



World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

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An impactful debut at Asian Para Games



It was about grit, determination and glory in Hangzhou



High-quality action was in display as the sport made a memorable debut at Hangzhou 2022 with 10 gold medals awarded in the three-day thrilling event.

History was made when Para Taekwondo made its debut at the 4th Asian Para Games in Hangzhou with excitement, enthusiasm and spirit taking centre stage in the three-day event.

Ten gold medals were awarded in the sport's debut with the hosts claiming two gold medals, both in women's events, while Iran took three gold including one by the Tokyo 2020 silver medallist **Mahdi Pourrahnama**, who claimed his

first title of the season.

Home favourite **Shao Qian** waited for the right moment and place to return to winning ways as she defeated **Surenjav Ulambayar** of Mongolia for the women's K44 -52kg gold medal, in front of a vociferous crowd that filled the stands of Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre.

"I feel very excited. I'm very happy to be able to join Para Taekwondo for its premier show at the Asian Para Games," said Shao. "I believe this is a great opportunity for people to see our strength, for people to see the fights that we have."

Shao, who admitted that she had a "low point" having struggled with her performances at the World Championships, bounced back and won her first major title in Hangzhou.

'Wonderful opportunity to promote awareness about Para Taekwondo'

At the press conference, an elated Shao emphasised how these Games was a great opportunity to increase awareness about the sport which was introduced in Paralympic Games only in Tokyo 2020 Games.

"Taekwondo is not a well-known sport, so we need to try to increase awareness about the sport. Asian Para Games are a wonderful opportunity to increase awareness and let everyone know that people with disability can also take part in other things," she said.

"I believe this is a wonderful opportunity to promote awareness."

Other gold medallist for China was **Yinan Yao** (women's -65kg) while Thailand's **Khwansuda Phuangkitcha** clinched the first gold medal of the Para taekwondo competitions at the Asian Para Games. The Thai fighter surprised beat gold medal favourite **Ziyodakhov Isakova** of Uzbekistan for the women's K44 -47kg gold medal.

Iran take three gold, Nepal win first international medal

There were several others who recorded their first win this year that included Iran's **Roza Ebrahimi** who claimed the women's K44 -57kg defeating higher ranked **Kamilya Dosmalova** of Kazakhstan in the finals. Bahrain 2021 Asian Youth Para Games champion **Palesha Goverdhan** claimed the first ever international medal for Nepal taking the bronze.

Among the expected winners were: Mongolia's **Bolor-erdene Ganbat** (men's K44 -63kg), Republic of Korea's **Joo Jeonghun** (men's K44 -80kg), **Xiao Xiang-wen** of Chinese Taipei (men's K44 - 58kg) and **Guljonoy Naimova** (women's K44 +65kg).

'Hangzhou provided a great platform for Para athletes'



Para Taekwondo Committee chair and technical delegate for Hangzhou 2022, Mr. **Usman Dildar** expressed his gratitude and happiness on the successful debut of the sport. "World Taekwondo extended heartfelt gratitude to the Asian Paralympic Committee and the organising committee of the 4th Asian Para Games Hangzhou China, for their pivotal role in the successful inclusion of Para Taekwondo at the Para Asian Games.

"This inaugural Para Taekwondo debut was spectacular and well-organised event that left a lasting impression. Athletes from across Asia showcased their remarkable skills and determination, captivating the audience with their amazing performances. The event's organisation was top-notch, with seamless logistics and excellent facilities, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for both participants and spectators,"

Mr. Dildar also extended World Taekwondo's appreciation of the International Referees, International Classifiers and supporting volunteers for an outstanding performance making the Hangzhou Asian Games a success.





Stage is set for Santiago 2023 Parapan Games



Thrilling fights and rivalries are expected to take centre stage as Para Taekwondoins get ready for the second edition of the Parapan American Games in Santiago

The stage is all set for the Santiago 2023 Para Pan American Games with some of the world's best Para Taekwondoins including world and Paralympic champions ready to dazzle the audience with their extraordinary technique and skills.

This is the second time that the sport will be part of the programme at the Parapan American Games after the successful debut in Peru.

As many as 70 athletes (44 men and 26 women) from 15 Pan American nations are set to take part in the upcoming continental Games. The notable athletes are defending champion **Evan Medell** from USA (Men K44 +80kg), Paralympic gold medallist from Brazil **Nathan Torquato** (Men K44 -63kg), Paralympic bronze medallist **Juan Samorano** from Argentina (Men K44 -70kg) in the men's events.

The women's field looks competitive too with the likes of Peru's Paralympic champion **Angelica Espinoza Carranza** (Women K44 -47kg) and Mexican **Claudia Romero** looking for yet another showdown. Brazil will have some strong names in their ranks including world champions from Brazil **Silvana Cardoso Fernandes** (Women K44 -57kg) and **Carolina Silva de Moura** (Women K44 -65kg).

Technical delegate of Santiago 2023 and Para Taekwondo Committee member **Chakir Chelbat** was confident of another successful regional championships after the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou.

“We are just days away of witnessing another spectacular continental Games. The Santiago 2023 organisers are working very hard and are determined to deliver a great event and platform for all the athletes. We are in regular touch with them, through on-line meetings and discussions,” said Mr. Chelbat.

He also informed that 16 International Referees have been appointed for the games.



'My biggest dream is to win Parapan Am Games'



Cuban rising star Lilisbet Rodriguez Rivero aims to better her Lima 2019 bronze medal show with a gold medal at Santiago 2023 and qualify for the Paralympic Games in Paris

Lilisbet Rodriguez Rivero's biggest dream is to be a Parapan American Games champion.

In her first Parapan American Games in Lima 2019, Rivero finished with a bronze medal in the 49 kg division, K44 classification, one of her significant performances in her career.

Having qualified for this year's Parapan Am Games in Santiago – winning at the qualifying tournament held in Rio in March 2023, the athlete from Granma province in Cuba is eyeing for the yellow medal this time.

"I am super happy and excited to meet this goal of qualifying for the Santiago de Chile Parapan American Games 2023," said Rivero in an interview with **World Para Taekwondo**.

"My biggest dream is to be a Parapan American champion and represent my country for the first time in a Paralympic Games and climb to the top of the podium.

"Santiago 2023 will be a highly competitive tournament where I will have the opportunity to represent my country with the aim of beating all my opponents and improving my results in relation to Lima 2019," added the Cuban athlete who rose to prominence after she shocked Peruvian Paralympic champion **Leonor Angelica Espinoza Carranza** (women's K44 -47kg) in Pam Am Series III last year.

Rivero reflected on her career's biggest win ever, the win over Espinosa calling it a "special one" as the victory has come after a long time.

"It was a close fight; and the victory came as a surprise. It was one of my great competitive goals in my first international tournament after having spent more than two years without training due to Covid 19 plus the time I was on maternity leave. So that win was special."

The 26-year-old would definitely want to take a leaf out of that victory as she prepares for the season ahead at the Parapan American Games in Santiago which are just 15 days away.

"This year 2023 is of great importance in my sports career and I want to give my best in all the competitions to qualify for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

"I am working at improving myself on various aspect of my game including physical, theoretical, psychological and tactical capacities that will allow me to prepare in all the techniques used in Para Taekwondo," said the Para Taekwondoin who already having her sights set on the Paris 2024.

Apart from focusing on the game, Rivero is devoting time in upbringing her son Isaias and continuing her studies - Bachelor's degree in physical culture and sports at University of Granma.

"But I am focused to do well in Para Taekwondo and hope to become an athlete with maturity and experiences that will allow me to get to many more podiums in international competitions," she concluded.



Para Taekwondo team attends IPC Classification meet

A Para Taekwondo team headed by Head of Classification Hadwah Matloub Moawad attended the IPC Classification meeting in Cairo, Egypt.

The meeting had a lot of significance as it went through the

IPC Athlete Classification Code review (Stage 3 consultation) in attendance of IPC classification committee, Compliance Committee & their Legal counsel team, 23 International Federations (IFs), 22 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) and multiple organisations specialised in various impairments such as VIRTUS (International Sports Federation for Athletes with Intellectual Impairments).

There were great feedbacks and inputs from the various international sports federations including Para Taekwondo.

Further discussions were also made with members from IBSA (International Blind Sports Federation) to develop Para Taekwondo classification for visually impaired athletes.

Calendar



2023

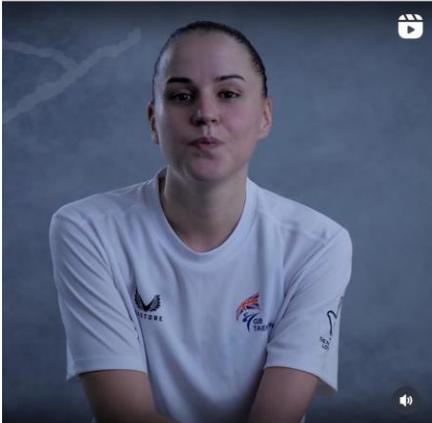
- 2023 WT President's Cup Asia Region, Amman, Jordan (G2) Nov. 12, 2023
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)
- 2023 Santiago Parapan American Games, Santiago, Chile (G4) Nov. 23-25, 2023
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)
- 2023 European Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships, Innsbruck, Austria Nov. 24-26, 2023
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

- Pacific Para Taekwondo Open, Honiara, Solomon Islands, Nov. 30-Dec.1, 2023
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)
- 2023 World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix Final, Manchester, UK, Dec. 1, 2023
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

Around the World

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Countdown for Manchester 2023 GP begins!

The countdown has begun for the Manchester 2023 World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix as organisers and athletes gear for the year-end event on December 1.

Great Britain Taekwondo is running a media campaign on social media - What makes a champion...WE DO 🏆 Get ready to watch OUR CHAMPIONS compete in Manchester this December. Tickets are on SALE now!

World number 1 **Beth Munro** (women's K44 -65kg) is also part of the campaign and will be up in action at home looking to finish the year on a high.

Registrations for the G -10 level Grand Prix to take place at Manchester Regional Arena, Manchester, UK are underway. Pre registration Period End Date: 10 Nov 08:00 pm +04

If you haven't registered yet, register [here](#).

Felicitation for Goverdhan, Nepal's 1st Asian Para Games medallist

Celebrations and felicitations for Nepal's first ever Asian Para Games medal continue. And the guest of honour for every function was promising Para Taekwondo player **Palesha Goverdhan** who claimed the bronze in women's K44 - 47kg category in Hangzhou.

The Nepal Taekwondo Association (NTA) awarded a cash prize Rs. 3,00,000 to the Para Taekwondo player Goverdhan and Rs 75,000 to National Para Taekwondo coach Kabiraj Negi Lama.

"We are very proud to conduct such a prestigious felicitation programme for our national Para Taekwondo team (athlete Ms. Palesha Goverdhan, coach Kabiraj Negi Lama and Team Manager Mr. Ram Chandra Shrestha) to recognise and celebrate the historical achievement in the 4th Asian Para Games," the NTA said.



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