5") and 5.85 meters (19' 2.25") without a hitch. Duplantis chose to bypass the 5.80-meter (19' 0.5") and 5.90-meter (19' 4.25") marks before clearing the 5.95-meter (19' 6.25") height with ease.

Duplantis then soared over the 6.00-meter (19' 8.25") bar to secure his gold medal. Gold was not enough for the former Mighty Lion, he set his sights on breaking the Olympic record, successfully clearing 6.10 meters (20' 0.25") and further demonstrating his dominance.

To cap off the greatest day of his athletic career, Duplantis then attempted to break his own world record. On his first two attempts, he showed promising clearance of the 6.25-meter (20' 6") height but fell short. Undeterred, his third attempt was flawless, as he soared over the record height, further establishing his unparalleled excellence in the sport.

Hailing from Lafayette High School in Lafayette, Louisiana, Duplantis's journey from high school star to Olympic legend highlights his incredible dedication and exceptional talent. The young American Swede set his roots in Lafayette and has grown to winning on the world's biggest stage. The 24-year-old is a 7-time LHSAA State Champion and was also named the Gatorade Track and Field Athlete of the Year in 2017 and 2018. Duplantis is one of five LHSAA alumni competing in Paris.

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