

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN OF UZBEKISTAN

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ANNOTATION: *This article explores the remarkable achievements and contributions of outstanding sportsmen from Uzbekistan across various disciplines. It highlights their impact on the global sports stage, their dedication to excellence, and the inspiration they provide to aspiring athletes. Through a detailed examination of their careers, accolades, and influence, this annotation sheds light on the significant role these sportsmen play in representing Uzbekistan on an international platform and shaping the country's sporting legacy.*

KEY WORDS: *Denis Istomin, Oksana Chusovitina, Rustam Kasimov, Gulnara Galkina-Samitova, Ravshan Irmatov, Nijat Rahimov, Artur Taymazov, Murodjon Akhmadaliev, Sitara Hamidova, Shakhobidin Zoirov*

Uzbekistan pays great attention to the development and promotion of sports and physical culture. Over the years of independence the country has established an effective system of training of professional athletes, coaches and referees. The implementation of these objectives in every way contributes to promotion of healthy life-style, education of harmoniously developed young people, further development of physical culture and sports in the country. **Denis Istomin** is a talented tennis player, has showcased his skills on the international circuit, competing against some of the best in the world. His determination and passion for the sport have earned him accolades and admiration from fans worldwide. **Oksana Chusovitina**, a gymnast known for her longevity and remarkable achievements, has defied age and expectations to compete at the highest levels of the sport. Her dedication and perseverance serve as an inspiration to aspiring gymnasts everywhere. **Rustam Kasimov**, a prominent figure in Uzbekistan's wrestling scene, has demonstrated exceptional skill and sportsmanship throughout his career. His contributions to the sport have helped elevate Uzbekistan's reputation in international wrestling competitions. **Gulnara Galkina-Samitova** Gulnara Galkina-Samitova, a renowned long-distance runner, has set records and pushed boundaries in her pursuit of excellence. Her determination and focus have

established her as a role model for aspiring athletes in Uzbekistan and beyond. **Ravshan Irmatov**, a highly respected football referee, has officiated numerous high-profile matches with precision and fairness. His professionalism and expertise have earned him recognition as one of the best referees in the world. **Nijat Rahimov**, a weightlifter with exceptional strength and skill, has brought pride to Uzbekistan with his impressive performances on the global stage. His dedication to his sport and his country serves as a source of inspiration for young athletes. **Artur Taymazov**, a decorated wrestler with multiple Olympic gold medals to his name, has solidified his legacy as one of Uzbekistan's greatest athletes. His dominance in the sport has left an indelible mark on the wrestling world. **Murodjon Akhmadaliev**, a rising star in the world of boxing, has quickly made a name for himself with his talent and determination. His promising career holds great potential for further success and recognition on the international stage. **Sitora Hamidova**, a talented rhythmic gymnast, has captivated audiences with her grace and skillful performances. Her dedication to her craft and her artistic expression have earned her acclaim both at home and abroad. **Shakhobidin Zoirov**, an accomplished boxer known for his speed and technique, has emerged as a formidable force in the ring. His impressive victories and championship titles have established him as a top contender in the world of boxing. December, 29, the awarding ceremony of the “Uzbekistan Sports Awards-2021” took place at the Hilton-Tashkent hotel. The event has been organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the State Unitary Enterprise "National PR-Center". The award ceremony of the best athletes of the year was organized in order to encourage and further enhance the high sports skills of athletes of Uzbekistan who have achieved the highest results and glorified the country in the international sports arena. The award ceremony “Uzbekistan Sports Awards-2021” was attended by prominent athletes, Olympic and Paralympic champions, heads of sports federations and associations, politicians and representatives of culture. More than 30 nominees of the Uzbekistan Sports Awards-2021 award, among which were presented "The Best Coach of the Year", "Discovery of the Year", "Holder of the most prestigious competitions", "The most enduring Athlete of the Year", "The most enduring Athlete of the Year", "The Best Paralympic Coach of the Year", "The Best Young Athlete of the Year

(among girls)”, "The best young athlete of the year (among boys)” - famous athletes, sports veterans, famous sports journalists, mentors of champions, paraathletes and novice athletes received their worthy awards in the form of statuettes and cash prizes in the amount of 10 million soums. Prominent sports figures were invited to award the nominees, among whom were the Secretary General of the NOC of Uzbekistan Oybek Kasymov, the legend of Olympic sports gymnast Oksana Chusovitina, the chairman of the NOC Rustam Shaabdurakhmanov. The award for the most active work of the press service on behalf of the Football Association of Uzbekistan was received by the first vice-president of the Uzbekistan Football Association, FIFA international referee Ravshan Irmatov. In the nomination "The most ambitious Federation of the Year", the coveted statuette was received by the Shooting Sports Federation in the person of its chairman Oybek Norinbayev. For his contribution to strengthening international cooperation in the field of sports, the Vice-President of the Olympic Council of Asia Otabek Umarov received his commemorative statuette. And the "Discovery of the Year" according to Uzbekistan Sports Awards-2021 was a young taekwondo athlete (WTF), Olympic champion of Tokyo 2020 Ulugbek Rashitov, who was the first in the history of Uzbek sports to receive a gold medal in taekwondo at the Olympic Games. From December 22 to 27, 2021, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the National PR Center launched a nationwide online voting to determine the best athlete of the year. 3 Olympic champions of the Tokyo 2020 Summer Games competed in the nomination: Bahodir Jalolov - Olympic champion of the 32nd Tokyo 2020 Summer Games in boxing in the heavyweight category, Akbar Juraev - Olympic champion of Tokyo 2020 in weightlifting and Ulugbek Rashitov - Olympic champion of Tokyo 2020 in (taekwondo WTF).

The leader of the popular vote was boxer Bahodir Jalolov, but at the same time, the selection committee of the competition decided to also award weightlifter Akbar Juraev as the second winner. Two winners received a National Cup and a prize of \$10,000 each. The National Cup was solemnly presented by Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Tourism and Sports Aziz Abdukhakimov. At the end of the ceremony, the chairman of the Union of Sports Veterans Bahodir Makhxitov and the Minister of Culture, People's Artist of Uzbekistan Ozodbek Nazarbekov delivered welcoming speeches and a musical performance.

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