

2009 World Championships Herring Denmark News releases

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GB wrestlers come fifth at Worlds

British wrestlers Krasimir Krastanov and Yana Stadnik have finished fifth in their respective competitions at the World Championships in Denmark.

Bulgarian-born Krastanov came fifth in the 55 kilogram freestyle tournament after losing out 5-3 to Ridzan Gadzhiev in the bronze medal match.

Stadnik, 22, who was born in Ukraine, lost to her Azerbaijan sister-in-law Mariya Stadnyk in the 48kg division.



Krastanov won gold at July's Grand Prix in Madrid

"They are both fantastic achievements," said GB Wrestling chief Malcolm Morley. Krastanov had lost to the eventual gold medal winner Kyong Il-yan of North Korea in the round of 16, but by virtue of losing to the eventual champion, he was able to compete for one of the two bronze medals.

He went on to beat Naranbaatar Bayaraa of Mongolia and Mykola Aivazian of Ukraine, before losing to Gadzhiev.

"Obviously we're disappointed that Krasi couldn't go that one step further, but he put in a fantastic display, and we're very proud of him," added Morley

Stadnik, who lives in Manchester, defeated opponents from India, Tunisia and Canada before losing to the eventual gold medallist.

"We're very proud of her, and it's a great boost for British wrestling, and I am sure her success will rub off on the rest of the GB international squad," said Morley.



Ukraine-born Stadnik has lived in England for two years

Leon Rattigan went out in controversial fashion after a farcical finish to his 96kg contest with Germany's Oldrik Wagner.

Rattigan was declared the winner but, following protests from Wagner's corner, was made to fight an extra round.

"It was complete farce and a real sickener for Leon," said Morley. "He's devastated he didn't make it to the last eight.

"Essentially he was winning his match and when the whistle went to signal the end of it, he stopped wrestling, but Wagner didn't and scored two points to tie the scores.

"The Germans then protested that they hadn't heard the whistle amid the noise of the spectators, and though Leon's arm was raised to signal a victory, Wagner was awarded the points, and Leon was made to fight a decisive third round.

"He was so down after all the kerfuffle, Wagner got the better of him and took the victory - but it was pure farce, and I really feel for him."

Michael Grundy made it through to the second round in the men's 74kg division, while in the 60kg, Jatinder Rakhra was beaten by Russia's Besik Kudukhov, who would go on to win gold, in the first round, and then lost his first round match in the repechage.



Monday 21 September 2009 20:07

Krastonov narrowly misses out on a medal, while Rattigan bows out amid pure farce!

British wrestler Krasimir Krastanov has narrowly missed out on a medal on the first day of competition at the World Championships in Herning, Denmark.

Bulgarian born Krastanov, who moved to England three years ago and now lives in Manchester, finished fifth in the 55 kilogram freestyle tournament after losing out to Ridzan Gadzhiev in the bronze medal match.

Earlier, he lost to the eventual gold medal winner Kyong Il-yan of North Korea in the round of 16, and by virtue of losing to the eventual champion, was then able to compete for one of the two bronze medals.

After victories over Naranbaata Bayaraa of Mongolia, and then Mykola Aivazian of Ukraine, he missed out on his medal chance by losing 5-3 to Gadzhiev.

"No medal, but fifth in the world is a fantastic achievement," said GB Wrestling chairman Malcolm Morley. "Obviously we're disappointed that Krasi couldn't go that one step further, but he put in a fantastic display, and we're very proud of him."

Earlier, there was controversy over the second round exit of Bristol's Leon Rattigan in the 96kg freestyle tournament. Rattigan was actually declared the winner against Germany's Oldrik Wagner - but was then made to fight an extra round, following protests from Wagner's corner.

Explained Morley: "It was complete farce, and a real sickener for Leon - he's devastated he never made it to the last eight. Essentially he was winning his match, and when the whistle went to signal the end of it, he stopped wrestling, but Wagner didn't, and scored two points to tie the scores.

"The Germans then protested they never heard the whistle amid the noise of the spectators, and though Leon's arm was raised to signal a victory, Wagner was awarded the points, and Leon was then made to fight a decisive third round.

"He was so down after all the kurfuffle, Wagner got the better of him and took the victory- but it was pure farce, and I really feel for him."

Britain has three other wrestlers taking part at the world championships: Jatinder Rakhra, Mike Grundy and Yana Stadnik. They are in action on Tuesday.



Friday 18/09/2009 12:50

Denmark bound GB wrestlers look to make their mark on the world!

Five British wrestlers are heading off to Denmark to take part in the World Wrestling Championships.

The championships take place in the Danish city of Herning, getting underway on Monday, and running until September 27.

Wigan's Mike Grundy, at 74kg, Leon Rattigan from Bristol (96kg), Jatinder Rakhra from Slough (60kg), and Manchester based Krasimir Krastanov (55kg) and Yana Stadnik (48kg) are flying the British flag, with hopes high of at least one medal.

"We have been performing very well in international competitions this year, achieving some very encouraging results, and I hope that will be reflected at the World Championships," said GB Head Coach, Nikolai Korniyev. "All five British wrestlers who are going will be very competitive, and they are certainly not going to make up the numbers.

"But while medals is always nice, this is also about improvement, and measuring that against the best wrestlers in the world. British wrestlers are making very good progress, and I hope to see that in Denmark."

Stadnik, who came to England three and a half years ago, and has now made Manchester her permanent home, is the sister of Andriy Stadnik, a silver medalist at last year's Beijing Olympic Games, and says her ambition is to put another member of the family on the international roll of honour.

"It was wonderful to see my brother do so well at the Olympics last year, and it has given me the incentive to make sure he is not the only member of the family to win medals at such a high level," she said. "I am proud to be representing Britain at a major event, and I really want to be good enough to be part of the GB team at the Olympics in 2012.

Rattigan, Grundy and Rakhra say they are all aiming for a top ten finish, and see the World Championships as another stepping stone to fulfilling their goals of being part of the London 2012 Olympics. Said Rakhra: "We want to prove that British wrestling is making the improvement we believe it is, and obviously this is a big event for us.

"Obviously the London Olympics is a great incentive for all of us, and taking part at the world championships gives us a great idea of where we're at and how far we have to go. It's going to be good experience, and all five of us will be looking to make our mark."

Bulgarian born Krastanov, who came to England four years ago, and in the past three years has been achieving top three placings in major international tournaments throughout Europe.

"I came to England to escape all the politics that was afflicting wrestling in Bulgaria, and I appreciate the opportunities I have been given by British wrestling," he said. "For that reason I want to repay that faith by achieving good results, and by helping raise the standard of the sport in this country.

"We have some very talented wrestlers in our elite squad, such as Mike, Jatinder, Leon and Yana, and I hope I am a positive influence on all of them during competitions, and during our regular training at the academy in Salford."

To follow the championships, go to www.wwc2009.dk. The championships run from the 21st to the 27th of September