

## Examination of the Medals in the Olympic Games Held Between 1980-2020 of the Basketball

Zeynep Hazal Ulutaş<sup>1</sup>, Fatih Özgül<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>MSc. Stu., Giresun University Institute of Medical Science Department of Physical Education and Sports, Giresun, Turkey

<sup>2</sup>Assoc. Prof., Giresun University Sports Science Faculty, Giresun, Turkey

**\*Corresponding Author:** Fatih Özgül, Assoc. Prof., Giresun University Sports Science Faculty, Giresun, Turkey

**Abstract:** The aim of this research is to examine the medal distribution of the basketball competitions in the Olympic Games held between 1980-2020. In the Olympic games, basketball was first seen as a demonstration sport in 1904. It was accepted as the official Olympic event at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. Women basketball players participated in the Olympics for the first time in 1976. The data were analyzed by document analysis technique in the study. The Olympic Games between 1980-2020 were held in 11 different cities in 10 countries. In Man basketball competitions, the United States has won the majority (72.2%) of gold medals. In women, the United States again proved its success in basketball by winning 81.8% of the gold medals.

**Keywords:** Basketball, Medal, Olympic Games, Analysis

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The modern Olympic Games were first held in Athens in 1896. Olympic Games brings together many athletes from different countries and branches. The Olympic Games, which were first organized with the aim of friendship and peace, have become organizations that meet the economic, political and social needs of countries over the years (Özdilek, Şentürk, & Döşyılmaz, 2003). The International Olympic Committee is the supreme authority of the Olympic movement. Basically, the purposes of the International Olympic Committee are; educating the society through sports, ensuring social peace and equality, ensuring the regularity and coordination of the Olympics (International Olympic Committee, n.d.). Basketball is played by passing the ball through a 3.05 cm high basket. Teams consist of five players. The aim in basketball is to score points by passing the ball through the opponent's basket and to prevent the opponent team from having the ball and scoring points. Around the rules, the ball can be thrown, touched, dribbled or passed in any direction (Yener, 2017). Basketball consists of high-intensity, anaerobic dominant, intermittent (Mancha-Triguero, Garcia-Rubio, Calleja-Gonzalez & Ibanez, 2019)(Zamzami, Solahuddin, Widiastuti, Tangkudung & Pradityana, 2020) and complex technical-tactical structures. During the competition, the quality of the player, the cooperation between the players, the tactics and general teamwork determine the efficiency and success of the team (Milanović, Štefan, & Škegro, 2016). Worldwide basketball is governed by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), which was founded on June 18, 1932 in Geneva, Switzerland (olympedia, n.d.). In the Olympic games, basketball was first seen as a demonstration sport in 1904 (Hofstetter, 2007: 6). It was accepted as the official Olympic event at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. Women's Basketball Players participated in the Olympic Games for the first time in 1976 (Olympedia, n.d.). The Olympic Games are the best place to see the best national teams in the world and therefore the best basketball performance (Pojskić, Šeparović and Užičanin, 2009).

The aim of this research is to examine the medal distribution of basketball sport in the Olympic Games held between 1980-2020.

2. METHOD

In this research, the medal distributions of the basketball competitions in the Olympic games held between 1980-2020 were examined by document analysis technique. Document analysis is a qualitative research method used to systematically analyze the content of documents (Wach & Ward, 2013). Data were obtained from the websites www.olympic.org and www.olympedia.org.

3. RESULTS

Table1. Olympics and cities held between 1980-2020

Year	Cities
1980	Moscow
1984	Los Angeles
1988	Seoul
1992	Barcelona
1996	Atlanta
2000	Sydney
2004	Athens
2008	Beijing
2012	London
2016	Rio
2020	Tokyo

Table2. Distribution of medals in men's basketball competitions between 1980-2020

Year	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
1980	Yugoslavia	Italy	Soviet Union
1984	United States of America	Spain	Yugoslavia
1988	Soviet Union	Yugoslavia	United States of America
1992	United States of America	Croatia	Lithuania
1996	United States of America	Yugoslavia	Lithuania
2000	United States of America	France	Lithuania
2004	Argentina	Italy	United States of America
2008	United States of America	Spain	Argentina
2012	United States of America	Spain	Russia
2016	United States of America	Serbia	Spain
2020	United States of America	France	Australia

As a result of men's basketball competitions in the Olympic games held between 1980-2020; United States of America won 8 gold and 2 bronze medals, Soviet Union won 1 gold and 1 bronze medal, Argentina won 1 gold and 1 bronze medal, Yugoslavia won 1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal, Spain won 3 silver and 1 bronze medal, Italy and France won 2 silver medal, Serbia and Croatia won 1 silver medal, Lithuania won 3 bronze medals, Russia and Australia won 1 bronze medal.

Table3. Distribution of medals in women's basketball competitions between 1980-2020

Year	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
1980	Soviet Union	Bulgaria	Yugoslavia
1984	United States of America	South Korea	China
1988	United States of America	Yugoslavia	Soviet Union
1992	SSCB	China	United States of America
1996	United States of America	Brazil	Australia
2000	United States of America	Australia	Brazil
2004	United States of America	Australia	Russia
2008	United States of America	Australia	Russia
2012	United States of America	France	Australia
2016	United States of America	Spain	Serbia
2020	United States of America	Japan	France

As a result of women's basketball competitions in the Olympic Games held between 1980-2020; United States won 9 gold and 1 bronze medal, Soviet Union won 1 gold and 1 bronze medal, Unified Team at the Olympics won 1 gold medal, Bulgaria, Japan and Spain won 1 silver medal, South Korea won 1 silver medal, Yugoslavia, France, China and Brazil won 1 silver and 1 bronze medal won,

Australia won 3 silver and 2 bronze medals, Russia won 2 bronze medals and Serbia won 1 bronze medal.

**Table4.** *Percentage of teams winning medals in men's basketball competitions between 1980 and 2020*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Gold Medal</b>	<b>Silver Medal</b>	<b>Bronze Medal</b>
United States of America	%72,7	%0	%18,1
Argentina	%9	%0	%9
Australia	%0	%0	%9
France	%0	%18,1	%0
Croatia	%0	%9	%0
Italy	%0	%18,1	%0
Spain	%0	%27,2	%9
Lithuania	%0	%0	%27,2
Russia	%0	%0	%9
Serbia	%0	%9	%0
Soviet Union	%9	%0	%9
Yugoslavia	%9	%18,1	%9

**Table5.** *Percentage of teams winning medals in women's basketball competitions between 1980 and 2020*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Gold Medal</b>	<b>Silver Medal</b>	<b>Bronze Medal</b>
United States of America	%81,8	%0	%9
Australia	%0	%27,2	%18,1
SSCB	%9	%0	%0
Bulgaria	%0	%9	%0
Brazil	%0	%9	%9
China	%0	%9	%9
France	%0	%9	%9
Spain	%0	%9	%0
South Korea	%0	%9	%0
Japan	%0	%9	%0
Russia	%0	%0	%18,1
Serbia	%0	%0	%9
Soviet Union	%9	%0	%9
Yugoslavia	%0	%9	%9

**4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

1980 Moscow

The 1980 Olympic Games were held in Moscow of which is the capital of the Soviet Union. 33 countries, especially the United States of America, Germany, Japan, Canada, China, Norway, Israel, Kenya and Turkey, did not participate in the 1980 Olympic Games due to political reasons (Turkish National Olympic Committee, n.d.). As a result of the men's basketball competitions, Yugoslavia won the gold medal, Italy won the silver medal and the Soviet Union won the bronze medal. As a result of women's basketball competitions, the Soviet Union won the gold medal, Bulgaria won the silver medal, and Yugoslavia won the bronze medal.

1984 Los Angeles

The 1984 Olympic Games were held in Los Angeles, California, USA. 14 countries, especially the Soviet Union, did not participate in the games on the grounds of "inadequacy of security measures" (Turkish National Olympic Committee, n.d.). As a result of the men's basketball competitions, the United States won the gold medal, Spain won the silver and Yugoslavia won the bronze medal. As a result of women's basketball competitions, the United States won the gold, South Korea won the silver and China won the bronze medal.

1988 Seoul

The 1988 Olympic Games were held in Seoul of which is the capital of South Korea. Cuba, Nicaragua, Ethiopia and North Korea boycotted the games. With the decision taken at the IOC meeting in 1988, the country that boycotted the Olympics would be removed from the IOC membership and would not be invited to any games again (Turkish National Olympic Committee,

n.d.). As a result of men's basketball competitions, the Soviet Union won the gold medal, Yugoslavia won the silver, and the United States won the bronze medal. As a result of women's basketball competitions, the United States won the gold medal, Yugoslavia won the silver, and the Soviet Union won the bronze medal.

### 1992 Barcelona

The 1992 Olympic Games were held in Barcelona, Spain. With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1991, West and East Germany were united and participated in the Olympics as a single country. In the same year, the Soviet Union was divided into 15 different countries and they participated in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games as "Unified Team at the Olympics, SSCB". This "Unified Team at the Olympics" was a continuation of the Soviet Union. It included all the countries of the former Soviet Union except Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania(Olympedia, n.d.). With the removal of the obligation to be amateurs for the athletes participating in the Olympics, NBA athletes showed up in the games. The USA Basketball National Team (Dream Team), consisting of stars such as Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Michael Jordan, demonstrated its success (olympic committee, ty). As a result of the men's basketball competitions, the United States won the gold medal, Croatia won the silver and Lithuania won the bronze medal. As a result of women's basketball competitions, "Unified Team at the Olympics" won the gold medal, China won the silver and the United States won the bronze medal.

### 1996 Atlanta

The 1996 Olympic Games were held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. As a result of the men's basketball competitions, the United States of America won the gold medal, Yugoslavia won the silver and Lithuania won the bronze medal. As a result of women's basketball competitions, the United States won the gold medal, Brazil won the silver and Australia won the bronze medal.

### 2000 Sydney

The 2000 Olympic Games were held in Sydney, Australia. As a result of the men's basketball competitions, the United States was the gold medalist, France was the silver medalist and Lithuania was the bronze medalist country. As a result of women's basketball competitions, the gold medalist country was United States, the silver medalist country was Australia and the bronze medalist country was Brazil.

### 2004 Athens

The 2004 Olympic Games were held in Athens of which is the capital city of Greece. As a result of the men's basketball competitions, Argentina won the gold medal, Italy won the silver and the United States won the bronze medal. As a result of women's basketball competitions, the United States won the gold medal, Australia won the silver and Russia won the bronze medal.

### 2008 Beijing

The 2008 Olympic Games were held in Beijing of which is the capital city of China. As a result of the men's basketball competitions, the United States was the gold medalist country, Spain was the silver medalist and Argentina was the bronze medalist country. As a result of women's basketball competitions, the United States was the gold medalist country, Australia was the silver medalist and Russia was the bronze medalist country.

### 2012 London

The 2012 Olympic Games were held in London of which is the capital city of England. London hosted the Olympic Games for the third time after 1908 and 1948 and became the first city to host three times of the Olympics (Turkish National Olympic Committee, n.d.). As a result of the men's basketball competitions, the United States won the gold medal, Spain won the silver and Russia won the bronze medal. As a result of women's basketball competitions, the United States won the gold medal, France won the silver and Australia won the bronze medal.

### 2016 Rio

The 2016 Rio Olympic Games were held in Rio of which is the capital city of Brazil. As a result of the men's basketball competitions, the United States was the gold medalist country, Serbia was the silver medalist and Spain was the bronze medalist country. As a result of women's basketball

competitions, the United States was the gold medalist country, Spain was the silver medalist and Serbia was the bronze medalist country.

### 2020 Tokyo

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games were scheduled to start on July 24, 2020, but in 2019, a virus (Covid-19) that causes respiratory diseases began to spread all over the world from Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization declared a pandemic on January 30, 2020 due to this virus, which resulted in national quarantines. The rapidly spreading Covid-19 pandemic has turned the sports calendar upside down, with a significant impact on public health and the global economy. Sports leagues and federations suspended seasons and stopped activities. This pandemic has caused the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to be postponed and rescheduled to July 23 to August 8, 2021. (Chuchu, Maziriri & Rukuni; 2021) The games were completed daily with athletes, coaches and media officials tested, restricted to minimal non-game activities and virtually no spectators. All guests left Tokyo as soon as the games were over (olympedia, n.d.). As a result of the men's basketball competitions, the United States won the gold medal, France won the silver and Australia won the bronze medal. As a result of women's basketball competitions, the United States won the gold medal, Japan won the silver and France won the bronze medal. At Tokyo 2020, a new basketball discipline was included in the Olympic programme, "3x3" basketball. It is played in half of the traditional basketball court and with a single basket. Both teams compete with three athletes on the court and interactions are shorter. This discipline was first played in the Singapore 2010 Summer Youth Olympic Games (Petrov and Bonev, 2020) (Turkish National Olympic Committee, n.d.).

We saw that the countries participating in the Olympic Games boycott the games for political reasons and refuse to participating in the games. The United States, which was extremely successful in basketball, refused to participate in 1980 Moscow along with 32 other countries. With the absence of the United States, which won most of the gold medals at the Olympic Games, Yugoslavia won the men's gold medal, then undivided Soviet Union Olympic Team won the women's gold medal. In 1984, the games were held in Los Angeles, USA. And again the political reasons arose. A total of 14 countries, together with the Soviet Union, did not participate in 1984 Los Angeles because of it. In Seoul in 1988, the boycotts continued and the IOC announced that the boycotting countries would be removed from membership to put an end to the boycotts. West and East Germany, united with the fall of the Berlin Wall, participated in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games as a single country, while the Soviet Union, which was divided into 15 countries, participated as the "United Team" and won gold medals in women's basketball. In men's basketball; Lithuania, a Soviet Union country that participated separately from the Unified Team, won the bronze medal. In the same year, the obligation of the athletes to be amateurs was abolished and the NBA players showed up in the games. At the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games, the United States continued its success with both men's and women's gold medals. In 2004 Athens, on the other hand, Argentina won the gold medal in the men's. After 2004, the United States continued to win gold medals in both genders. The Olympic Games between 1980-2020 were held in 11 different cities in 10 countries. In men's basketball competitions, the United States won most of the gold medals (72.2%). In women basketball competitions, the United States again proved its success in basketball by winning 81.8% of the gold medals.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Chuchu, T., Maziriri, E. T., & Rukuni, T. F. (2021). A Systematic Review of the Impact of COVID-19 on Global Sporting Events in 2020: The Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics. *Geosport for Society*, 15(2), 82-89
- [2] Hofstetter, A. (2007). *Olympic Basketball*. The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc.
- [3] International Olympic Committee (t.y). *IOC Mission*. Retrieved From: <https://olympics.com/ioc/mission>
- [4] Mancha-Triguero, D., Garcia-Rubio, J., Calleja-Gonzalez, J., & Ibanez, S. J. (2019). Physical fitness in basketball players: A systematic review. *J. Sports Med. Phys. Fit*, 59, 1513-1525.
- [5] Milanović, D., Štefan, L., & Škegro, D. (2016). Differences in situational efficiency parameters between successful and unsuccessful female basketball teams on the Olympic Games in London 2012. *Sport Science*, 9(1), 38-43.
- [6] Olympedia (t.y). *1992 Summer Olympics*. Retrieved from: <http://www.olympedia.org/editions/23>
- [7] Olympedia (t.y). *Basketbal*. Retrieved from: <http://www.olympedia.org/sports/BAS>



- [8] Özdilek, Ç, Şentürk, A., & Döşyılmaz, E. (2003). Historical Development of the Modern Olympic Games and Evaluation of the Principle of Traveling in the Olympics in terms of the Games Organized until Today. *Dumlupınar University Journal of Social Sciences*, 9(1), 3-5.
- [9] Petrov, L., & Bonev, M. (2020). About the methodology of preparation of basketball players for the game 3 x 3 basketball. *Trakia Journal of Sciences*, 18(1), 679-681.
- [10] Pojskić, H., Šeparović, V., & Užičanin, E. (2009). Differences between successful and unsuccessful basketball teams on the final Olympic tournament. *Acta Kinesiologica*, 3(2), 110-114.
- [11] Turkish National Olympic Committee (n.d.). Barcelona 1992 XXVI. Summer Olympic Games Retrieved From: <https://www.olimpiyatkomitesi.org.tr/Olimpiyat-Oyunlari-Detay/10/1>
- [12] Turkish National Olympic Committee (t.y). Basketball Retrieved From: <https://tokyo2020.Olimpiyat.org.tr/#>
- [13] Turkish National Olympic Committee (n.d.). London 2012 XXX. Summer Olympic Games Retrieved From: <https://www.olimpiyatkomletme.org.tr/Olimpiyat-Oyunlari-Detay/1/1>
- [14] Turkish National Olympic Committee (n.d.). Los Angeles 1984 XXIII. Summer Olympic Games Retrieved From: <https://www.olimpiyatkomletme.org.tr/Olimpiyat-Oyunlari-Detay/12/1>
- [15] Turkish National Olympic Committee (n.d.). Moscow 1980 XXII. Summer Olympic Games Retrieved From: <https://www.olimpiyatkomletme.org.tr/Olimpiyat-Oyunlari-Detay/13/1>
- [16] Turkish National Olympic Committee (n.d.). Seoul 1988 XXIV. Summer Olympic Games Retrieved From: <https://www.olimpiyatkomletme.org.tr/Olimpiyat-Oyunlari-Detay/11/1>
- [17] Wach, E., & Ward, R. (2013). *Learning about qualitative document analysis*.
- [18] Yener, O. (2017). The Effect of Visual Feedback in Teaching Basketball Skills. *Kastamonu Journal of Education*, 25(2), 677-688.
- [19] Zamzami, I. S., Solahuddin, S., Widiastuti, W., Tangkudung, J., & Pradityana, K. (2020). Improving anaerobic capacity of basketball athletes using 3x3 small-sided game. *Jurnal SPORTIF: Jurnal Penelitian Pembelajaran*, 6(1), 80-91.

**Citation:** Zeynep Hazal Ulutaş, Fatih Özgül. "Examination of the Medals in the Olympic Games Held Between 1980-2020 of the Basketball" *International Journal of Sports and Physical Education (IJSPE)*, vol 8, no.1, 2022, pp. 01-06. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20431/2454-6380.0801001>.

**Copyright:** © 2021 Authors. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.