



# TEAM CHINA BOUND FOR LONDON



## BADMINTON

### These three are basically a lock

The seemingly unbeatable badminton team has also set its sights on a multi-gold finish with a glittering roster that features Lin "Super" Dan and women's world No 1 Wang Yihan. After delivering an emphatic Thomas Cup victory in May at home, the Chinese shuttlers have vowed to defend the three titles they won in Beijing while making up for losses in the men's and mixed doubles.

#### RESULTS AT PREVIOUS OLYMPICS

**2004 Athens Games:** 3 gold medals (women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles)

**2008 Beijing Games:** 3 gold medals (men's and women's singles and women's doubles)

**China Daily's gold-medal projection for London:** 3 gold medals

#### ROSTER

**Men:** ★ Lin Dan (above), Chen Jin, Chen Long, ★ Cai Yun, ★ Fu Haifeng, Chai Biao, Guo Zhendong, Xu Chen, ★ Zhang Nan

**Women:** ★ Wang Yihan, ★ Li Xuerui, Wang Xin, ★ Ma Jin, Tian Qing, ★ Yu

Yang, ★ Wang Xiaoli, ★ Zhao Yunlei

#### STARS TO WATCH

**LIN DAN, 28**

**Birthplace:** Longyan, Fujian province

**Highlights:** 2008 Beijing Olympic men's singles champion

Four-time World Championships men's singles titles (2006, 2007, 2009, 2011)

Widely considered the greatest badminton player of all time, Lin had completed the "Super Grand Slam", having won all nine major titles including the Olympics, Worlds, Sudirman and Thomas Cup in badminton by the age of 28. One more Olympic gold medal will perfect "Super"

Dan's career.

**WANG YIHAN, 24**

**Birthplace:** Shanghai

**Highlights:** 2011 World Championships women's singles title

2012 Uber Cup team champion



Coached by twice Olympic champion Zhang Ning, Wang has emerged as the backbone of the female squad, which lacks leadership after Zhang's retirement. The current world No 1 expects to fulfill her vow to lead the team by winning her first Olympic title in London.

## TABLE TENNIS

### China should run the table (and paddles)

Last year's Worlds and World Cup champion duo Zhang Jike and Ding Ning will lead the men's and women's table tennis teams as they set out to defend all four titles on offer.

Despite missing several key members, including former women's leader Zhang Yining, who retired in 2008, China still seems invincible in the face of challenges from South Korea, Germany and Singapore.

"The Olympics holds different meanings for different teams. But for us, it only means winning as many gold medals as we can," said Liu Guoliang, head coach of the men's squad.

Still, officials remain alert.

"We are confident in our players. But to win all four gold medals is much more difficult than expected," said team leader Huang Biao.

China has won 20 out of 24 gold medals available since the game was introduced into the Olympic program in 1988. Four years ago in Beijing, it took away all six medals in the men's and women's singles, plus gold in both team events.

#### RESULTS AT PREVIOUS OLYMPICS

**2004 Athens Games:** 3 gold medals (men's doubles, women's singles and doubles)

**2008 Beijing Games:** all 4 gold medals (men's and women's singles and teams)

**China Daily's gold-medal projection for London:** 4 gold medals

#### ROSTER

**Men:** ★ Zhang Jike, ★ Wang Hao, ★ Ma Long, ★ Xu Xin

**Women:** ★ Ding Ning, ★ Guo Yue, ★ Li Xiaoxia, ★ Liu Shiwen

#### STARS TO WATCH

**ZHANG JIKE, 24**

**Birthplace:** Qingdao, Shandong province



**Highlights:** 2011 World Table Tennis Championships men's singles title  
2011 World Cup men's singles title

Winning two major titles last year, Zhang will be the fourth in history to achieve a career grand slam if he claims his first Olympic singles gold medal in London. The 24-year-old has been surging as the male team's new leader after veteran Ma Lin's exit.

**DING NING, 22**

**Birthplace:** Daqing, Heilongjiang province

**Highlights:** 2011 World Table Tennis Championships women's singles title  
2011 World Cup women's singles title

Replacing the injured Guo Yan on the Olympic roster in May, Ding is keen to prove in London that she is worthy of being drafted at the last moment. Boasting a solid mental toughness and impressive overseas record, Ding reminds people of the team's former leader Zhang Yining.



## SHOOTING

### Taking up arms for the country

Claiming a record five titles in Beijing, the Chinese shooting team is unlikely to emulate that performance due to the absence of some of its "old guns", but it still seems capable of snaring at least three titles on the men's and women's 10m ranges plus veteran Du Li's 50m rifle three-position event.

#### RESULTS AT PREVIOUS OLYMPICS

**2004 Athens Games:** 4 gold medals (men's 10m pistol, rifle and 50m rifle 3-position champions, women's 10m rifle champion)

**2008 Beijing Games:** 5 gold medals (men's 10m pistol and 50m rifle 3-position champions, women's 10m pistol, 25m pistol and 50m rifle 3-position champions)

**China Daily's gold-medal projection for London:** 3 gold medals

#### ROSTER

**Men:** Ding Feng, Du Yu, Hu Binyuan, Li Jun, ★ Pang Wei, Tan Zongliang, Wang Tao, Wang Weiwei, Wang Zhiwei, Zhang Jian, Zhang Tian, ★ Zhu

Qinan, Lan Xing

**Women:** Chen Ying, ★ Du Li (above), ★ Guo Wenjun, Li Peijing, ★ Liu Yingzi, Su Yuling, ★ Wei Ning, ★ Yi Siling, Yu Dan, Yuan Jing

#### STARS TO WATCH

**PANG WEI, 25**

**Birthplace:** Baoding, Hebei province

**Highlights:** 2006 ISSF World Shooting Championships women's 10m air rifle



pistol title

2008 Olympic Games 10m air pistol champion

**DU LI, 30**

**Birthplace:** Zibo, Shandong province

**Highlights:** 2006 ISSF World Shooting Championships women's 10m air rifle

Two-time Olympic champion (2004 women's 10m air rifle, 2008 women's 50m rifle 3-position)

The "love birds" of the shooting team, Pang and Du expect to shoot down gold for their son's second birthday, which comes during the Games. Both have already vowed to defend their Beijing Olympic titles.

## WEIGHTLIFTING

### Weights in their hands, weight on their shoulders

The weightlifters will carry a heavy burden following China's eight titles from a total of 15 categories in 2008. First-time Olympian Wang Mingjuan and Beijing's 85kg winner Lu Yong will lead a 10-strong lineup to fight for four and three golds on the women's and men's sides, respectively.

#### RESULTS AT PREVIOUS OLYMPICS

**2004 Athens Games:** 5 gold medals (men's 62kg and 69kg, women's 58kg, 69kg and +75kg)

**2008 Beijing Games:** 8 gold medals (men's 56kg, 62kg, 69kg and 85kg, women's 48kg, 58kg, 69kg and 75kg)

**China Daily's gold-medal projection for London:** 5 gold medals

#### ROSTER

**Men:** ★ Lin Qingfeng, Lu Haojie, ★ Lu Yong (below), ★ Lu Xiaojun, ★ Wu Jingbiao, ★ Zhang Jie

**Women:** ★ Li Xueying, ★ Wang Mingjuan, ★ Zhou Jun, ★ Zhou Lulu

#### STARS TO WATCH

**LU YONG, 26**

**Birthplace:** Sanjiang Dong autonomous county, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region

**Highlights:** 2008 Beijing Olympic champion (men's 85kg)

2009 World Championships title (men's 85kg)



After fellow 69kg Beijing Olympic champion Liao Hui was banned by the IWF for doping last November, Lu was left the only leader on the young men's team. He will try to inspire a roster lacking in Olympic experience by defending his title in London.

**WANG MINGJUAN, 26**

**Birthplace:** Yongzhou, Hunan province

**Highlight:** Three-time World Championships winner at 48kg (2003, 2005 and 2009)



Replacing the current 48kg world record holder Tian Yuan in the last minute, the surprising substitute is expected to provide a solid performance in the event. The veteran missed the last two Games due to temporary slumps and will be looking to bag her first Olympic gold medal at the age of 26.