



PRESS RELEASE

CANADIAN FENCERS WIN NINE MEDALS AT 2009 PAN-AM CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 9, (El Salvador) - Canada won a total of 9 medals at the 2009 Pan-Am Zone Fencing Championships in El Salvador, San Salvador. This competition brought together the best fencers across America and marked the last stop before the Canadian team heads to the World Championships, coming up this fall in Antalya (Turkey).

In the individual events, Canada won three bronze medals: **Philippe Beaudry** (Montreal, QC) in Men's Sabre, **Etienne Lalonde Turbide** (Verdun, QC) in Men's Foil and **Hugues Boisvert-Simard** (Quebec, QC) in Men's Epee.

In the women's events, five Canadians finished in the top 8. **Shannon Comerford** (Saskatoon, SK) and **Olga Ovtchinnikova** (Montreal, QC) both finished 6th in foil and sabre, respectively. In foil, **Kelleigh Ryan** (Ottawa, ON) and **Monica Kwan** (Victoria, BC) finished right behind their teammate Shannon, in 7th and 8th place. **Gabrielle Lavoie** (Québec, QC) ranked 8th in the epee.

In the team events, all six Canadian squads left with a medal. The Men's Epee Team (Tigran Bajgoric, Hugues Boisvert-Simard, Tomy Linteau, Vincent Pelletier) was close to victory, but after a tight match that ended in overtime, Venezuela won 15-14, leaving Canada with the silver medal. Also silver medalists, the Women's Epee Team (Kinga Kovacs, Gabrielle Lavoie, Ainsley Switzer, Sherraine Schalm) lost 45-31 to the Americans. Finally, the Women's Foil Team (Shannon Comerford, Monica Kwan, Kelleigh Ryan and Annie-Claude Therrien) added a third silver medal, also losing to USA in finals.

The Men's Sabre (Philippe Beaudry, Vincent Couturier, Nicolas Mayer, Joseph Polossifakis), Men's Foil (Julien Gaudreau-Pollender, Étienne Lalonde Turbide, Anthony Prymack and Nicolas Teisseire) and Women's Sabre (Julie Cloutier, Olga Ovtchinnikova and Wendy Saschenbrecker) teams all won bronze medals. Note that Sandra Sassine (sabre) could not take part in the team competition because of a foot injury.

The next important competition of the national fencing team will be the upcoming Senior World Championships, September 30 – October 8, 2009 in Antalya, Turkey.

The Canadian medal winners at the championships were:

SILVER (3)

Men's Epee Team: Tigran Bajgoric (Montréal, QC), Hugues Boisvert-Simard (Québec, QC), Tomy Linteau (Québec, QC), Vincent Pelletier (Québec, QC)

Women's Epee Team: Kinga Kovacs (Calgary, AB), Gabrielle Lavoie (Québec, QC), Ainsley Switzer (Toronto, ON), Sherraine Schalm (Brooks, AB),

Women's Foil Team: Shannon Comerford (Saskatoon, SK), Monica Kwan (Victoria, BC), Kelleigh Ryan (Ottawa, ON), Annie-Claude Therrien (Laval, QC)

BRONZE (6)

Men's Epee: Hugues Boisvert-Simard (Québec, QC)

Men's Foil: Étienne Lalonde Turbide (Verdun, QC)

Men's Sabre: Philippe Beaudry (Montréal, QC)

Men's Foil Team: Julien Gaudreau-Pollender (Granby, QC), Etienne Lalonde Turbide (Verdun, QC), Anthony Prymack (Montréal, QC), Nicolas Teisseire (Boucherville, QC)

Men's Sabre Team: Philippe Beaudry (Montréal, QC), Vincent Couturier (Verdun, QC), Nicolas Mayer (Mont Royal, QC), Joseph Polossifakis (Montréal, QC)

Women's Sabre Team: Julie Cloutier (Repentigny, QC), Olga Ovtchinnikova (Montréal, QC), Wendy Saschenbrecker (Ottawa, ON)

FINAL MEDAL STANDING

| | Or | Argent | Bronze | Total |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. USA | 10 | 5 | 7 | 22 |
| 2. VENEZUELA | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 3. CANADA | - | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 4. BRÉSIL | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| 5. PANAMA | - | - | 1 | 1 |

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