

Three Cattowners off to worlds

By Murray McCormick, Leader-Post- March 23, 2009

The demands of a wrestling season were as plain as the cuts and scrapes on Connor Malloy's face.

The most noticeable injuries are a nickle-sized scrape on the bridge of Malloy's nose and a split bottom lip that the Regina wrestler acquired during the season.

"It has been a pretty long season so my face hasn't had time to heal," Malloy said Sunday after the Canadian junior and senior wrestling championships concluded at the SportPlex. "It just keeps getting bashed up. It's getting tiring but now we have time to relax. Hopefully my face will heal a bit."

Malloy, who competes in the junior division at 74 kilograms with the Cattown Wrestling Club, has two gold medals to help heal his wounds. He won gold medals in the freestyle and Greco-Roman events during the Canadian championships. Those medals can go along with the gold medal he won at the Canada West championships and bronze at the CIS championships as a first-year member of the University of Regina Cougars wrestling team.

"It has been a really good couple of months for me," said Malloy, 19. "This tournament has been my goal all year because it was my chance to make the world junior team and it's nice to achieve that."

Malloy, Jasmine Slinn and Lisa McKibben, all Cattown members, earned berths on the Canadian junior team for the world championships, Aug. 4-9, in Istanbul, Turkey. Slinn finished first in the women's 48kg division and McKibben won a gold medal in the women's 67kg division.

It's second consecutive national championship that Slinn has won without surrendering a point. In 2008, Slinn won gold at the Canadian juvenile championships.

"It's all of the hard work putting time into the training every morning and every night," said Slinn, who was named the outstanding female wrestler in the junior women's division. "When I wrestled in juniors last year, I didn't do that well but I knew that I could compete against them. I had my mind set and I wanted to win."

Jade Parsons, also of Cattown, finished second in the junior women's 51kg division. Parsons is an alternate with the junior women's world team.

Cattown's Kirk Ackerman, wrestling at 55kg, earned a bronze in the junior men's and a gold in the Greco-Roman discipline.

In freestyle, Cattown was second in the women's club standings and third in the men's. Cattown also finished second in the junior men's division in Greco Roman.

"We're coming," said Cattown head coach Leo McGee. "We're the youngest program in the country and we're getting better every 20 minutes."

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