

Indian Weightlifters on way to 2016- Rio Olympic Games

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ABSTRACT

Weightlifting is the most explosive and dynamic demonstrations of power among all the competitions, in Olympic Games. Weightlifting is also popular in India. Indian weightlifters participate in almost all international and continental competitions and come up with good results. One of the Indian weightlifters has also been able to bag a medal in Olympic Games, 2000.

The present qualification system of Olympic Committee makes it more competitive and tougher to participate in the Olympic Games, for the weightlifters of most developed and developing countries, including India. According to the qualification system the weightlifters have to go through some qualifying events and from that maximum 10 weightlifters can represent their country in the Olympic Games. The main qualification events for Olympic Games, 2016 included the IWF WC 2014 & 2015. Thus, the aim of this study is to predict the performances of Indian weightlifters for 2016-Rio Olympic Games, by comparing and analysing the performances of top 5 weightlifters of 35th National games, 2015 with the performances of top weightlifters of London Olympic-2012 and IWF WC-2014. The study suggests that there is a possibility of 03 to 04 Indian weightlifters to qualify for the 2016-Rio Olympics

KEYWORDS

35th National Games-2015; IWF WC- 2014; London Olympics-2012; 2016-Rio Olympic Games; qualification system; NOCs

INTRODUCTION

The modern Olympic Games are the leading international sporting event featuring summer and winter sports competitions, in which thousands of athletes from around the world participate, in a variety of competitions. Sources suggest that weightlifting is the most explosive and dynamic demonstrations of power among all the competitions in

Olympic Games. Weightlifting has been contesting in summer Olympics since 1920 and competitions after competitions it has grown its popularity. This is the reason the athletes become faster and more explosive on the field and court. Weightlifting is also popular in sports developing country like India. Today Indian weightlifters participate in almost all international and continental competitions and make India proud with better results. The best example

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is the last year Commonwealth Games, Glasgow, 2015, where Indian weightlifters bagged 12 medals, including both males and females weight category. The Indian weightlifters have also been participating in Olympic Games and it was a great honour for India when Karnam Malleswari seized the bronze medal in the 2000 Summer Olympics at Sydney and became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal.

In the year 1998, International Olympic Committee (IOC) has amended the participating rules for Olympic Weightlifting and included 8 events for male and 7 for female weightlifters. However, IOC has set some systems for getting qualification for these weight categories, for the Olympic Games. This set of systems is maintained by the weightlifting competition controlling body, the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). According to the Olympic qualification system there are 6 quota allocation for men and 4 quota for female athletes, per NOC (National Olympic Committee) and there should be maximum 2 athletes per event. The quota place allocation to the NOC will be

through main qualification events as 2014 and 2015 IWF World Championships (IWF WC) and 2016 Continental Championships.

Aims and Objectives:

The aim of the present study is to compare and analyse the performances of top ranked Indian weightlifters of 35th National Games, Kerala, 2015, (35th NG) with the top Weightlifters (all categories) of London Olympic Games, 2012, and IWF WC, 2014. This will help to predict the probable performances of Indian weightlifters for the Rio Olympic 2016.

METHODOLOGY

To justify the aim of this project the results of London Olympics-2012, IWF WC-2014 and the Olympic qualification system for the Rio-2016 were collected from the IWF website. Side by side the result of 35th National Games, 2015, was summarized from the WFI website. The performances of top 5 rankers (4 rankers in some weight categories) of London Olympics-2012 and 35th NG, 2015 were compared and analysed to predict the probable performances of Indian Weightlifters, for the Rio-2016 Olympic Games.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The comparative performances of top 5 men and women weightlifters in different weight categories of Olympic

Games 2012, 35th NG, 2015 and IWF WC, 2014 are represented below in bar diagram:-

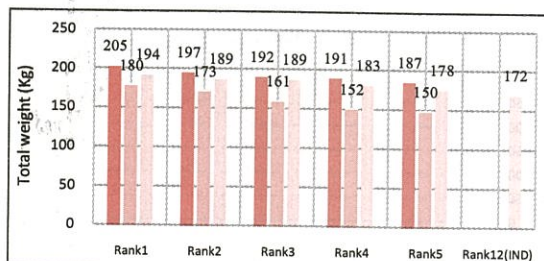


Fig:1.1- 48 kg women

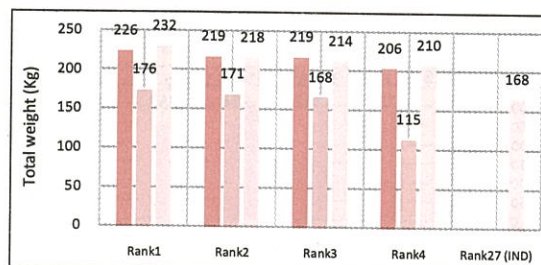


Fig:1.2- 53 kg women

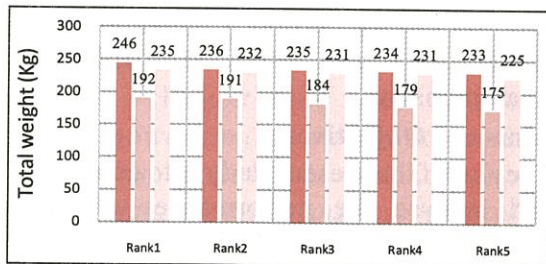


Fig:1.3- 58 kg women

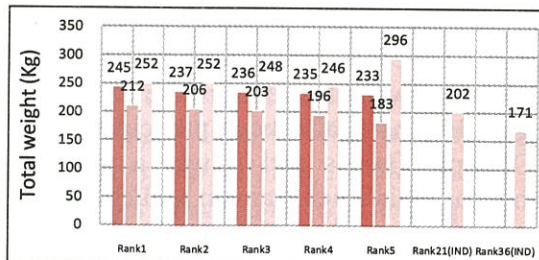


Fig:1.4- 63 kg women

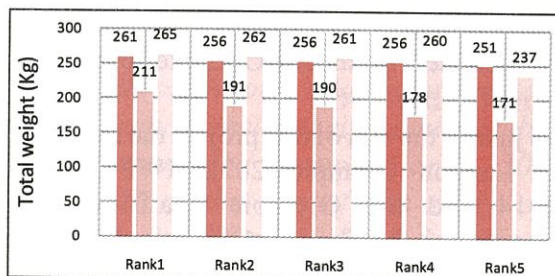


Fig:1.5- 69 kg women

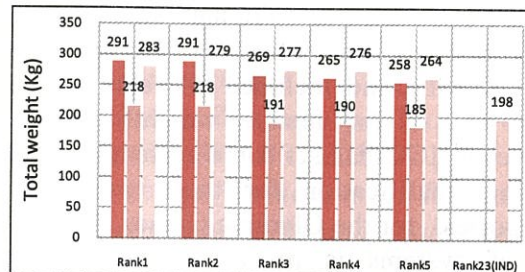


Fig:1.6- 75 kg women

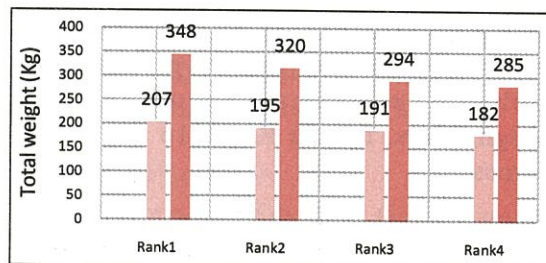


Fig:1.7- +75 kg women

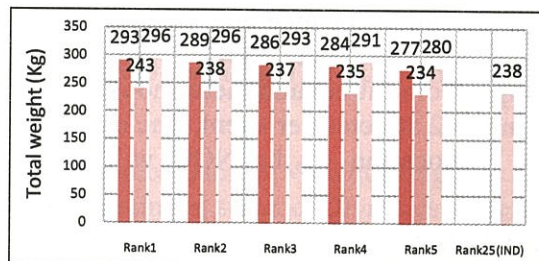


Fig:1.8- 56 kg men

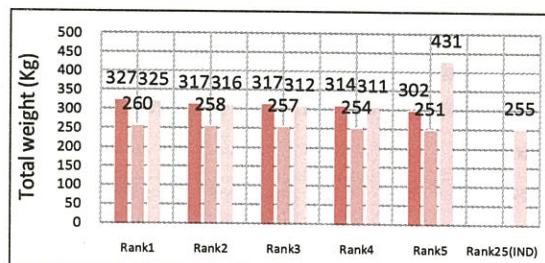


Fig:1.9 62 kg men

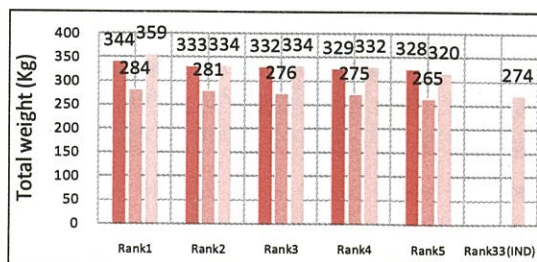


Fig:1.10- 69 kg men

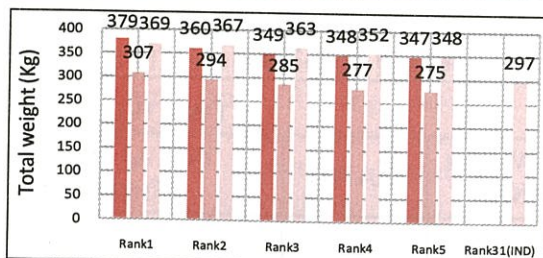


Fig:1.11- 77 kg men

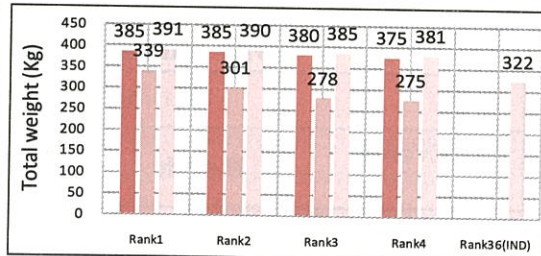


Fig:1.12- 85 kg men

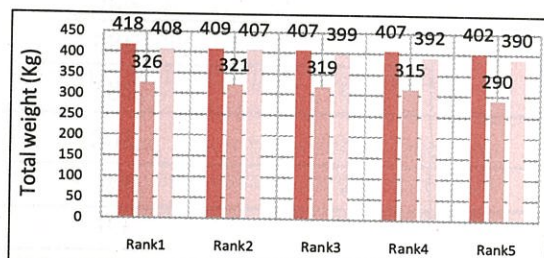


Fig:1.13- 94 kg men

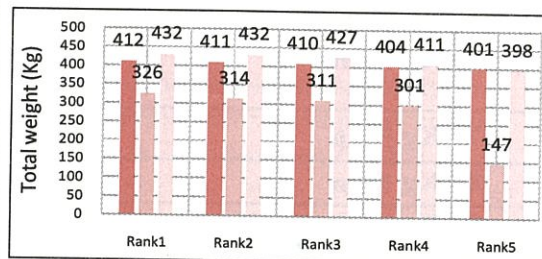


Fig:1.14- 105 kg men

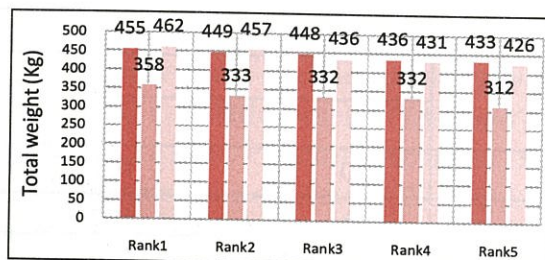


Fig:1.15- +105 kg men



As per rules, NOCs earn quota places by points of combined team of best 4 (four) women athletes' and best 6 (six) men athletes' of 2014 and 2015 IWF WCs. However, different numbers of male and female athletes will be selected from the different ranked NOCs upto 24 and 21, respectively; in the combined team classification; i.e. for men events 6 athletes will be selected from 1 to 6 ranked NOCs, 5 athletes from 7 to 12th ranked NOCs, 4 athletes from 13th to 18th ranked NOCs, 3 athletes from 19th to 24th ranked NOCs and for women events 4 athletes from 1st to 9th ranked NOC teams, 3 athletes from 10th to

16th ranked NOCs and 2 athletes from the 17th to 21st ranked NOCs. Therefore, by considering this qualification pathway when we compared the performances of Indian athletes at IWF WC, 2014, it was observed that out of the 5 (five) events i.e. 56 kg wt. cat, 62 kg wt. cat, 69 kg wt. cat, 77 kg wt. cat and 85 kg wt. cat in which India men have participated, athletes of 56 kg and 62 kg wt. category were very close to the qualification and female athletes who participated in 4 events i.e. in 48 kg, 53 kg, 63 kg and 75 kg. wt. cat., two athletes were qualified and 1 athlete from 75 kg wt. cat was nearer to the qualification.

Table-1: Rank wise comparison of 35th NG weightlifting medallists with equivalent performers of IWF WC-2014.

Events	35 th NG		IWF WC -14	
	RANK	TOTAL Weight lifted (Kg)	RANK	TOTAL Weight lifted (Kg)
56 Kg Men	1	243	23	244
62 Kg Men	1	260	22	260
	2	258	23	256
69 Kg Men	1	284	28	285
			29	285
77 Kg Men	1	307	28	308
85 Kg Men	1	339	26	340
94 Kg Men	1	326	29	326
+105 Kg Men	1	358	24	360
48 Kg Women	1	180	4	183
			5	178
	2	173	8	173
			9	173
	3	161	20	161
53 Kg Women	1	176	21	177
			22	175
58 Kg Women	1	192	21	192
63 Kg Women	1	212	16	211
69 Kg Women	1	211	18	213
75 Kg Women	1	218	14	219
			15	217
+75 Kg women	1	207	23	210

Thus, from the above comparison and analysis, it can be predicted that there is the possibility of 3 to 4 athletes (2- 3 athletes from women events and 1-2 athletes from men events) to qualify for the Olympic Games, Rio-2016, for the main qualifying events, i.e., IWF WC and therefore, no need to wait for the continental competition, through which only 2 (one from men and

one from women) athletes can qualify.

SUGGESTIONS

Team selection for the IWF WC-2015 may play a key role in qualifying for the Rio-2016. Thus, on the basis of qualification system a probable team formed of selected rankers of 35th NG is being suggested in Table 2.

Table-2: Suggested team for IWF WC-2015

Team	Events	No. of athletes	Total
Women Team	48 Kg	2	4
	63 Kg	1	
	69 Kg	1	
	75 Kg	1	
Men Team	56 Kg	1	6
	62 Kg	2	
	69 Kg	1	
	85 Kg	1	
	+105 Kg	1	

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