

# Dylan Creaney karate chops his way to bronze

## Whitby resident fights his way to two bronze medals in Las Vegas tournaments

**LAS VEGAS, NEVADA** -- Luck was certainly on the side of Dylan Creaney this month, not to mention skill.

Creaney, a 17-year-old Whitby resident, has had the good fortune of being able to compete in three karate tournaments in Las Vegas, Nevada, winning bronze in two of them.

At the first tournament, the North American Cup, Creaney won the bronze medal in his first international competition. The second event was the Junior Olympics and the third was the U.S. Open, the largest open competition on the continent, where he again won bronze.

The North American Cup is a tournament where top karate athletes from Canada, the United States and Mexico compete against each other. In total Canadians took home six gold medals, three silver medals and 13 bronze medals.

"It was my first international experience," Creaney said. "And it was an amazing one."

Creaney's trip to the Las Vegas tournament was earned back in March when he won the bronze medal at the Canadian National Karate tournament in Richmond, B.C.

Creaney also competed in the Junior Olympics and the U.S. Open. They featured competitors from 45 countries around the world and had more than 2,300 competitors. Creaney placed third in his weight class at the U.S. Open, a significant accomplishment considering the amount of competitors.

"Throughout the years, I've watched members from ICKF (International Chito Ryu Karate and Fitness based in Whitby), like Chris Burke and Sami Iannuzzi, represent Canada and wear the Canadian flag on their karate gi," Creaney recalled. "I worked hard to earn the flag on mine, but it wouldn't have happened without my sensei, Ed Docherty, all the members of ICKF and the support of my family."

Creaney has been participating in karate since he was eight with Docherty, and this past December Creaney earned his black belt first dan. A dan is a rank; there are ten dans one can receive at the black belt level.

Competing at the tournaments in Nevada has been a big eye-opener for Creaney because of the skill of the competition.

"There is still so much to learn and I am up for it. I was so proud to wear my gi for Canada and I can't wait to do it again."

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