

Ele.. you might be making history !

Samoa superstar weightlifter, Ele Opeloge, competing in the finals of the +75kg category, in her last clean and jerk at the Beijing Olympic Games lifted 152kg for the bronze medal but dropped it behind and consequently placed 4th. It was the highest ranked performance by any Pacific weightlifters at the Olympics.

Today, eight years later, and with advanced drug testing equipment, the IWF reported on their website (public disclosure) that as a consequence of the IOC's reanalyses of samples from the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, (IOC – wave 2) the samples of 15 athletes have returned adverse analytical findings.

Amongst these 15 athletes are the silver and bronze medallist of the +75kg category from the Beijing Olympics.

The two female athletes in question are: Olha Korobka from the Ukraine (silver medallist) and Mariya Grabovetskaya from Kazakhstan (bronze medallist).

This now means that there is a strong possibility that Ele Opeloge could be elevated from 4th position to the silver medal position, once the final results come out. Will this have a fairy tale ending ?

The Pacific Island nations have already won a silver medal in boxing at the 1996 Olympics with Paea Wolfgramm from Tonga, a gold medal in Rugby in Rio from Fiji and now possibly the first ever weightlifter and the first ever female athlete from the Pacific to win a Silver Medal at the Olympic Games.



Ecstasy as Ele lifts 152kg for bronze on her third attempt at the 2008 Beijing Olympics



Disbelief as she drops the bar behind. **No lift.** Ele's coach Jerry Wallwork in the back ground



Anguish at what could have been the first medal ever for Samoa and the Pacific island nations in weightlifting.