



MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

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Winnipeg Wrestling Club

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the three young athletes from the Winnipeg Wrestling Club who competed in the Frank Harchnko Memorial Cup. The competition took place in Bydgoszcz, Poland, and our athletes, Kyle Garner, Elizabeth Sera and Aislynn Torfason, along with Erica Wiebe from Ontario, represented not only Canada but North America.

They left for Poland September 24, 2006, and began the week with a training camp being run by the Gwiazda Wrestling Club. The training camp was punctuated with a dual meet between Canada and Poland, and Canada was victorious four to three.

Kyle was the first to compete on September 30. He placed seventh over all, a great accomplishment at his first international competition. It was also Elizabeth's first international competition, and she placed eighth overall against competitors from Norway, Poland and Russia. Aislynn won a silver medal, Canada's first in the competition, and Erica won all her rounds, earning her a gold medal. Together, the girls' combined results earned them fifth place in the team rankings.

Throughout the two days of competition, the hot commodities were the pins and T-shirts the Canadian athletes had taken with them to give out. Mysteriously, the team's water bottles and lanyards also disappeared. Due to the amazing results and the excellent conduct and sportsmanship displayed by the team, the Winnipeg Wrestling Club has not only been invited back to Bydgoszcz but also to two Russian tournaments and a couple of tournaments in other cities in Poland.

We can be proud to have such excellent athletes representing Winnipeg and Canada internationally. I would like to congratulate Kyle, Elizabeth and Aislynn, who is one of my constituents, for their hard work in the competition and for their conduct and sportsmanship.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.