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KEES
tae kwon do

April 10, 2008

Press Release

2008 Canadian Junior Taekwondo Championships

On April 5th & 6th the 2008 Junior National Taekwondo Championships were held in Calgary Alberta. Yorkton had four athletes participating in this event. Derek Barr ("B" Division Fin weight), Francis Bazin ("B" Division Light Middle), Kira Schaab ("A" Division Featherweight), and Rae Ashcroft ("A" Division Light Middle).

Derek Barr was the first competitor from Yorkton to take the floor on Saturday April 5th during the "B" division event (ages 13&14). He won his first match 7-0 against an outmatched Alberta opponent. His next match was against Quebec and although Derek fought well, some very well placed shots did not go up for him on the scoreboard and he lost the match 5-1. This being Derek's first attempt at a national event, we look forward to his progress in the future. Francis Bazin had his first match against a fighter from Quebec. Although there was no lack of effort, Francis did not progress losing the match 9-2.

On Sunday April 6th, the "A" division competitors (15yo-17yo) took the floor with the winner of each weight class being named to the Junior Canadian Taekwondo Team that would travel to Izmir, Turkey for the World Junior Championships in early May.

Kira Schaab had an excellent match against Quebec. With only a few seconds remaining Kira was winning the match by a score of 5-3. Quebec managed to tie the game with only 2 seconds remaining and the match went to sudden death overtime. Kira lost the match on a well placed counter kick. Kira's opponent eventually went on to win the gold medal. Kira's coach Graeme Mitchell says "Kira is the hardest working athlete that I train. It was a tough loss, but she will come back stronger than ever.....she will make the national team."

Rae Ashcroft had another great year at this event. She moved through her first three matches without a lot of problems. In her last match, although she fought well, had great ring control and stuck to her game at the end of the third round, the score was tied at 4-4 and the match went to overtime. Rae continued to fight well, but a small mistake cost her the match. She repeated her performance from a year ago and captured the silver medal. We are all proud of her, as we are with all our athletes. They are a focused, determined group of hard working individuals, and only good things will come to them in the very near future.

The next event for Kees Yorkton is the Senior Team Trials in Ottawa on May 24th. Autumn Ashcroft will be representing Saskatchewan and is looking to make Team Canada and competing at the Pan-Am Championships in Puerto Rico in late November 2008.

For further information contact Wayne Mitchell at the above phone numbers.