

Saina Nehwal achieves India's First Silver At BWF World Badminton Championship

- After scaling China wall, Saina Nehwal hits another .
- Saina Nehwal settles for silver at BWF World Badminton Championship.
- Saina Nehwal needs to crack left-handed puzzle before Rio 2016.

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(Saina Nehwal (Left) and Carolina Marin (Right) at Awards Ceremony of Badminton World Federation Championships, Istora Stadium, Jakarta)

JAKARTA: Ace India shuttler Saina Nehwal defeated local favourite Lindaweni Fanetri in 21-17, 21-17 in the last-four to reach her maiden Final of the Badminton World Championships in Jakarta on Saturday. With her triumph on Saturday, the Olympics Bronze Medallist became the first Indian ever to make it to the Final of the world Badminton Championships – 2015.



Saina lost her final match against defending Champion. Despite Saina's brave fight against Carolina, by leading early in the first two sets, she let go off the advantage and ended up at 16-21 19-21 against number one seed. From 7-all in the opener, the gap would open like a crocodile's jaw – 11-7, 16-10 and finally 21-16.

Even when the Indian led 12-6 in the second, there were long rallies alright — some Saina even won — but Marin's defense was outrageously persistent and she'd invariably chase the shuttle around and still find energy for the kill-shot, slumping Nehwal even further.

Between 13-all and 17-evens in the second set, Nehwal would offer her best resistance — long constructed rallies finishing in an attacking smash as Marin started tiring, but for large parts of the match, the Indian had forgotten her instinctive weapon — the brutish smash — or wasn't allowed to remember. "She was defensive, and the initiative was not there. She looked more worried about what Carolina would do next than playing her own game," coach Vimal Kumar said.

"Today I didn't play my best, I could've done better. Too many mistakes in first game. In the second, I had a lead, but points went by very quickly and within no time she was level. I could've been more patient then during those 4-5 points," Saina said. "In the second set, I was on the slower side. I was trying to make rallies happen but the points went very quickly".

Saina is a good three years older than Marin and more experienced on the circuit. But that doesn't necessarily equate the experience of the big final. "When you have the experience of playing a WC final, it's easier. She was more free and not thinking of winning or losing," Nehwal said.

Indian Medal Winners in World Badminton Championships

The following are the Indian medal winners at the World Badminton Championships which started in 1977;

1983 - Copenhagen: Bronze Medal - Prakash Padukone (Men's Singles)

**2011 - London: Bronze Medal - Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa
(Women's Doubles)**

2013 - Guangzhou (China): Bronze Medal - PV Sindhu (Women's Singles)

2014 - Copenhagen: Bronze Medal - PV Sindhu (Women's Singles)

2015 - Jakarta: Silver Medal - Saina Nehwal (Women's Singles)
