

Life Achievements of late Khashaba Jadhav Eminent wrestler of Maharashtra State-A Case Study

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Abstract

Wrestling is the oldest sport of the world. The fighting is man's birth instinct thus it is not related with particular country or period yet it is very essential to know the origin and development of this popular sport. Most of the European writers admit this idea that the origin of the wrestling is in India, whereas in the world renown countries like Greece, Rome, Egypt and China. Wrestling is the popular game in the past time the shape of wrestling was not such like the modern wrestling.

Khashba Jadhav is the first person who brought Olympic glory for the nation in wrestling. Wrestling is a sport with a legacy in the Marathi culture. Khashba Jadhav was born on 15 January 1925, in Goleshwar, a small village on the banks of the Krishna River in karad taluka in Satara District. He did his schooling in Tilak School in karad between 1940-1947.

Key words: Wrestling, Olympics,

Introduction

Wrestling is the oldest sport of the world. The fighting is man's birth instinct thus it is not related with particular country or period yet it is very essential to know the origin and development of this popular sport. Most of the European writers admit this idea that the origin of the wrestling is in India, whereas in the world renown countries like Greece, Rome, Egypt and China. Wrestling is the popular game in the past time the shape of wrestling was not such like the modern wrestling.

The human particularly young generation recent time is not fully aware of health and fitness, social responsibility and national integrity. Therefore, the disciplines wrestling and exercise have been identified as the means to spread this awareness, the Maharashtra wrestling association with the full support of government of Maharashtra and Indian wrestling federation. Therefore, it might have been rendered to incorporate the programmer of wrestling as sports in every school, college and university, and for those who are not part of above so that young participants can receive to prove themselves as good citizen with all round development.

In Maharashtra, wrestling is a traditional game played in every district, taluka and village. Several wrestlers of the region participated in various competition at the state, national and international level. Some eminent wrestlers created name and fame at national and international level in the field of wrestling. Due to their achievements and popularity, the game spread in the state. The achievement, life history, training and different problems faced by eminent wrestler will be encouragement for upcoming/new wrestlers, hence the case study of late Khashba Jadhav Eminent wrestler of Maharashtra has been undertaken.

Explanation of Study

Khashba Jadhav was the first person who brought Olympic glory for the nation in wrestling. Wrestling is a sport with a legacy in the Marathi culture. Khashba Jadhav was born on 15 January 1925, in Goleshwar, a small village on the banks of the Krishna River in karad taluka in Satara District. He did his schooling in Tilak School in karad between 1940-1947. Since his grandfather, Nansaheb was an excellent wrestler. Khashba grew in a household that breathed and lived. During his school days, he achieved success in sports like running, weightlifting,

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swimming, gymnastics and malkhamb apart from wrestling. Since his father Dadasaheb was a wrestling coach, Khashba was initiated into wrestling from the tender age of five. His mother was simple, quiet, humble, kind, reticent, and accommodating qualities that Khashba that imbibed in his life. In spite of his family barely making two ends meet, Khashba would travel to the neighboring village to see the wrestling matches held in the fairs. At the age of eight, he won his first bout in a mere two minutes against the wrestling champion in the match held at the Rathare village. He received formal training in wrestling in Tilak College and it was now that he decided to become a distinguished wrestler. His wrestling mentors in this college were Baburao Balawade and Belapure Guruji. His success in wrestling did not prevent him from achieving good grades in academics.

He also participated in the Quit Movement of 1942, providing shelter and hiding place to the revolutionaries, circulating against the British were some of his contribution to the Movement.

His career in wrestling started in the period 1948-1954 when he started studying in Rajaram College at Kolhapur his remarkable wrestling skills won him laurels in inter-College and inter University competitions. However, persistence and perseverance he also achieved success at the national level and qualified to participate in the Olympics. On India's first Independence Day 15 August 1947, he decided to unfurl the Indian flag in the Olympics.

In those times sports was not commercialize and the concept of sponsors did not exist. Sports Administration and professionalism were unknown in the country. Therefore, he had to overcome several obstacles to participate in the Olympics at his own expense. He collected required funds through contributions from friends, teachers, and students, of his alma mater, people of his village and from the erstwhile Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. He even the then Government did not extend any support to Khashba in 1952. Khashba Overcome these trying times preparing for the foreign trips collecting funds, winning over those who opposed his visit practicing his techniques on the mat to participate in the Olympics.

He stunned the audience in the 1948 in London by defeating the Australian wrestling in the first few minutes of the bout and came in sixth in the 52 kg flyweight category. He was the first Indian to achieve this high place in the Individual category until 1948, considering that the technique of the wrestling on the mat was unheard of in the country his success was indeed commendable.

The role played by his coach Prof. Govind Purandare of Rajaram College as his guide and mentor to be crucial. Instead of being discouraged by his six place in the London Olympics he increased the tempo of preparation for the next in Helsinki Khashba participated in the 125 Lb bantam weight category which saw wrestlers from twenty four country Defeating the wrestler from Canada, Mexico and Germany he won bronze medal on 23th July 1952, the by creating history by becoming country's first individual medal winner (Another wrestler and Khashaba's colleague krishanrao Mangave also participated in the same Olympics in another category but missed the bronze medal by just one point.

The people of Goleshwar karad and Kolhapur accorded him a warm welcome on his return in August of 1952. There was a cavalcade in a vehicle drawn by 101 bulls from karad to Goleshwar. He was even felicitated by Rajaram College and all the Wrestling Akhada in Kolhapur City.

Prof. Dabolkar of shahaji Law College Kolhapur had mortgaged his house to find Khashaba's participation and consequently prize money. Khashaba had not forgotten this favor

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and on his return organized wrestling competitions in which he participated. He won several bouts in this participation to buy back the house.

This episode not only highlights the erstwhile circumstances but also highlights the high standard of sincerity, Co-operation and commitment to the sports.

Japan wrestlers turned India in the year, 1953, in the bouts that ensued Khashaba defeated world champion, 'Unemori' and continued his winning streak.

In 1955, he joined the police force as a sub-Inspector. He won several competitions held within the police Department. He also performed his duties as sports instructors. He was honored by making him a part of the torch run at the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi. However, his feats did not adequately earn him the respect and appreciation he deserved.

He served the police force for twenty-seven years and retired as Asst. police commissioner from Bombay. In spite of his meritorious service in Kolhapur in 1960, a wrestling gymkhana has also been established in the village of Goleshwar to continue his legacy.

He was honored with several awards later, the Jeevan Gaurav Award (in 1983) the Shiv Chhatrapati Award (in 1993 posthumously), The Meghnath Nageshwar Award (in 1990 posthumously) and the Arjun Award (in 2001 posthumously)

Summary

In memory of his memorable win at the Olympics, a sculpture of Khashaba was erected in Kolhapur in 1960. A wrestling gymkhana has also been established in the village of Goleshwar to continue his legacy. He died on 15th August, 1984 in an accident it took fifty years for India to win its next Olympics medal in the Individuals category which makes Khashaba's bronze effort, achieved in trying circumstances, evermore commendable.

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