

# NA under 60KG

# OLYMPIC

# PREVIEW



With the Olympic Games following the world championships after such a short amount of time between the two events, I feel that this could impact on the results of the Olympic Games. It is very difficult to perform at the highest level and to win at the highest level at two global events being so close together. I think this will impact on the order of the medals at the Olympic Games.

Consistency of performance at the highest level throughout the Grand Prix and Grand Slam tournaments will be a key element to winning medals at the Olympics. I think the problem will be what colour will be the final outcome.



**Yang** of Chinese Taipei has been one of the most consistent fighters on the world tour and I think without a doubt he will be amongst the medals at the Olympics.



It will be interesting to see what the French selection will be as they have so many to choose from under 60 kg. **Mkheidze** will probably be the first choice and he is finding good form at the moment on the Worlds circuit.

The Japanese had a difficult choice but have only recently decided to send **Nagayama**. Is it the best choice though as he seems to be one who always seems to fall short when it comes to World global events?

**BIG** **CHOCOLICE**

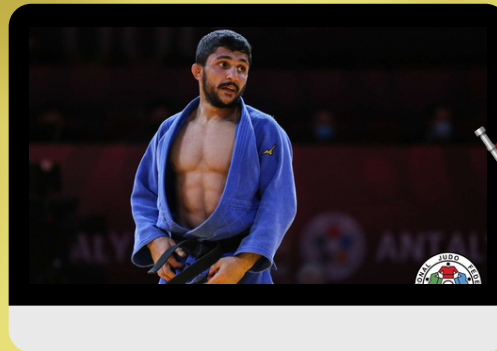


**Aghaev** of Azerbaijan, is always dangerous if he gets on a good run of wins. An exciting fighter to watch, I will be watching for his yoko sutemi waza and his very low seoi otoshi. He can spoil the party for many of the other top ranked competitors by being in the right place at the wrong time, unsettling the other's game plans.



Not doing so well at the world championships probably works to the advantage of the former world champion Francisco **Garrigos** who will be all guns blazing when he comes out at the Olympic Games. This could result in a better performance in Paris for Garrigos.

Look out for the surprises as well because the Olympic games always has surprises tucked away. **Yildiz** of Turkiye is always difficult to beat and nobody will be relishing the fact of fighting whoever they send from Kazakhstan or Mongolia.



We haven't mentioned yet the new world champion **Sardalashvili** who will be riding high after his world championship victory but will have to be aware that he is now the one that everyone else is going to be trying to knock off his pedestal. How he copes with the extra pressure will it be a great learning curve for him for the Los Angeles Olympic cycle.

He is a great talent and with the right guidance could become one of the greats from Georgia.



# TECHNIQUES

to watch for in u60kg

## TACHI WAZA

- **Sardalashvili** 's severely strong techniques such as Sode Tsuru Komi Goshi and Osoto Gari that devastate are surely on the docket but also his ability to counter in a split second.
- **Yang** drops low for seoi otoshi, ippon seoi nage, and tomoe nages, getting in under his opponents to create high-rising dramatic throws
- **Mkheidze** of France is as low as you can go: drop seois, sumi gaeshis, kouchi garis, seoi otoshis with lightning fast reflexes
- Kata Guruma and Yoko Otoshi are this afraid-of-nothing, Azeri, **Aghaev** favourite techniques and in true u60kg fashion, will be missed if you blink.
- **Garrigos** relentless with his Tomoe Nage and Sumi Gaeshi and sometimes the combo of both, he also has a killer Kata Guruma which if he doesn't get Ippon, sets him up for his some nifty ne waza
- The recently selected **Nagayama** has a unique way of executing Ura Nage - it's very low and when it's usually a technique that is broadcasted or waited for, Nagayama seems to pull it out of no where. This along with impressive Morote Seoinage & Uchi mata will also be crowd pleasers.

- **Yang** - his transition looks unstoppable and is most definitely hunting for his sankaku
- a firm favourite on the ground in this category is **Garrigos** who is seamless in his transition and straight into hunt mode.



## NE WAZA

## GAMEPLAY

- **Sardalashvili** - non stop coming forward and attacking is the path we see this young man take
- **Yang** matches the go-go-go action of Sardalashvili and is relentless yet systematic with his attack
- **Mkheidze** - Unbelievable balance and defence. Use of body Positioning and weight placement is phenomenal
- While not necessarily pretty to watch all the time , **Yildiz**'s game play wins him matches and upsets some top players. His ability to not be where his opponent's want him to be, and moving his opponent's just enough to warrant an attack, shows he know how the rules can be played