


From: Petit, Gary M. petit.38@osu.edu 
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Contact: Gary Petit | petit.38@osu.edu | 614-292-3270

WRE: Kyle Snyder Eyes Gold in Tokyo

Snyder is the defending gold medalist 97kg weight class

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio State graduate and All-American Kyle Snyder is set to defend his gold medal at this year's Tokyo Games, which gets underway on Friday.

Snyder burst on to the international scene in 2015 by winning a world championship and then backed up that win by becoming the youngest U.S. wrestler to win an Olympic gold medal with a stellar performance in Rio in 2016. He again won gold at the 2017 world championships, beating Russian Abdulrashid Sadulaev in the gold medal match. That began a rivalry between the two wrestlers that many think will meet for gold in Tokyo on August 7.

Snyder was a three-time NCAA Champion and two Big Ten Champion for the Buckeyes from 2015-2018. The Sport Industry major helped lead the Buckeyes to the 2015 NCAA Championship, which was the first in program history. With his wins on the international stage, Snyder became the first collegiate wrestler to win the NCAA, World, and Olympic championships. In September of 2017, Flowrestling named Snyder the best pound-for-pound freestyle wrestler on the planet.

The wrestling competition in Tokyo begins on Saturday, July 31 and will run through the medal matches on August 7.

Snyder is trying to become just the second U.S. wrestler to repeat as gold medalist in back-to-back Olympics. John Smith won gold in the 62 kg class at the 1988 games in Seoul and the 1992 games in Barcelona.

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Gary Petit

Associate Director of Athletics Communications

Department of Athletics

Fawcett Center 6th Floor, 2400 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-3270 Office / 740-516-4370 Mobile

petit.38@osu.edu / OhioStateBuckeyes.com

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