

India's PV Sindhu beats China's top player to enter the Semi-finals at the Rio Olympics



Aug.17: The 21-year-old Hyderabad native earned a place in the Women's Singles Badminton Semi-finals at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics after besting China's Yihan Wang in the quarterfinals. Wang is ranked second in the world, making Sindhu's victory even sweeter. Sindhu, the current World No.10, began playing the sport at the age of eight.

India's P V Sindhu showed remarkable skills to upset world number two Wang Yihan of China in the Badminton women's singles quarter-finals to enter the semi-finals of the Rio 2016 Olympics. Sindhu won the a thrilling, but tiring, match in straight sets (22-20, 21-19) dominating her opponent with attacking play.

With the win Sindhu became only the second Indian women's player to reach the semi-final of Olympic Games after Saina Nehwal at the 2012 London Games. The tenth seeded Indian displayed a great combination of aggression and defence as Wang tried to gain the upper hand with net play. Sindhu was up to the task and returned most of Wang's drops and smashes.



The first set was dominated by Wang in the first half as she went into the break leading 11-8, but Sindhu came back stronger and made it 14-14 before running away to a lead of 20-17. Wang made a late comeback to tie it 20-20 but Sindhu kept her cool to win it 22-20. Both players showed great skills and made use of their long reach and height. It was neck-to-neck in the first set. Wang looked a better player, but the momentum shifted in Sindhu's favour at the end of that set.

Sindhu carried that momentum in the second set and raced to a 8-3 lead and at the break she led 11-8 before Wang showed great defence which frustrated Sindhu. The score was tied 13-13 when Sindhu opened up a five-point advantage. She was running away with the set and led her opponent 18-13 with some brilliant cross-court smashes. Wang was up for a fight and she scored six consecutive points to lead 19-18. That was the last point she scored.



Sindhu directed three shots at Wang's body and the Chinese netted two of them to give Sindhu the match. Wang's cross-court drop attempt found the net and Sindhu collapsed to the ground, celebrating the win, and semis berth.

Sindhu is now a win away from assuring India a medal in the women's singles category. If she wins her semi-final, she plays the gold medal match, which assures at least a silver for India. If she loses, she would have to play a bronze medal play-off with the loser of other semi-final. She plays her semi-final against Nozomi Okuhara of Japan on Thursday.
