

Report
2015 World Kendo Championships, Japan

May 21-25

During this time, the Team Canada Womens were privileged to go to Moriya Highschool in Ibaragi for a last keiko/shiai practice just before the WKC. As part of conditioning and final tuning before the championships, we were able to do many shiai keiko with Moriya and other highschools that were preparing for their provincial team tournaments. This was a great opportunity for the Womens team as the players were finally able to practice together to build team spirit as well as strengthening the bond. This preparation and practice time was very beneficial to all the women players as we built up focus from the shiais that we did with the highschool students. At the last practice in Moriya, we had a great match against the students, and we felt we've come out with great spirits and vibe to head to Tokyo.

On note: We were originally supposed to head to Tsukuba University for a evening practice on the 25th. However, due to minor injuries and with having a good momentum with the practice at Moriya, we have decided as a team to cancel the practice at Tsukuba and head straight to the Olympic Village.

May 25-28

After getting to the Olympic Village and meeting with the rest of the Team, the womens were able to share time with the TC Men. Keeping focus was one of the main challenges as our environment and surroundings changed from city to city. During practice times at the Olympic Village, we focused more on basics and drills, and some techniques learned while in Moriya. Morning stretches and suburi led by Manabu Ogawa was a great way of waking up the body in preparation for the upcoming days.

May 29-31 (WKC)

After seeing the individual mens competition on the first day of WKC, the womens were able to take advantage of the feel and space of the budokan to prepare for the next day of competition.

On the day, we were determined to give our 100%. Although we were unable to place this WKC, we gave all our efforts without any regrets. With four rookies and four experienced TC members, we had a fairly good run for Japan 2015. With two fighting spirits at hand, I feel proud of all my teammates for their hard work and dedication. As the womens captain of this team, I hope I was able to do my part in leading the team in the right direction. Having much to learn from my teammates along the way, I am very happy and proud of each player for their great teamwork and spirit they've shown to the rest of the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped and supported us to get to the 2015 WKC in Japan. Arigatou gozaimashita.

Akiko Fukushima

Team Canada Womens Captain 2015