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MODERN PENTATHLON AT PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES: SATO (JPN) AND JUN (KOR) FIRST HOME IN MEN'S SEMI- FINAL B



Taishu Sato of **Japan** invited Tokyo 2020 Olympic bronze medallist **Woongtae Jun** of **Korea** to join him in crossing the finish line first at the end of Semi-final B at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Asian duo qualified comfortably for the Men's Final, followed by 2023 European champion **Giorgio Malan** of **Italy**. There was continuous drama around 9th place as athletes gave everything to reach the Men's Final, with Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion **Joseph Choong** of **Great Britain** finally among the successful qualifiers having struggled in Fencing yesterday.

In the end, **Mohanad Shaban** of **Egypt** reclaimed the coveted 9th place, denying **Charles Brown** (GBR).

The other successful qualifiers were **Lukasz Gutkowski** of **Poland**, **Changwan Seo** (KOR), **Marvin Dogue**

of **Germany** and **Balazs Szep** of **Hungary**.



Riding was less eventful than the earlier Semi-final, with most athletes incurring one or two knockdowns. There were perfect scores of 300 for five athletes – **Charles Brown** (GBR), Sato (JPN), Gutkowski (POL), **Vladyslav Chekan** of **Ukraine** and Seo (KOR).

Just when it seemed like there would be no eliminations on the first day of Riding, European champion **Oleksandr Tovkai** (UKR) suffered two refusals at fence three and, having done the hard work in reassuring his horse, had one final refusal that brought his Olympic challenge to an end.

Having seemed despondent after a disappointing Fencing Ranking Round yesterday, Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Choong (GBR) made the most of the Bonus Round by chalking up four victories to add points to his overall score.

