

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian fencer Sherraine MacKay wins gold medal in Puerto Rico!

Carolina, Puerto Rico – In the last World Cup of the season before the much anticipated Athens Olympics, Canadian epee fencer Sherraine Mackay of Brooks, Alta., defeated 2001 World Champion, Claudia Bokel of Germany 11-10 in overtime at the Gigante World Cup in Carolina, Puerto Rico today to capture the gold medal.

MacKay, now a 2-time winner of the Gigante World Cup, cruised to victory over Rosanna Lacarra of the United States 15-5 and Marie Ramirez of Chilli 15-11 in her first two matches. In the quarterfinals she went up against Julie Leprohon of Montreal, Que., and out poked her Canadian teammate 15-11.

In the semi-finals, MacKay faced 2002 World Champion silver medallist, Imke Duplitzer of Germany and the energized Albertan proved to be too much for her, winning the match 15-13 for the second week in a row.

"I'm injury free for the first time all season and I feel really great going into the pre-Olympic training!" Shared the 29 year old who is now ranked fifth in the world.

Due to a disappointing season, MacKay's victory was not only a much-needed moral boost heading into Athens, but she is also \$1,200 richer!

"It's by no accident that the one World Cup I win all year is the only one with a cash prize." Sherraine said with a wink.

Canada was well represented with Julie Leprohon finishing 5th, Madga Krol of Vancouver, BC., placing 8th, Marie-Eve Pelletier of Quebec City, 11th and Joanna Guy finishing 17th.

On the men's side, American Seth Kelsey won his first world cup defeating Jonathan Pena of Puerto Rico 15-14 in a come from behind win. The top Canadian results came from Tars Bakos of Saskatoon, Sask., Tommy Linteau of Quebec, Que. and Igor Tikhomirov of Toronto, Ont., all finishing in the top 16. Charles St-Hilaire from Quebec finished in the top 32.

In Olympic news, the Canadian women's epee team heading to Athens will be Sherraine MacKay, Catherine Dunnette of Calgary, Alta., and Monique Kavelaars of Appin, Ont., While Julie Leprohon of Montreal, Que., has been named the alternate.

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