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Late qualification for Olympics not a dampener says Sushil Kumar

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Jeev Milkha Singh and Sushil Kumar (right).

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Sushil qualifies for London Olympics

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Sushil Kumar might have qualified late for the Olympics, but the wrestler said it will not affect his chances at the London Olympics where he is looking to better his bronze medal winning feat of Beijing.

Sushil, who made the cut in the penultimate qualifying event in Taiyuan, China, after failing twice, said he is studying the videos of his Olympic-qualifier competitors to formulate strategies. "I want to do better than Beijing. In Athens Olympics, I had a strong chance of winning a medal. I had beaten almost all the top wrestlers before the Olympics, but I could not win. In Beijing, not many gave me a chance, but the wrestling community knew that I could win a medal."

"This time I know that everyone is looking up to me. I will not be under any pressure though. I have never taken any pressure on myself. In a way it is good that I qualified late because I am in a competitive mode and in a rhythm."

Sushil said he could not qualify earlier because of his injury. "The shoulder and the hand injuries pegged me back in Kazakhstan. But I knew that I will make it. At the national camp in Sonapat, people around me were so confident about my qualification that it acted as a motivation," said.

"In China, I was in good form and conceded only one point in the tournament. We are seeing the videos of competitors who have qualified in my category and accordingly form the strategy to fight against them," said Sushil, while inaugurating the documentary series 'Travelling with the PROS' made by film actor Bikram Saluja on seven of India's top sportspersons.

Along with Sushil, four other Indian wrestlers have also qualified for the Olympics. "Four of the five wrestlers have won gold medal while making the cut and it really augurs well for our medal prospects in London."

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

"All the top wrestlers in Sushil's category qualified late and they will also get the same time to prepare for the London Olympics."

Along with Sushil, the documentary features Jeev Milkha Singh, Saina Nehwal, Narain Karthikeyan, Pankaj Advani, Abhinav Bindra and Mahesh Bhupathi.

Jeev said that he was looking to end his four-year long title drought. "I feel a big win is round the corner. I am also looking at making it to the 2016 Olympics where golf will make its debut,"

Sushil's part of the documentary was filmed while he won gold at the World Championship in Moscow.

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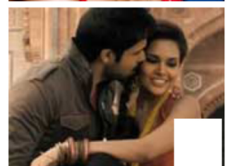
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