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You are here: [Home](#) » [Sports](#) » Sushil unfazed by late entry

Sushil unfazed by late entry

New Delhi, May 9, 2012, DHNS:

Target is to win gold at the London Olympics, says Indian grappler

Sushil Kumar's London Olympics qualification might have come with some wait but that never put pressure on the Beijing Olympics bronze medalist wrestler. And neither does he feel the late cut will hamper his medal chances.

Sushil, who captured the imagination of the country with a bronze medal in 2008 Olympics, booked his London ticket in 66 kg only last month, when he defeated Andriy Kvyatkovskyy of Ukraine 3-1 in the semifinal of the World Qualifying Tournament in Taiyuan, China, which he eventually won.

"It will not affect my performance. It is good in a way I qualified late. I will not lose my touch. I do not believe in pressure. I always have a smile on my face. If I do feel the pressure, I will not be able to perform. I just keep working hard" Sushil said on the sidelines of unveiling a documentary series 'Travelling with the PROS' by Bikram Singh Saluja. Sushil is one of the seven sportspersons to be filmed.


"In Kazakhstan, I had injured my shoulder injury and my left hand was not working too well. By the China tournament, I was fit and confident of qualifying," he said.


The Haryana grappler is now eyeing a better performance in London. "I want to do better than I did in Beijing. In Beijing, not many gave me a chance except a few wrestlers. I feel I could have won in Athens too as I had beaten almost all the top wrestlers before the Olympics, but that did not happen" he said. "I hope to do better this year. The target is always gold. We will now be watching the videos of other wrestlers who have qualified for the Olympics in my category and accordingly form the strategy to fight them."

Five Indian wrestlers, in all, have qualified for the Olympics this year and Sushil is hoping for more medals.

Sushil's coach Yashvir Singh said they will be looking to train in the US and Belarus before the Olympics. "The stint at Colorado Springs was a big help earlier this year and we would like to train there in June. Belarus we will like to go in July and from there straight to London.

"Top wrestlers in Sushil's category have all qualified late. So, they will also get the same time to prepare for the Olympics. We are hoping for the best results."





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