

Pair of Whitby residents compete at Karate Nats

NEW BRUNSWICK -- Two members of Whitby's International Chito Ryu Karate and Fitness (ICKF) school represented Ontario at the Canadian National Karate Championships in St. John, New Brunswick.

For Jarrett Booth it marked his first appearance at Nationals, while on the flip side, teammate Chris Burke was competing on that stage for the third time.

Burke, a student at Father Leo J. Austin Secondary School, won medals in his first two showings at Nationals, but this time he took the cake, capturing his first Canadian championship by winning his 16-17-year-old 76 kilogram division.

Burke won his first match 7-2 against a strong competitor from Quebec and followed that up with an impressive 9-1 victory over his Alberta opponent. In the final Burke was back up against another Quebec

performer who he edged out by a 4-3 count to capture the championship.

"Chris had an excellent performance and this result is due to the years of hard work that he has put in," said ICKF instructor Ed Docherty. "This was a very special day."

As for Booth, the Donald A. Wilson Secondary School student, his first Nationals turned out to be a learning experience as he competed in the 14-15-year-old 63kg division. In his first match Booth got the best of his opponent from Alberta and scored a 5-2 victory. In the second round things were going well again for Booth, but unfortunately he was disqualified for excessive contact and ended up finishing in fifth place.

"Jarrett is a real up and comer and this Nationals was a great experience for him," said Docherty. "He is hard working and his fifth place finish is a

good start to build on.

Docherty was one of five coaches selected by Karate Ontario to accompany the team to Nationals.

"I am very proud of these two young men. They work hard and most importantly they have good attitudes," said the coach.



Submitted Photo
Chris Burke, left, and Jarrett Booth, members of International Chito Ryu Karate and Fitness, recently competed at the National Championships in New Brunswick.