

2009 World Championships Herning Denmark

Between Monday 21st September and Sunday 27th September 2009, the World Wrestling Championships took place in Herning, Denmark, with 51 countries competing from all five continents of the world.

The Great Britain team travelled to Herning after a very successful training camp in Russia, which ensured all our athletes were well prepared, confident and fit for the challenge ahead.

Our athletes were:

Male

Krasimir Krastanov	55kgs
Jatinder Rakhra	60kgs
Michael Grundy	74kgs
Leon Rattigan	96 kgs

Female

Yana Stadnik	48kgs
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First Day

The first day of competition saw both Krasimir and Leon in action with the following results:

55K – Krasimir Krastanov

1/16 final v LTU
win 1-0, 2-2

1/8 final v PRK
lost 0-5, 0-3

Repechage v MON
won 0-2, 4-0, 1-0

Repechage v UKR
won 7-0, 7-0

Bronze Medal v BLR
lost pin 1st period

96K – Leon Rattigan

1/16 final v ISR
won 2-1, 3-1

1/8 final v GER
lost 1-0, 1-3, 2-4

World Championship placing – 5th World Championship placing – 11th

Both athletes wrestled extremely well and Leon was very unlucky not to progress further in the competition after losing the second round to the German athlete on a very controversial refereeing decision.

Krasimir's 5th place was a fantastic achievement which he thoroughly deserved, after overcoming some excellent wrestlers and it is hoped that in future he may well be able to go one better and achieve a medal at a major championships.

Second Day

On the second day, Jatinder was our only athlete competing with his matches as below:

60K – Jatinder Rakhra

1/16 final v RUS
lost 0-5, 0-3

Repechage v IRI
lost 0-2, 0-3

World Championship placing – 32nd

Jatinder met an excellent Russian athlete in the first round and was simply not experienced enough to deal with the Russians technical ability. In the repechage Jatinder lost again to a very strong Iranian wrestler. As he moves forward, Jatinder will need to concentrate on making a smooth and successful transition from the junior to the senior ranks and I expect this experience will only serve to help his development.

Third Day

The third day of action saw our two remaining wrestlers in action namely Yana and Michael. The results for each are as below:

74K – Michael Grundy

1/16 final v ROU
won 0-1, 2-0, ROU retired injured

1/8 final v IND
lost 0-1, 2-3

Female 48K – Yana Stadnik

1/16 final v IND
Win pin first period

1/8 final v TUN
Win pin first period

1/4 final v CAN
Win 7-1, 5-2

Semi final v AZE
lost 0-4, 0-2

Bronze Medal match v UKR
lost 0-2, 4-3 - Yana was pinned.

World Championship placing – 12th World Championship placing – 5th

From a personal point of view, I thought both showed a great deal of commitment and determination producing great results. Michael now seems to be realising some of his potential and if he stays injury free and focussed over the next couple of years then he will become increasingly successful. Yana was simply excellent and if she hadn't got caught in a hip throw after taking a 4 – 0 lead in the second round of her bronze medal match, then I personally think she would have been a World medallist, as the momentum of the match was clearly going in Yana's favour.

Great Britain finished 17th out of the 51 countries competing. Our best finish in modern history at the World Championships.

Overall, the World Championships were very successful for Great Britain and a clear milestone in the progression of our programme and team. The event represents a clear and distinct improvement in the standards that our wrestlers can achieve and let's now hope we can now build on this success.

I would like to add my personal congratulations to all our athletes who competed, as they were all professional, committed and wrestled to their full potential.

Shaun Morley
BWA Performance Director