

## Paes promises an Olympic medal

Leander Paes Tuesday promised that he and Mahesh Bhupathi will put their best foot forward at the Beijing Olympics and that they will not let the country down.

'I think the personal egos will take a backseat when we play for our country. I have always believed that the country should come first for any sportsperson and I will go out and give my best shot,' Paes said on the sidelines of a book release function here.

'Mahesh will be playing his fourth Olympics and for me it will be fifth. We have a lot of experience of playing together and also winning grand slams. That will all come good for us,' said Leander.

'I won a bronze medal at the 1966 Atlanta Olympics. That was a proud moment for me and I will try to better it in Beijing,' he said.

Leander's immediate concern is to strike a combination with his new doubles partner Lukas Dlouhy of Czech Republic at the French Open after his recent separation with Australian Paul Hanley.

'Rankings of both Paul and mine were going down, so there was no point in playing together. I had trouble in finding another partner for the season, but finally I decided on Lukas, who was also looking for somebody,' Paes said.

'Lukas has reached the finals of the US and French Open last year and I hope that we can perform well on the circuit.'

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