



Taekwondo



The taekwondo competition in the Barcelona Games was held between 3 and 5 August in the Palau Blaugrana. It was a demonstration sport, as had been the case in Seoul. Barcelona saw the introduction of changes made by the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) to the rules concerning the signals made by the head of court and the points system.

A total of 128 competitors from 33 countries took part, divided between eight men's and eight women's categories. The competitors in the bantamweight, welterweight and heavyweight categories fought on 3 August; the flyweight, lightweight and middleweight categories fought on 4 August, and the finweight and featherweight categories on 5 August. The eight competitors in each category were sorted into four pairs each in a draw held the day before the start of the competition. The WTF appointed 32 referees and judges. The competition was organised in a knock-out system, with three three-minute rounds per contest.

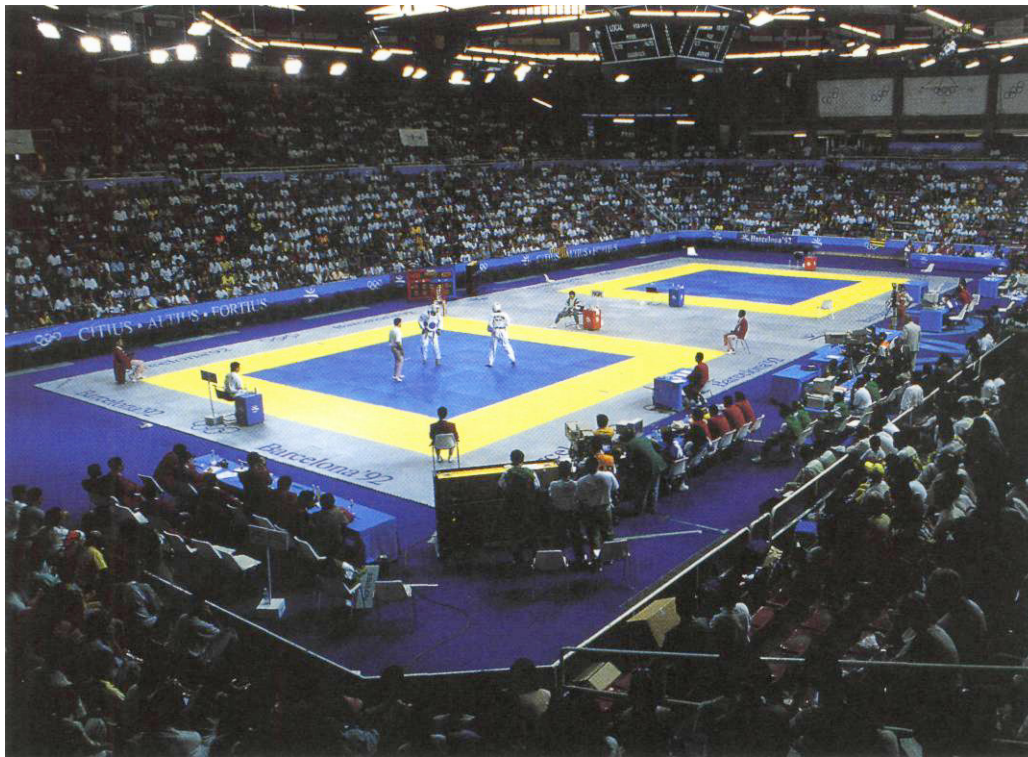
Korea, Spain and Chinese Taipei dominated the competition in this sport, winning twelve of the sixteen gold medals between them (five, four and three respectively). In fact, Spain, which had won four silver medals and five bronze in Seoul, became the chief western rival to the Asian teams in Barcelona. The high quality and closely fought contests took place in front of a large number of spectators who cheered on the Spanish team, encouraged by their success in the competition. Overall, the public, the competitors and the referees were well pleased with the performance, the quality of the venue and the organisation.

The women's competition

The athletes from Chinese Taipei did well in Barcelona: Yueh-Ying Lo, equal on points with Rahmi Kurnia from Indonesia, was awarded the bout and took the gold medal in the finweight category; Yi-An Chen, in the lightweight category,

¹
The taekwondo competition, one of the three demonstration sports in Barcelona '92, was very spectacular. A total of 128 athletes from 33 countries took part in the eight men's and eight women's categories.

TK	Competition sequence		July		August											
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
										●	●	●				
Venue																
Palau Blaugrana																
Competition system																
Direct elimination.																
Number of events																
Men's: 8					Women's: 8					Total: 16						
Competitors																
Event	Competitors	NOC	Event	Competitors	NOC	Event	Competitors	NOC								
Men			Women													
Finweight	8	8	Welterweight	8	8	Bantamweight	8	8								
Flyweight	8	8	Middleweight	8	8	Featherweight	8	8								
Bantamweight	8	8	Heavyweight	8	8	Lightweight	8	8								
Featherweight	8	8	Finweight	8	8	Middleweight	8	8								
Lightweight	8	8	Flyweight	8	8	Heavyweight	8	8								
The World Taekwondo Federation (WTF)																
President					Secretary general					Technical delegates						
Mr. Un Yong Kim					Mr. Kung Hong Lee					Mr. Bong Sik Kim						
Mr. Sang Kuen Song																



1
General view of the Palau Blaugrana in Barcelona, the venue where the taekwondo competition was held. It has seating for 6,400 spectators, and during the Games contained two 12 x 12 m taekwondo courts.

2
A moment in the final of the women's lightweight category between Yi-An Chen representing Chinese Taipei, and Susilawati from Indonesia, who retired half way through the contest, thus giving the medal to the athlete from Chinese Taipei.

3
The Spanish public to see their countrymen overshadow the leading nations in the sport, the Asian countries, and win four gold medals, one silver and a bronze.



2



3



4

⁴ *The Spanish athlete Coral Astrid Bistuer is delighted after her combat with Susan Graham from New Zealand, when the referee proclaimed her the gold medallist in the heavyweight category.*

⁵ *A moment in the contest between Je Kyoung Kim of Korea and Emmanuel Peters Oghenejobo of Nigeria. The Korean won and was proclaimed gold medallist in the heavyweight category.*

repeated her gold medal success in Seoul by beating the Indonesian Susilawati; and Ya-Ling Tung took the gold in the featherweight category. The brilliant performance of the Spanish competitors excited the public and brought three athletes a gold medal: Elisabet Delgado in flyweight, Coral Astrid Bistuer in heavyweight and Elena Benítez, who had won a bronze in Seoul, in welterweight.

The men's competition

In the featherweight category of the men's competition, Ekrem Boyali from Turkey was injured in his semi-final contest with the Italian Luca Massaccesi and could not take part in the final against the Korean Byong Cheol Kim, who was automatically awarded the gold medal. Ekrem Boyali collected the silver medal with the aid of walking sticks. In the lightweight category, the 21 year old Spaniard José Santolaria won the gold by beating Fariborz Askari from Iran. In the middleweight category,

Herbert Perez from the United States of America won the gold on points after beating the Spaniard Juan Solís, who announced his retirement from competition after the contest. Herbert Perez took up the sport as a form of self defence when he was young, after his father was murdered in the street in New York.

A number of other outstanding performances should also be mentioned: by Gergely Salim of Denmark, gold medallist in the finweight category; Arlindo I. Gouveia from Venezuela, gold in the flyweight category; William D. Cordova, from Mexico, gold in the bantamweight category after being awarded the bout against Sayed Youssef Najem from Canada, and two Koreans, Tae Kioung Ha, gold in welterweight, and Je Kioung Kim in heavyweight, who together with Byong Cheol Kim, ensured that Korea was the leading country in the men's taekwondo in Barcelona.

