



Relation of powers in gymnastics in the pre-olympic season in light of international sanctions against russian athletes

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Abstract

Objective of the study was to conduct a comparative analysis of the results shown by the strongest national teams at the 2023 World Championships and Russian gymnasts at the Russian Cup to determine competitiveness in the international arena under sanctions.

Methods and structure of the study. Analysis of information materials on websites: IOC (olympics.com), FIG (gymnastics.sport), Russian Artistic Gymnastics Federation (sportgymrus.ru). Expert assessment of video materials from the World Championship and the Russian Cup 2023 on the channels: Match, allgymnastics.tv, FIG Channel. The research process included two stages - analytical and prognostic. At the first stage, an analysis was carried out of the regulatory documents of the IOC and FIG on the exclusion of Russian gymnasts from international competitions; information materials (format and program of competitions, statistics of results). At the second stage, a comparison of the results of the competition was carried out to predictably determine the model composition of the Russian national team, which could be currently competitive in the international arena.

Results and conclusions. The pre-Olympic World Championship showed the absolute superiority of the US team with their leader S. Biles - the main contenders for winning the majority of gold medals at the XXXIII Olympiad in 2024. The sanctions imposed on Russian athletes did not allow Russian gymnasts, who would be the only team, to win a team license for the Olympic Games, which can compete with the US team in international competitions. Only in one all-around event are Russian gymnasts inferior to their foreign rivals - vault.

Keywords: *Olympic Games, women's artistic gymnastics, team and individual championships, international sanctions.*

Introduction. From September 30 to October 8, 2023, the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships took place in Antwerp. Based on the results of this tournament, the teams that will participate in the 2024 Olympic team competition in Paris were determined [4]. The gymnasts from the USA, Great Britain and Canada, who have already won this right in 2022 (at the previous World Championships), were joined by the teams of China, Brazil, Italy, the Netherlands, France, Japan, Australia, Romania and Korea. As is known, on the recommendation of the IOC, the International Gymnastics Federation, in accordance with the amendments to the Charter adopted in 2022, did not allow the Russian team to participate in the 2022 and 2023 World Championships. [5]. Thus, Russian gymnasts, the 2021 Olympic champions, will not be

able to take part in the upcoming Olympics. There is also a "theoretical" opportunity for individual gymnasts to qualify based on their performances at the World Cup stages in 2024, but the issue of admitting Russian athletes to these competitions has not yet been determined. A number of authors express the opinion that Russian athletes will not take part in the Olympic Games in Paris and in the future it is necessary to reconsider the future model of the international development of Russian sports [1, 2].

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Methods and structure of the study. Analysis of information materials on websites: IOC (olympics.com), FIG (gymnastics.sport), Russian Artistic Gymnastics Federation (sportgymrus.ru). Expert assessment of video materials of the 52nd World Championship and the Russian Cup 2023 on television and Internet channels: Match, allgymnastics.tv, FIG Channel.

The research process included two stages - analytical and prognostic. At the first stage, an analysis was carried out of the regulatory documents of the IOC and FIG on the exclusion of Russian gymnasts from international competitions; information materials (format and program of competitions, statistics of results). At the second stage, a comparison of the results of the competition was carried out to predictably determine the model composition of the Russian national team, which could be currently competitive in the international arena.

Results of the study and discussion. At the pre-Olympic 52nd World Championships in 2023, US gymnasts demonstrated absolute dominance. In total, they won four gold, one silver and two bronze medals. The greatest success was achieved by S. Biles, who resumed her performances on the world stage after a two-year break. In addition to the team gold, she won the individual, beam and floor exercises and won silver in the vault. Gymnasts from other teams managed to win only two gold medals in individual events - R. Andrade (Brazil, vault) and Qiu Qian (China, uneven bars). In qualifying for the team championship, the US team, scoring 171.395 points, confidently surpassed the second-place team of Great Britain by 5.265 points. In the final, the US gymnasts were inferior to their qualifying result, but this did not prevent them from getting ahead of the silver medalists, the Brazil-


ian team - 2.199 points (Table 1). In the final of the individual championship, S. Biles, having performed a vault of low difficulty, won the gold medal with a great advantage (Table 2). Thus, based on the results of the 2023 World Cup, we can conclude that at the 2024 Olympics, the main contenders for gold medals in the team and individual championships, as well as in three separate events, are US gymnasts. Gymnasts from Brazil, France, China, Italy and Great Britain will be able to compete for prizes.

Almost a month before the 2023 World Cup, the Russian Cup was held on the Sirius Federal Territory, which was the final start for the strongest gymnasts. To predict the model composition of the Russian national team, we were guided by the best results shown by gymnasts during the tournament: A. Melnikova (1st place in qualifying) – 57.150; D. Kustova (2nd place in qualifying) – 55.250; L. Vasilyeva (2nd place in the all-around final) – 55.600. Separately, the winner of the competition, V. Listunova, should be highlighted. She showed the best result, performing on all apparatus in the tournament in individual all-around events, - 58.166 [3]. In accordance with the regulations, the three best scores of gymnasts count towards the team championship in each type of qualification. According to our “model”, the results of A. Melnikova and V. Listunova were taken into account in all four types; D. Kustova – on uneven bars and beam; L. Vasilyeva - in vault and floor exercise.

As a result of the comparative analysis, it can be assumed that the Russian team, subject to participation in the 2023 World Cup, could be ahead of the US team in qualification and compete for team gold in the final.

In the individual championship, V. Listunova could compete with S. Biles for the title of absolute world





Table 1. Comparison of the results of the World Championship team championship and Russian gymnasts (predictive model) based on the results of the 2023 Russian Cup.

Country					Sum
52nd World Championship 2023 (Antwerp, Belgium, 30.09-08.10.2023)					
1 USA (qualification)	43.998 (1)	43.366 (2)	41.965 (2)	42.066 (1)	171.395
1 USA (final)	42.966 (1)	43.265 (1)	39.600 (6)	41.898 (2)	167.729
2 Brazil (final)	42.666 (2)	41.299 (5)	39.399 (8)	42.166 (1)	165.530
3 France (final)	41.966 (3)	41.399 (3)	41.066 (2)	39.633 (5)	164.064
Russian Cup 2023 (FT “Sirius”, Sochi, 08.28-09.04.2023)					
Russia (model)	41.333	44.483	42.900	42.700	171.416

Note: the team's position on this apparatus is indicated in parentheses.



Table 2. Comparison of the results of the individual championship of the World Championship and the strongest Russian gymnasts based on the results of the 2023 Russian Cup.

Gymnast, country					Sum
Russian Cup 2023 (FT "Sirius", Sochi, 08.28-09.04.2023)					
Listunova V. Difficulty (D)	13.533 (3) 5.0	15.133 (1) 6.6	14.800 (1) 6.6	14.700 (1) 6.0	58.166 24.2
Melnikova A.	14.150	14.550	14.350	14.100	57.150 (1)
52nd World Championship 2023 (Antwerp, Belgium, 30.09-08.10.2023)					
1 Biles S. (USA) Difficulty (D)	15.100 (1) 5.6	14.333(6) 6.0	14.433 (1) 6.4	14.533 (1) 6.5	58.399 (1) 24.5
2 Andrade R. (BRA) Difficulty (D)	14.700 (2) 5.6	14.500 (5) 6.1	13.500 (10) 5.8	14.066 (2) 6.2	56.766 (2) 23.7
3 Jones S. (USA) Difficulty (D)	14.233 (3) 5.0	14.633 (4) 6.3	14.066 (2) 5.9	13.400 (5) 5.6	56.332 (3) 22.8

Note: the team's position on this apparatus is indicated in parentheses.

champion, and A. Melnikova could compete for the prize in the all-around. As follows from the table 1, 2, the lagging event among Russian gymnasts is the jump.

Conclusions. The pre-Olympic World Championship showed the absolute superiority of the US team, the main contenders for winning the majority of gold medals at the 2024 Olympics. The sanctions imposed on Russian athletes did not allow our gymnasts, who would have been the only team that could compete with the US team, to win a team license for the Olympic Games. At the same time, only in one all-around event, vault, are Russian gymnasts inferior to their foreign rivals.

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