



World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

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Fighters rule the mats in Veracruz in style



Seasoned stars stamp dominance while new champions emerged one year ahead of Paris 2024



High-quality action was underway as Veracruz in Mexico successfully hosted the 10th World Para Taekwondo Championships making it one of the biggest ever championships with Para Poomsae players returning after the Pandemic
It was an exhilarating four days of high-quality action at the Veracruz 2023 World Para Taekwondo Championships that witnessed thrilling fights, emotional return, pride and spirit of the sport.

In the end, the best was awarded the world titles including the Para Poomsae players who returned to the World Championships since

the Pandemic.

For the regulars, it was about stamping their dominance one year ahead of Paris 2024 Paralympics while there were some who recorded historic first for themselves and their nations.

GBR's Bush returns to top form, Truesdale triumphs too

Less than a year to go until the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, Great Britain's **Matt Bush** returned to top form in style, clinching his second World Championships title in Veracruz.

Bush shocked USA's top ranked **Evan Medell** 25-13 in the final of men's K44 +80kg to take the gold medal, days after he picked up a bronze at the Veracruz 2023 Grand Prix.

This was the 34-year-old's first title win in 28 months and first since his return to competition, after a knee injury in 2021, at the 2023 European Para Taekwondo Open Championships this year.

"It's good to be back on the top after such a long layoff, back to consistently competing. It's a sign that we're progressing in the right way and my next goal is to keep improving," said Bush.

Meanwhile, top ranked **Ivan Mikulic**, who emerged victorious in the last three championships, made a shocking exit in the round of 16 match.

Before Bush's victorious campaign which surely was a big confidence booster for him in the build-up to the Paris 2024 Games, fellow fighter **Amy Truesdale**, the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic bronze medallist, won gold for Great Britain.

In the other matches of the day, Uzbekistan's **Asadbek Toshtemirov** took the men's K44 - 80kg gold medal after Republic of Korea's **Joo Jeonghun** retired mid-way owing to an injury with the scores reading 2-0.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

Khalilov on dream run in Veracruz

Azerbaijan's **Imamaddin Khalilov** produced the performance of his dream in Veracruz as he clinched the World Championships title days after his triumph at the Veracruz 2023 World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix.

Khalilov defeated **Javokhir Alikulov** in K44 men's -70 kg finals to clinch his fourth title of the year and it couldn't be any better than his first Worlds title.

“This year has been very special for me, and I am proud of myself with the results, and I want to thank my coach and everyone who supported me in my journey,” said Khalilov who finished ninth at the 2021 Worlds in Istanbul.

Otherwise, the penultimate day belonged to Brazil as **Silvana Mayara Cardoso Fernandes** (women’s K44 - 57kg) and **Ana Carolina Silva de Moura** (women’s K44 – 65kg).

Meanwhile, Italy’s **Antonino Bossolo** shocked Turkey’s **Mahmut Bozteke** in a high-intensity men’s K44 – 63kg. Paralympic champion **Nathan Torquato** and 2021 world champion **Bolor-Erdene Ganbat** from Mongolia settled for the bronze.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

Garcia Quijano, Isakova announce arrival on big stage

Mexican Jessica Garcia Quijano announced her arrival on the big stage with her first World Championships in Veracruz defeating Egyptian **Salma Ali Abd Al Moneem Hassan**, who has made history in the Veracruz 2023 GP winning the first gold medal for her nation, 3-1 in front of a vociferous crowd.

“Today all my years of hard work finally paid off. I couldn’t be happier than this. This is my biggest medal ever and winning it in Mexico with all my loved ones and fans cheering for me made it even more special,” Garcia Quijano told World Para Taekwondo as she shares that her big dream of Paralympic medal. An emotional Garcia Quijano was joined by family and friends in her celebration later.

In K44 women’s - 47kg final, Uzbekistan’s second ranked **Ziyodakhon Isakova** halted Peru’s golden girl **Leonor Angelica Espinoza Carranza**’s winning run to take her first World Championships title.

Israel’s Yasur retains title

Meanwhile, Israel’s top fighter **Asaf Yasur** retained his Worlds title with a 13-8 defeat of Chinese Taipei’s **Xiang Wen Xiao** in a high-intensity K44 men’s – 58kg finals.

Despite the final loss, Wen Xiao could return home with a big positive – he caused the biggest upset of the day shocking world no. 1 Ali Can Ozcan in the semi-finals by final score 31-18.

A thrilled Yasur later told **World Para Taekwondo**: “It was a difficult final. It was the last fight of the day after four matches. I am second title world champion; I have no words. It’s such a wonderful feeling. I love it.”

“It’s everything that I wanted and everything that I am training for.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

In K41 events, Kazakhstan’s **Siyazbek Daliyev** emerged winner men’s K41 – 71kg, while compatriot **Malik Mukashev** took the honours in men’s K41 -80kg event.



Emotional return for Para Poomsae stars



Para Poomsae action returned to World Championships after a span of four years with athletes displaying spirit and vision of the sport to emerge winners in style

It was an emotional return of Para Poomsae athletes to the World Championships as they demonstrated incredible technique and movements at the World Trade Centre halls in Veracruz on Thursday.

It was the first time in four years that Para Poomsae competitions featured in the World Championships after the Pandemic, and they turned out to be special for the athletes, local

organisations including World Taekwondo officials, Mexico Taekwondo Federation and the handful of crowds who roared to the skills of athletes.

In the end it was a grand success with each athlete going home as champions. They were surely 'champions' in their own way.

USA's **Justin Rankin** and **Senaoa Halelouich** of Croatia were awarded the Best Male and Female athletes of the Para Poomsae competitions.

“I have been working very hard and waited very long time to win this medal. It is a special one. This means a lot to me, and I want to thank my coaches and everyone who supported throughout out this journey,” said Rankin who emerged the winner in male senior II A-class P53 division.

The 37-year-old, who waited to reach the World Championships for 30 years, also hoped to get to the Paralympics soon.

Para Poomsae – A way of life

Meanwhile, the 46-year-old Halelouich was overwhelmed to win her second World Championships title. For her, Para Poomsae has been her way of life for many years.

“During the Pandemic, she came to me everyday asking me to open the gymnasium. She was so persistent in training and returning to competitions. Her dedication and patience have been reasons for her success. She now wants to pass on her skills and technique to a younger athlete who can carry on her legacy,” said Halelouich’s coach and friend Danijel Bursac.

“I am very happy today. This is special one,” added Halelouich.

‘Paralympic dreams’

To the thrill of the local supporters, 17-year-old Gabriel Josafat Solano Castillo won his first World Championships gold in male senior / A-class P23 at the World Trade Centre halls as he burst into tears in front of the cheering crowd.

To read the full story, please visit [here](#).



Veracruz 2023 World Championships a resounding success, WT officials



It was a week full of thrills, spirit, values, and emotions in Veracruz as the 10th World Para Taekwondo Championships came to a close and it was an absolute success.

Surely, the World Championships – that followed the Veracruz 2023 Grand Prix – witnessed the Para Taekwondo movement growing like never before.

World Taekwondo officials including Secretary

General Mr. **Jeongkang Seo** praised the organising committee and fighters' commitment to promote the spirit and values of the sport.

"It was very impressive and very touching to witness the matches, especially the Para Poomsae matches, and to see the athletes' focus, their concentration was amazing. After the match, regardless of the results, the athletes showing respect and emotion to their fellow competitors and coaches.

"As World Taekwondo we feel really rewarding and we have very good reason why we introduced Para taekwondo. This is a very good example to demonstrate to the world what Taekwondo can really do for inclusion and social cohesion and for the values of 'Sport for all'," Mr. Seo added.

A new benchmark

Meanwhile, World Para Taekwondo Committee chairperson and Technical Delegate for the Championships Mr. **Usman Dildar** thanked the World Taekwondo leadership for all the support. He also mentioned the classifiers' immense work during the week that included classification of Para Poomsae and Kyorugi players, referees, and Mexico Taekwondo Federation on providing a fantastic platform to the Para Taekwondo players.

Mr **Chakir Chelbat**, member of World Para Taekwondo Committee, described the week as an "amazing week full of excitements that displayed the spirit of Para Taekwondo movement". He also praised the organisers' commitment to host an incredible championship and setting a new benchmark for organiser of future championships.



Al Moneem Hassan wins Egypt's first GP gold



3-2 margin in K44 women – 52 kg finals.

Even before the final the Egyptian has created a stir upsetting Mexico's top ranked Jessica Garcia Quijano with a final score of 2-0 point.

"I am very happy to get the gold medal. It's also the first ever Grand Prix gold in Africa. My goal next is to win the World Championships and the Paralympics gold medals," said the fifth ranked Ali Abd Moneem Hassan who has been practising Para Taekwondo since 2019.

Return to winning ways

Meanwhile, Peru's Paralympic champion **Leonor Angelica Espinoza Carranza** returned to winning ways just on time, recording her first victory since her Tokyo 2020 Games gold medal. Espinoza Carranza shocked Mexico's world no. 1 **Claudia Romero** in K44 women's - 47kg final, much to the disappointment of a handful of roaring crowds.

The Veracruz 2023 World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix got off to a dazzling start marked by upset wins, compelling comebacks, and historic first-time victories.

Much like the venue set-up that amazed everyone, there were a few athletes who surprised with their incredible shows as medallists were decided in 10 weight categories of K44 event.

Among the big winners was **Salma Ali Abd Al Moneem Hassan** who claimed Egypt's first ever gold medal at a Grand Prix when she defeated Mongolia's **Surenjav Ulambayar** by a narrow

"It's a very proud moment for me to win the gold; I have had played very close matches against Mexico's Claudia. After Tokyo 2020 Paralympic, this is first victory so it's special and this will motivate me to go for the gold at the Worlds," an elated Espinoza Carranza told World Para Taekwondo.

Two gold for Great Britain

Great Britain's **Beth Munro** claimed her first Grand Prix gold of the season and expressed her desire to stay on top. "I am very happy to win the gold at the Grand Prix in Veracruz today. Hopefully I will win the gold at the World Championships," said Munro who defeated her closest rival and Tokyo 2020 Paralympic champion **Lisa Gjessing** of Denmark, winning by final score of 9-7 in K44 women's – 65kg final.

Munro's fellow Para Taekwondoin **Amy Truesdale** emerged winner too but had to overcome a challenge from emerging Moroccan athlete **Rajae Akermach** in K44 women's + 65 kg final.

In the men's section, **Joel Martin Villalobos** became the first ever athlete from Spain to enter the final of Grand Prix. His brilliant run was though halted by Azerbaijan's **Sabir Zeynalov**, who claimed his first title in the season in K44 men's – 58kg.

As many as 84 athletes from 25 nations took part in the Grand Prix held on September 19, 2023.

To read the full story, click [here](#)



Asian stars in focus at Taiyuan 2023 Grand Prix



position to the top defeating Paralympic silver medallist **CAVDAR Meryem Betul** from Turkey.

China's Tokyo 2020 bronze medallist **LI Yujie** finished on top of K44 Women -57kg.

In men's events, Uzbekistan's world champion **Asadbek TOSHTEMIROV** settled for silver finishing second to Azerbaijan's **Abulfaz ABUZARLI** in K44 Men -80kg.

Israel's **Asaf YASUR** (K44 Men -58kg) continued his winning momentum as did Great Britain's **Matt BUSH** (K44 Men +80kg).

Among others who made returned to the top were Mexico's **Claudia ROMERO** (K44 Women - 47kg), Great Britain's **Beth MUNRO** (K44 Women -65kg), Turkey's **Fatih CELIK** (K44 Men -70kg) and **Mahmut BOZTEKE** (K44 Men -63kg). For Munro, it was her second Grand Prix of the year in a span of 10 days.

Bozteke in fact overcame a strong Asian challenge with Mongolian **Bolor-erdene GANBAT** taking the silver followed by China's **Zheyi NI** and Uzbekistan's **Zukhriddin TOKHIROV** in K44 men - 63kg.

Fighters get ready for Hangzhou 2022 APG

After a successful Paralympic debut at the Tokyo 2020 Games, Para Taekwondo is expected to be one of the major highlights at Hangzhou 2022 as sport will be played for the the first time at the Asian Para Games.

A total of 77 fighters from 17 nations will be vying for top honours 10 events at the Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre, with high level skills and technique on display for three days starting October 23.

Among the top nations expected to impress during the three-day event are Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Kazakhstan. The hosts will also have a few names including China's Tokyo 2020 bronze medallist **LI Yujie** aiming to maintain her winning run from Taiyuan.

Less than two weeks ahead of the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games, the Taiyuan 2023 World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix witnessed some exciting contests and fighters returning to winning ways.

Asian stars including Uzbekistan's **NAIMOVA Guljonoy** shocked Great Britain's **Amy TRUESDALE**, who recently won back to back titles at Veracruz 2023 World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix and World Championships.

Meanwhile, Mongolia's **Surenjav ULAMBAYAR**, the bronze medallist at Veracruz 2023 Worlds, raised her



EDUCATION



Para Taekwondo Coach Courses

- (EN) [Lv1] WT Para Coach Online Certification Course - Pre-Recorded (21-27 October, 2023) **Deadline for registrations 20 October.**
- (EN) [Lv1] Refresher- WT Para Online Coach Kyorugi Course - Pre-Recorded (21-27 October, 2023) **Deadline for registrations 20 October.**
- (EN) [Lv2] WT Para Coach Online Certification Course - Pre-Recorded (October 30 - November 5, 2023) **Deadline for registrations 29 October**
- (EN) [Lv2] Refresher- WT Para Online Coach Kyorugi Course - Pre-Recorded (October 30 - November 5, 2023) **Deadline for registrations 29 October**

REGISTER NOW!

Calendar



2023

- **2022 Hangzhou Asian Para Games, Hangzhou, China (G4) Oct. 23-25, 2023**

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

- **2023 Santiago Parapan American Games, Santiago, Chile (G4) Nov. 23-25, 2023**

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

- **2023 European Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships, Innsbruck, Austria Nov. 24-26, 2023**

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

Around the World



Ticket sales for Paris 2024 Paralympics are open now!

On your marks. Get set. Go!

Ticket sales for the Paralympic Games Paris 2024 - which will take place next summer from 28 August to 8 September - opened at 10 a.m. on Monday 9 October.

There is just one address to remember, the same as for the Olympic ticket office:

<https://tickets.paris2024.org>.

Almost 2.8 million tickets will be on sale for the Paralympic Games Paris 2024:

- From EUR 15 in all Para sports (500,000 tickets)
- At EUR 25 or less, for half of all the tickets
- At EUR 50 or less, for 80% of tickets
- All tickets for the finals will be between EUR 25 and 100.

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