

## Mgr's Report - 16th WKC

I think for all kendoists (young and old) attending a kendo taikai (especially the WKC) in Japan is something special. Our Men's and Women's teams had worked very hard over the last 2 years getting ready for the WKC. I felt that their dedication and commitment to the team process and each other made their performances stronger. I was very happy with how everyone performed and I think the CKF membership can also be happy with how these players represented their country and the CKF. I am sure everyone knows about the team through Facebook etc. but I wanted to list a few of the team activities leading up to the taikai, as well as the choosing of the team.

The player selection process was done through a 2 stage evaluation process. The 1<sup>st</sup> stage was visiting our 3 main centers (Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver). All interested prospects were put through an evaluation (conducted by the Management Group based on various assets such as speed, offense/defense etc). Successful prospects were then invited to 2 gasshukus where they would be evaluated against each other as well as against Team Canada alumni. At this point, the candidates were down to 10 men and 8 ladies. This group went through to a 3<sup>rd</sup> gasshuku where the Team Canada members were finalized.

The Team left for Japan on May 20<sup>th</sup> (4 days early) to get acclimatized. The men stayed in Tokyo while Hayashi-Sensei took the ladies to train at Moriya High School.

### TC Men

- The men started their practice at the Shudoukan Dojo. The dojo's Head Instructor is Nakamura-Sensei (a 3rd generation Sensei of the dojo). This dojo was arranged with very generous help from Kamata-Sensei. During this time, Raymond-Sensei had 2 a day practices where the men worked very hard.
- Canada's members for the Individuals were Tuan Anh Hoang, Elliott Altilia, Takashi Yamada and Tsuyoshi Hamanaka. They fought well with Takashi leading the way getting to the round of 16.
- I am sure some CKF members were disappointed in the first round elimination of the team. However if you looked at their matches against Sweden and Norway, you would see a team totally in control and just had the misfortune of a bad draw. I believe that a draw into any of the other groups, our team would have been able to move up the ladder fairly well.

### TC Ladies

- Hayashi-Sensei took the girls to practice at Moriya High School. While I was not with the girls, I heard many good things about their practices.

- Canada's Individual Ladies were Bora Choi, Ayaka Sugiyama, Kyrene Kim and Hanaca Yamada. Our girls also fought very well. Both Ayaka and Bora had a chance to move on but lost in the preliminary rounds , Kyrene had a great tournament getting to the round of 16's but Hanaca showed everyone her strength getting to the round of 8 narrowly losing to a Japanese competitor. Hanaca received the "Fighting Spirit Award" for her efforts.

### Recommendations

- I believe the process of choosing our coaches earlier was extremely beneficial towards the making of the team.
- The process of evaluating the players allowed for more members to participate which I believe was more beneficial to all CKF members.
- We need to somehow give our players more exposure to "High Level" kendo.

I am really Thankful for all of the support given to the team by the CKF Executives, as well as the general CKF membership! To walk into the Budokan and see (as well as hear) our many supporters that made their way to Tokyo to cheer on the team was truly amazing. I can honestly say that our players gave their all.

In closing I would like to extend special thanks to Kamata-Sensei. He made all of the arrangements for the Men's practice facility in Tokyo as well as financially aiding the team. He cannot be thanked enough for all of his efforts in supporting Team Canada!

Ray Murao  
Team Canada Manager