

From Athens To Beijing



137 Nations Involved

At the first Games five countries launched altogether six competitors. By Rome 1960, the number of nations involved exceeded fifty. The record was noted at the 100th anniversary of the Olympic Games, when in the field 77 nations were represented.

As of Sydney, the picture changed as the women could also join the Olympic competitions. At the 2000 Games, 63 countries could send men, 47 nations could enter women to the Olympic events. These numbers for Athens were: 66 (men) and 44 (for women).

(Let us note that of course these figures would be significantly higher, were no strict limitations imposed by the IOC on the Olympic participation.)

As mentioned in the preamble of the "From Athens To Beijing" summaries, this is the first ever correct summary of the Olympians of 108 years.

The aggregate number of nations participating in Olympic weightlifting events between 1896 and 2004 was 137.

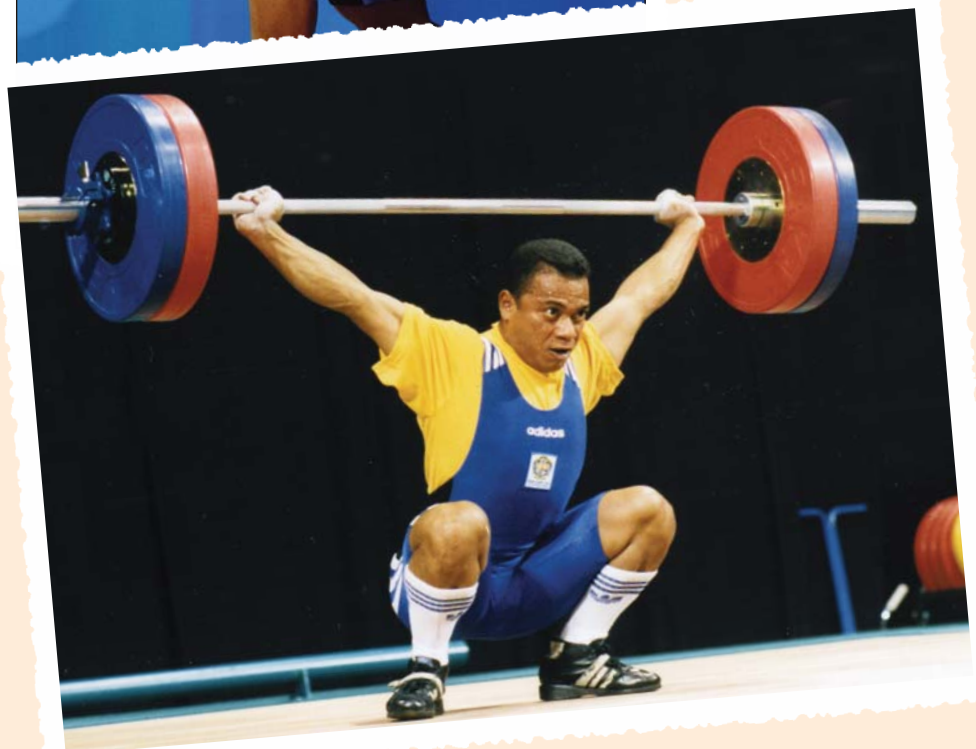
STEPHEN Marcus, NRU took part in three Games. Our photo dates in 1996 at the Atlanta Olympics. Who thought then that he would become his country's President in 2008?

Breakdown of 137 Nations by Continent and Gender

Continent	Men & women	Men only	Women only	Total no. countries
AFRICA	8	10	-	18
ASIA	11	16	1	28
EUROPE	18	27	-	45
OCEANIA	6	8	1	15
PAN-AMERICA	12	19	-	31
Total	55	80	2	137



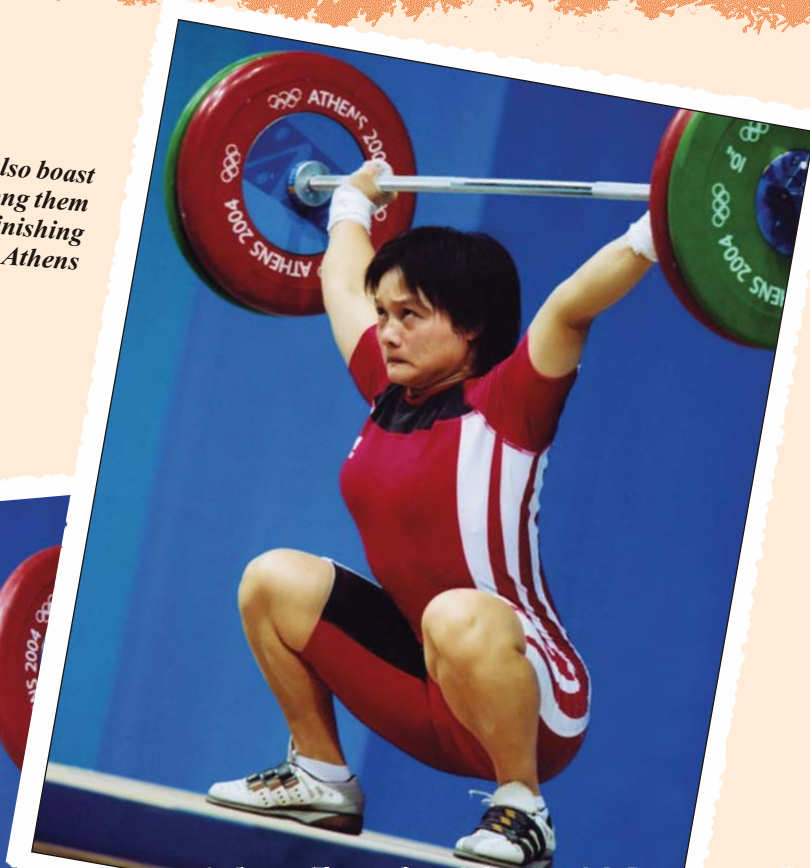
YAMECHI Madeleine can be the first female weightlifter having represented two countries in Olympic Games. In Athens she ranked 7th for Cameroon but recently she has been participating under the French tricolour



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Vietnam can also boast Olympians, among them NGUYEN Thi Thiet, finishing in 6th place at Athens



TOUIA Dika from Papua New Guinea has already visited two Games, ranking tenth, then sixth. She is entered to Beijing as well

DABAYA Vencelas, representing CMR in 2004, landed in 5th position. Since then, he won World Championship gold for France. In Beijing he is going to join the Club of athletes representing two nations

