



1 WOMEN'S OLYMPIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

1.1 1976 Montreal, Canada

Gold	Soviet Union
Silver	United States of America
Bronze	Bulgaria

For the first time in Olympic history a basketball tournament for Women was played. FIBA had been organising World Championships for Women since 1953 and it was therefore about time that women's basketball became an Olympic sport.

The following six teams made their Olympic debuts: Soviet Union, USA, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Japan and Canada. The tournament was dominated by the Soviet team and their outstanding player Semeonova. The Soviets won the first Olympic gold for women with a 112-77 victory over the USA in the Final.

1.2 1980 Moscow, Soviet Union

Gold	Soviet Union
Silver	Bulgaria
Bronze	Yugoslavia

As in 1976, the tournament was played with six teams and similarly to the men's tournament, the silver medallist from 1976 (USA) was absent owing to a boycott. The Soviets continued their Olympic dominance with a 5-0 record in the round robin tournament. Moscow witnessed the rise to stardom of Hungarian legend Lenke Kiss (who averaged a record 31.8 points per game), but Luliyana Semeonova's power under the basket helped the Soviets to retain the gold medal they won in Montreal.

1.3 1984 Los Angeles, United States of America

Gold	United States of America
Silver	Korea
Bronze	P. R. of China

In Los Angeles, the Soviet Union did not have the chance to defend the gold medal owing to its absence from the Games. This gave the American team the chance to win their first Olympic gold, with the added advantage of playing on home ground. Played in a slightly changed format (six teams played round robin with the top four advancing to the medal round), American basketball fans saw their team cruise to its first Olympic gold. The likes of Teresa Edwards, Cheryl Miller and Lynette Woodard became the first stars of the women's game and the USA beat a strong Korean team in the Final (85-55).

**FIBA**

We Are Basketball

1.4 1988 Seoul, Korea

Gold	United States of America
Silver	Yugoslavia
Bronze	Soviet Union

A record number of twenty-four teams had to survive the World Olympic Qualifying Tournament to gain one of the eight spots in Seoul. For the first time, the tournament was played in two groups, with the top two teams from each group advancing to the Quarter-Final Round.

Seoul was something of a debutante's party for players who would go on to dominate world basketball in the coming years, including Michelle Timms (Australia), Evladia Stefanova (Bulgaria), Zheng Haixia (China), Natalia Zassoulskaia (Soviet Union), Teresa Weatherspoon (USA) and Razija Mujanovic (Yugoslavia).

The USA was able to retain the gold medal won in Los Angeles, with team leaders Teresa Edwards and Katrina McClain guiding the USA throughout the tournament. Facing Yugoslavia in the Final, the USA eventually prevailed 77-70, to win its second gold medal in an Olympic competition.

1.5 1992 Barcelona, Spain

Women's Tournament

Gold	Commonwealth of Independent States
Silver	P.R. of China
Bronze	United States of America

Brazil made its first Olympic appearance in 1992 and had an immediate impact with stars Hortencia Marcari Olivia (18.8 points per game) and Janeth Arcain (17 points per game) among the leading tournament scorers. Unfortunately, this was not enough for a medal and they eventually finished in seventh place.

The CIS team was able to avenge previous losses to the USA with a breathtaking 79-73 victory in the Semi-Finals. China was the other finalist in Barcelona and, despite a valiant fight, the CIS, led by Natalia Zassoulskaia, was too strong in the gold medal game, prevailing 76-66.

**FIBA**

We Are Basketball

1.6 1996 Atlanta, United States of America

Gold	United States of America
Silver	Brazil
Bronze	Australia

Many experts remember the Final between USA and Brazil as the most spectacular and best women's basketball game ever. 36.000 spectators flocked to the Atlanta Superdome to see Hortencia, Paula and Arcain meet their counterparts Lisa Leslie, Katrina McClain and Sheryl Swoopes in a mind-boggling battle. Ultimately, the USA's deeper bench told, and the home team recorded a comfortable 111-87 win. The Australian team clinched its first ever Olympic basketball medal in the game against the Ukraine (66-56).

1.7 2000 Sydney, Australia

Gold	United States of America
Silver	Australia
Bronze	Brazil

The three women's teams which had won the medals in Atlanta were back on the podium in Sydney. There was much talk of Australia being the favoured team with the home advantage, and a combination of youth (Lauren Jackson) and experience (Michelle Timms, Sandy Brondello) making for a great basketball team. However, the USA was too strong and repeated its triumph of 1996 with a victory over the hosts (76-54) to celebrate a fourth Olympic victory. The bronze went to Brazil after an overtime thriller against South Korea (84 73).

**FIBA**

We Are Basketball

1.8 2004 Athens Greece

Gold **United States of America**
Silver **Australia**
Bronze **Russia**

The USA won the gold medal in the Women's tournament and maintained their unbeaten run that started with the Bronze Medal Match in Seoul, bringing its total number of consecutive victories to 25. The United States was the uncontested power in the Women's Tournament, finishing at a perfect 8-0.

High scoring was also the key to success - the Women's teams exceeded the 100-point mark three times, with Brazil setting an Olympic record with 128 points against Japan, and the 90-point mark 8 times. The highest-scoring team was the USA with 84.0 ppg.

The Women's Tournament top scorer, Lauren JACKSON of Australia (22.9 points per game), is far from her own curtain call. The 23-year-old forward/center, arguably the best player in the world at this time, was in the mind of many the MVP of the tournament, but her below-par performance in the final due to the excellent defensive work of Lisa LESLIE gave her opponent the most votes by media representatives. The Women's one-night heroin was Evanthia MALTSI of Greece, who scored 33 against Japan.

Olympic Games Medal Table 1976-2004

WOMEN'S MEDALLISTS

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	5	1	1	
SOVIET UNION	2	-	1	3
AUSTRALIA		2	-	2
BRAZIL		1	1	
BULGARIA	-	1	1	2
P. R. CHINA		1	1	2
YUGOSLAVIA	-	1	1	2
	1	-	-	1
KOREA	-	1	-	1
RUSSIA	-	-	1	1