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THE SUMMER GAMES VIRTUAL MEDAL TABLE

ABOUT INFOSTRADA SPORTS

Infostrada Sports offers unique data, media, analytic and event services to the sports industry. We manage the world's largest sports database, covering over 250 sports worldwide, historic and live.

Over the past 20 years, a central data platform has been developed for sports results and biographical data on tens of thousands of athletes. This wealth of data can be exchanged through a universal protocol, thus providing ready-to-use solutions to clients in all branches of professional sport.

Among others, Infostrada Sports' clients consist of sports federations, national Olympic committees, event organisers, rights agencies, broadcasters, media publishers, brands and app developers.

Australia overtakes Great Britain

Since the last Infostrada Sports' Virtual Medal Table (VMT) update at the beginning of January, important events have taken place in tennis, handball, equestrian-jumping, golf, judo, sailing and badminton. The main changes in the VMT though are due to an improvement to the model which we have applied so that personal bests are accounted for in athletics and swimming events. The main beneficiary from this adjustment is Australia, whose four extra medals to increase from a projected 42 to 46, are a direct consequence of this change. Australia have jumped two places from sixth to fourth in the medal forecast for Rio.

Host nation Brazil is the other country to have improved by more than two medals in January. Brazil is now expected to win 22 medals in Rio, increasing last month's total by three because of its participants' performances in judo, sailing and tennis.

The United States remain at the top of the VMT with 94 medals, increasing by two from last month. China has dropped two medals to 82 and Russia are also down two to 68. Australia is currently fourth and Great Britain fifth. The Australians have overtaken Great Britain after the British lost a projected gold medal - Jessica Ennis-Hill was overtaken by Canada's Brianne Theisen-Eaton because of the adjustment made to athletics events. Both went past Germany and the fight for fourth position in Rio looks like being a tight one with a number of countries in with a chance. The other move within the top-10 in the last month is France and Korea swapping positions in eighth and ninth.

Projected Olympic medals - Rio 2016

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	
United States	42	24	28	94	
China	34	31	17	82	
Russia	25	20	24	69	
Australia	16	14	16	46	↑
Great Britain	15	17	17	49	↓
Germany	15	15	25	55	↓
Japan	15	8	13	36	↑
France	12	11	16	39	↓
Korea	11	4	8	23	↑
Brazil	9	8	5	22	↑

For the full medal table, go to our [VMT website](#).

Australian Open the biggest VMT event of January

The biggest VMT event of the last month was the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, and results in Australia have led to changes to 10 of the 15 projected medals for Rio.

In the men's singles Novak Djokovic strengthened his hold on the likely Olympic gold medal. His tournament victory was his seventh straight in events which are taken account of in the Virtual Medal Table. Djokovic has competed in 16 tournaments in the last year which go into the VMT algorithm, winning 12 and finishing as runner-up in the other four. Lagging someway behind Djokovic is 2012 silver medallist Roger Federer. His conqueror in that final at Wimbledon, Andy Murray, has now passed Federer's countryman Stanislas Wawrinka to take over the projected bronze medal in Rio. Murray is very close to passing Federer too.

The pick for the women's singles gold is still Serena Williams despite her defeat by Angelique Kerber in the Australian Open. Kerber moved into projected bronze in the VMT with that victory, the climax to a consistent set of results in a number of tournaments. Ahead of her in silver is Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska who has won or reached the semi-finals of all of her last six "VMT" tournaments.

Doubles is a little more complicated than singles because very few pairs competing on the tennis circuit are from the same NOC. The best doubles performances from each country are therefore combined. Brazil have taken over the gold medal position in the VMT after Bruno Soares' Australian Open men's doubles title with Great Britain's Jamie Murray. Soares' expected partner in Rio is world number one doubles player Marcelo Melo.

In the women's doubles Martina Hingis and Sania Mirza's win in Melbourne has pushed their two countries up to the gold and silver medal positions respectively in the Virtual Medal Table with the United States dropping down. India are also currently projected the Mixed Doubles gold with Mirza likely to pair up with Rohan Bopanna or Leander Paes in Rio.

Ten NOCs are expected to win medals in Olympic tennis this year, equalling the record 10 different NOCs from Athens 2004.

Projected medals in Tennis - Rio 2016		🥇	🥈	🥉
United States	🇺🇸	1	1	1
Brazil	🇧🇷	1	1	0
India	🇮🇳	1	1	0
Switzerland	🇨🇭	1	1	0
Serbia	🇷🇸	1	0	0
Poland	🇵🇱	0	1	0
Germany	🇩🇪	0	0	1
Great Britain	🇬🇧	0	0	1
Romania	🇷🇴	0	0	1
Russia	🇷🇺	0	0	1

German handballers into projected bronze

Germany's European Championship win against Spain last weekend helped "Die Mannschaft" into the projected bronze medal position for the men's event at this summer's Olympic Games. Last year's World Championship silver medallists Qatar fall to fifth position in the Virtual Medal Table despite their Asian Championship success because of the lower weighting the VMT gives that tournament in comparison to its European equivalent. London 2012 gold medallists France and 2013 World Champions Spain retain their gold and silver medal positions in the VMT despite finishing fifth and second respectively at the European Championship.

The women's World Championship event took place in December 2015 with the surprising Dutch team finishing in the silver medal position after losing to Norway in the final. Norway and the Netherlands are projected gold and silver at this year's Olympics with Romania currently in the bronze medal spot, ahead of host nation Brazil. The Romanians beat Brazil at the first knockout stage of last year's World Championship. The Dutch and Romanians have not yet qualified for the Olympics though and must take part in an Olympic Qualification tournament in March. Spain must also go through this process to take part in the men's tournament at the Olympic Games.

France and Norway have won Olympic gold at each of the last two Olympic Games and are forecast to win their third successive golds. No country has won three Olympic handball golds in the men competition while Denmark is the only one to do so in the women's event (1996, 2000, 2004).

Handball has been one of the most competitive team sports at the Olympic Games with 13 different NOCs winning medals at the last four Olympic Games. Korea is the only one of those medal winners from outside Europe. If the Netherlands win a handball medal in Rio it will be their first. Neither Qatar nor Brazil, who have both performed well at men's World Championships since the 2012 Olympics, have been on an Olympic podium before.

Olympic Handball medal Winners - 2000-2012
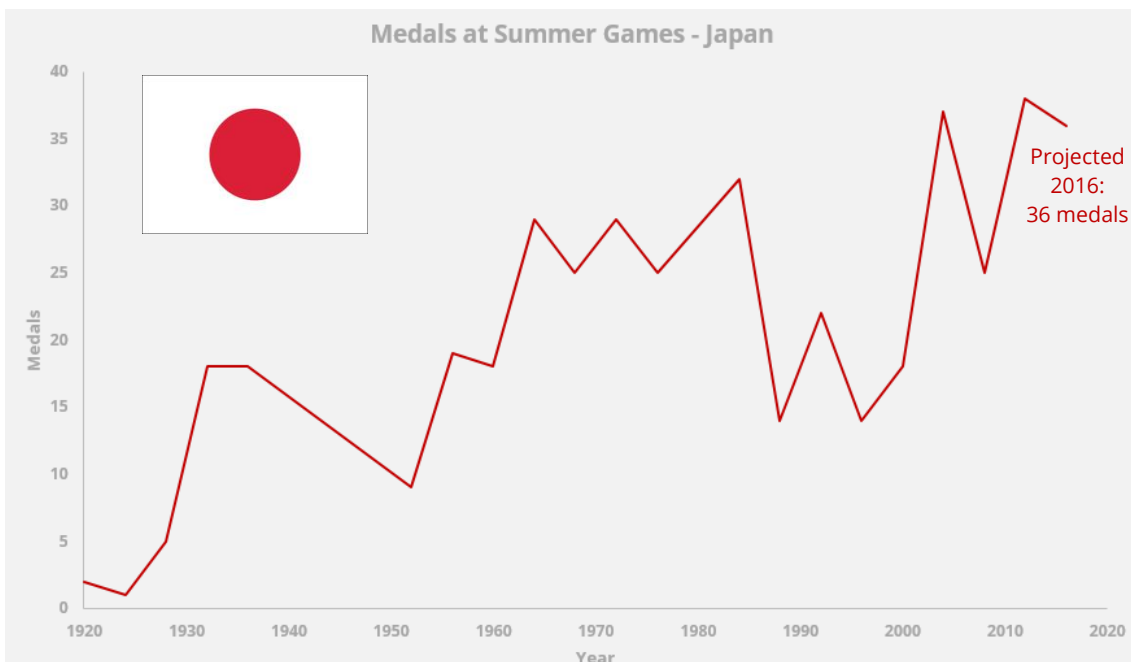
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Fourth place and possible record breaking Games realistic for Japan

2020 Olympic host nation Japan recorded its best medal haul at the Games four years ago in London when the country won seven gold, 14 silver and 17 bronze medals. The VMT expects a similar performance this time around for Japan but with an increase in the number of golds which might threaten the record of 16 at Tokyo 1964 and in Athens 40 years later.

With six months to go before the Rio Olympics begin, Japan is currently projected to win a total of 36 medals including 15 golds. Nearly 80% of those medals are expected to come from judo, swimming, artistic gymnastics and freestyle wrestling. Those four sports were also the most successful for Japan in each of the last three Olympic Games in Athens, Beijing and London.

The Japanese have always won medals at judo with at least seven per Olympic edition since women's events were added in 1992. The VMT forecasts 11 judo medals in Rio which would break Japan's record of 10 in 1992 and 2004. The nine projected medals in swimming are close to the 2012 performance but three golds would be the best since 2004 and one more would make it Japan's best Olympics in the pool since 1936. Rio is shaping up to be Japan's best Olympics in artistic gymnastics since Los Angeles 84.

The rest of Japan's medals at this year's Games are expected to come from athletics, badminton, fencing, football, synchronised swimming, table tennis and taekwondo. With a total of 15 golds, Japan is very much in the battle for fourth place in the medal table. Australia, Great Britain and Germany are likely to be their rivals on the Rio medal table for that fourth spot.

Medals at Summer Games - Japan

Projected 2016: 36 medals

New Olympic sports favour New Zealand

The All Blacks Sevens team won their first World Series tournament for a year last Sunday, beating South Africa in the final of the New Zealand Sevens in Wellington, a result which took them back into the projected gold medal position ahead of Fiji who were third in this latest leg of the world series. The women's rugby sevens team is also expected to win Olympic gold for New Zealand so the sport provides two of the country's eight projected golds, a total which, if realised, would equal New Zealand's best ever haul of eight gold medals at the 1984 Olympic Games.

The remainder of New Zealand's gold medals are expected to be won on the water, in sprint canoeing, rowing and sailing. It was a similar story 32 years ago when these three sports also provided the vast majority of New Zealand's golds in Los Angeles.

However, it is in the new Olympic sports of rugby sevens and golf where New Zealand are likely to profit more than any other country. Last year's Evian Championship winner Lydia Ko is forecast by the Virtual Medal Table to win silver in Rio so the three of New Zealand's 20 predicted medals are expected to be delivered by these two new sports.

Projected medals in new Olympic sports - Rio 2016			
	🥇	🥈	🥉
New Zealand	2	1	0
United States	1	0	1
Korea	1	0	0
Australia	0	1	1
Fiji	0	1	0
Ireland	0	1	0
Canada	0	0	1
South Africa	0	0	1

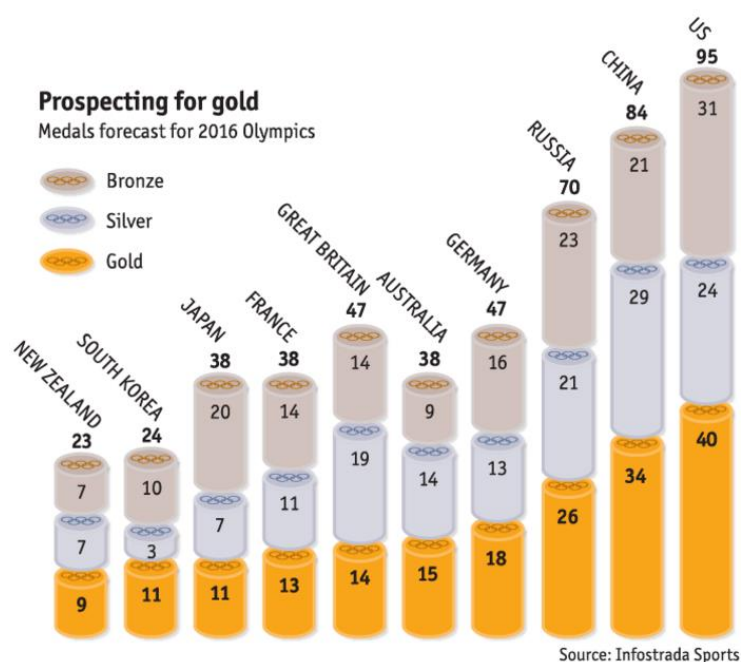**World Class** Data and Intelligence

Virtual Medal Table In the News

The Infostrada Sports' Virtual Medal Table has been receiving a lot of attention in the international media since our last newsletter in December. A small selection of that media attention is below. If you'd like our help to improve your editorial output with our Virtual Medal Table, please contact us: vmt@infostradasports.com

BBC, United Kingdom: "The most recent prediction from sports statistics company Infostrada had GB in fifth place on 48 medals"
http://www.bbc.com/sport/olympics/35414068

ABC News Radio, Australia: "Simon Gleave is Infostrada Sports Head of Analysis and he tells ABC NewsRadio's Tracey Holmes how Australia's moved to just outside the top three"
http://www.abc.net.au/newsradio/content/s4400290.htm

The Economist: "Infostrada Sports, a Dutch analytics company, forecasts a respectable 21 medals for Brazil, which would be its best performance ever."
http://www.theworldin.com/article/10456?fsrc=scn/tw/te/bl/ed/letthegamesbegin

L'Equipe, France: "Infostrada Sports, a Dutch company specialising in the collection and analysis of big sports data estimates that France will perform better in Rio than in London"
http://www.lequipe.fr/Tous-sports/Actualites/Qui-seront-les-medailles-francais-aux-jeux-de-rio/621669

Korea Herald, Korea: " Earlier this month, Infostrada Sports, a Dutch sports data analysis firm, unveiled its Virtual Medal Table (VMT) and projected South Korea to win 12 gold medals."
http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160125000278

De Volkskrant, Netherlands: "The Dutch are on the way to a record medal total at the Olympic Games in Rio according to the monthly calculations from sports data company Infostrada Sports"
http://www.volkskrant.nl/sport/nederland-stevent-af-op-recordaantal-medailles-in-rio~a4219237/

CBC, Canada: " Expect Canadian divers to shoulder a good chunk of the country's medal hopes in Rio, according to the latest data from Infostrada's Olympic medal predictor."
http://www.cbc.ca/sports/olympics/summer/olympic-medal-prediction-canada-1.3390715

Around the Rings: "Kenya is now on track to win a record 17 medals at the Games this year."
http://aroundtherings.com/site/A__54372/Title__Expert-Predicts-Record-Shattering-Medal-Counts-for-Rio-2016----ATRadio/292/Articles

NZ Herald, New Zealand: "Infostrada, a Dutch analytics company, predicts that New Zealand will win 23 medals overall - nine golds, seven silver and seven bronze. If its prediction is accurate, it would make Rio the country's most successful Summer Olympics yet."
http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11568833

NZ'S MEDAL PROSPECTS FOR THE RIO OLYMPICS
(according to The Economist)

		GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	US	40	24	31	95
2	China	34	29	21	84
3	Russia	26	21	23	70
4	Germany	18	13	16	47
5	Australia	15	14	9	38
6	Britain	14	19	14	47
7	France	13	11	14	38
8	Japan	11	7	20	38
9	S Korea	11	3	10	24
10	New Zealand	9	7	7	23

Rowers Hamish Bond and Eric Murray winning gold at the 2012 London Olympics

Source The Economist, Infostrada Sports. Picture Brett Phibbs / Herald graphic