

A Study on Female Wrestling Special Reference to Indian Wrestlers

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Abstract

The development of Female wrestling has been dramatic. In roughly one generation, we have come from having the novelty of seeing a very few young girls competing in age group or high school events, to women competing for Olympic medals. The researcher thinks that there is wonderful future for Female wrestling. It is a great opportunity to get more people involved in our great sport. There is also a large amount of research has to be done in this relatively new area of Female wrestling.

Keywords: wrestling, Female, FILA, Female wrestling

Introduction:

History of Female wrestling: Female wrestling was adopted by the French Wrestling Federation in 1977. Establishment of the female wrestling clubs and hosting a first National Championship in 1973. They led the lobbying to establish women's wrestling within FILA, the international governing body of wrestling, which accomplished in 1982. The first world championships held in 1987, with France the team champions.

Internationally, the roots of women's wrestling are in France. The Pony-tail, as she and her brother trained and successfully completed. Tricia won four world championships in her storied career. In the USA, the development of female wrestlers is associated with boy's programs. Because of this, there is competition between the sexes, and the concerns for safety and equity, not to mention social, psychological and cultural issues. There are over 80 countries with women's programs, but some of the most fundamentalist Islamic countries (Iran and Saudi Arabia) do not allow international competition. while at an international tournament in Morocco, the women wrestlers views that their society sees no conflict between sport participation and their religion. They trained with the men, and they often wrestle with the men. When asked when they foresee women from Iran and Saudi Arabia in tournaments, they all answered, "Never!"

Women's wrestling made its Olympic debut at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece Freestyle is the only style used for international competition in women's wrestling. The rules for women's freestyle wrestling, with some modifications, are largely the same as those for the men.

The women's division of professional wrestling has maintained a recognized world champion since 1937, when Mildred Burke won the original World Women's title. She then formed the World Women's Wrestling Association in the early 1950s and recognized herself as the first champion, although the championship would be vacated upon her retirement in 1956.

In Japan, women's wrestling or *joshi puroresu* has a long established history, with an all female promotion founded as early as 1955 (the predecessor to All Japan Women's Pro-Wrestling or AJW), and has always been presented as a serious, highly athletic sport on the same level as their male counterparts.

There are several other promotions where women's wrestling is still presented and promoted which focuses on emphasis on athleticism and wrestling ability. In the US, Shimmer Women Athletes is an all-female pro-wrestling promotion affiliated with notable independent promotion Ring of Honor, and considered on par with male wrestling. In Mexico, though rarely

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as prominent as their American, Canadian or Japanese counterparts, female wrestlers or *luchadoras* have always been popular and highly respected, and many went on to compete overseas. In Europe Chick Fight and Queens of Chaos are the leading companies for women's professional wrestling in the United Kingdom and France respectively, again considered on par if not superior to male wrestling.

Female wrestling in India

In India, there were eminent female wrestlers like Hamida Banu, Janki Bairagini of Nasik who established wrestling Akhada in her 'Math' named as "Shekdoba" which is popular today. Jhansi's Rani Laxmibai's body-guard Zalkari was great wrestler. Today Mumbai's Kaushlya Wagh, Sneha Hagwane. Kamal Jadhav of Murugad, Sungada Mane of Wadnage, Madhuri Dhumal and Pushpa More of Koge. In Maharashtra at Alandi (Devachi), Pune. There is one wrestling Akhada specially prepared for female by Mr. Dinesh Gund, several female were wrestler trained and got National Standard coaching in this center. Ankita Gund, Rekha Maske, Sarika Kadam and several women wrestler achieved success in National and International tournaments. Ankita Gund won Gold Medal in Asian Cadet Women Wrestling Championship as well as she represented Indian women wrestling team for World Women Wrestling Championship at Hungary.

Alka Tomar, Gitika Jhakad, Anita Kumari, Rani Yadav, Kaushalya Wagh, Sonika Kaliraman has been the face of Female Wrestling in India.

Achievements of Female Wrestlers

Indian women showed their power, stealing the show at KD Jadhav wrestling arena by winning half a dozen medals over the last two days. Adding to their tally of medals In Commonwealth Games Delhi, Alka Tomar, youngster Anita — claiming gold each and Babita Kumari, who earned silver. In Commonwealth Games Delhi Geeta Rani winning India's first gold in, Alka and Anita made it a hat-trick. While Alka outclassed Tonya Verbeek of Canada, Anita beat Megan Budyens of Canada winning the first two rounds on points. Anita won 4-0. The gold count would have been more but Babita failed to replicate her sister Gaeta's success. She went down to Nigeria's Ifeoma Christi Nwoye 4-6 in 51kg freestyle. India thus finished with six medals, three Gold, two Silver and a Bronze medal. As per views of Piara Ram Sandhu, India's freestyle wrestling coach on performance of women's wrestlers in Commonwealth Games Delhi. *"We have proved to the world how good we are. It is an excellent effort by all my children to win so many medals. The star of the day undoubtedly was Alka, who pinned down her much-fancied Canadian opponent Tonya in one minute and 49 seconds. I am very happy for them."*

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