

BEAT THE STREETS TORONTO

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER



IMPACTING YOUTH
THRU WRESTLING

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2018/2019 season is rapidly drawing to a close and throughout the whole year we've seen lots of success and some terrific performances by some of our BTST wrestlers. We're excited to tell you about it in this newsletter.

This year has been a major restructuring year for us as we adjust our programs to the demands of the communities we service. This year we focused on the after-school programs that we run in underserved areas as our goal was to increase our interactions with the students and athletes that we work with. We are once again very grateful to all the principals and teachers that cooperate with us and help us grow these programs. You are a very important resource to our community and we encourage you to continue to do your best to make a difference in your students lives.

Shout out to our coaches and volunteers, it's been a stellar year, thank you so much for all the work that you put in. We are so happy to work with such great people with such passion for the community. You may not understand the impact of your work until your students and athletes come back to

you expressing their gratitude for everything you've done for them as they recognize it far in the future. We are always very grateful to our Board Members, our Donors and funders for making all this possible. All the Volunteers and BTST staff thank you for all that you do to make Beat the Streets Toronto work!



Thank you!
Neal Ewers
Executive Director



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MONSTER TEAM AT MARTIN GROVE

For the past 3 years Coach Jeremy LaTour has been working tirelessly to build a strong team at Martin Grove CI. Our Beat the Streets Program has allowed him the opportunity to build a feeder system through Dixon Grove Junior Middle School and Hollycrest Junior Middle School, where graduating

students feed into Martin Grove CI. After three years he has already produced multiple podium placers at the OFSAA and Cadet Provincial level and fields a team whose numbers resembles that of a small army. See some of their accolades from this season below...

Coach Jeremy LaTour Recalls his team's performance this year:


Our team Won the South/West Toronto regionals in both Male and Female. It marks the first time that our female team has won a team award of any kind. Our boys placed at almost every event throughout the year coming up just short of also winning the Howard Gairy Memorial at Turner Fenton.

With our quantity of wrestlers came some real quality. Our stand out athletes this year were **Ibrahim Aden-Sabriye** who placed 5th at OFSAA in his grade 9 year, **Stefan Sankar** in his grade 11 year placed 3rd at the provincial championships,

Kush Jain tech falled his way through the city championships and won a couple matches at OFSAA, **Andersen Sojurdeen** would place 6th at the 44KG weight class at OFSAA in his grade 10 year (last year he placed 2nd), **Deglia Dos Santos** lost a nail biter in the semi finals at OFSAA but would go on to capture a bronze medal in his grade 9 year. All the boys were products of the Dixon Grove Junior Middle School program. Our girls team was led by **Rebecca Redlich** and **Priya Laljie**, both girls will be returning next year looking to improve and capture OFSAA medals.

Graduating athletes are **Matthew Avolio**, **Jesse Sukunda**, **Jim Nguyen**, **Umar Asif**. We have a young squad comprised mostly of grade 9's and 10's.

Its honestly easier to feature athletes not coming from the Dixon Grove program as almost 80% of a 50 person roster began in our middle school program at Dixon Grove.



Goals for next year. Go out and perform to the best of our abilities and let everything else take care of itself. We will work on being more humble as a coaching staff and as athletes. Our goal is to let our wrestling do the talking for us. We are picking up a couple of solid prospects and look forward to continuing to grow as wrestlers and people.

A shout out to **Nijan, Josh, Faten Sabaty , Doris Margoram, Andrew Yousef, and Randy Palermo**. As well as everyone from BTST that supports our programming even though they may not be seen their contributions and support have helped more than anyone knows.



BTST WRESTLERS SHOW UP BIG AT THE 2019 CADET/JUVENILE PROVINCIALS

Shout out to our Regional Program where wrestlers from different clubs and high school teams across the GTA train and grow together. The collaborative efforts of the coaches and wrestlers showed some real success at this year's Cadet/Juvenile Provincial Championships. Special thanks to Coaches Krasimir Zhekov, Carlos Vargas, Jeremy LaTour and Neal Ewers for a solid season of running these practices. Special thanks to our volunteer coaches Courtney Lewis, Nijen Cherkezyan, Curtis Wilson, Mark O'Brien, Phil Kennedy, and many others who give their time to make this program work.



The following
wrestlers who
participate in
our program
placed at the
**2018/2019 Cadet/
Juvenile Provincial
Championships:**

GOLD

Brea Rodgers
Mehmet Erkan
Carlos Vargas
Tarleen Saroya
Tarnpreet Saroya
Deglie Lodiera

SILVER

Chad Raye

BRONZE

Arminder Saroya
Stefan Sankar

FOURTH

Kevin Katjiteo
Aidan Lougheed

FIFTH

Arely Torales
Alec Buha

OFSAA – RECAP

Coach Bernard Sanchez:

There was a lot of preparation going into this year's OFSAA Wrestling Championships. We knew going in that West Humber C.I was going to be a team that was going to turn a lot of heads. First day of competition was an amazing experience. We were able to push through 5 of the 10 kids we brought into the semifinals. It was amazing to see the faces of my athletes knowing that their hard work from the previous year was rewarded with a great first day. It was nice to especially see Brea Rodgers and Chad Raye make it through the first day they did not have a good first day last year.

Going into the second day, we had some heartbreak from some tough losses, but that is what this game is all about, learning to move forward no matter what. However, Arely Torales was able to make it through to the finals in a tough



but very clear semi-finals match. One where she was able to avenge her loss from a bad provincials showing.

In the end I was very proud of what we were able to accomplish at OFSAA with this small group of kids who all come from an community that never has opportunities to shine. West Humber came home with a Silver, Bronze, 4th, 5th, and 6th place finish. These accomplishments were only possible with the help of Beat the Streets and their passionate coaches and staff. Great Experience overall!







OFSAA – RECAP

Coach Levon Cherkezyan:

I have been working at BTS Toronto for about 6 months now. I enjoy my work. I find it easy to find the support that I need in our team of coaches. It is also easy to communicate regarding any issues that come up at work. It is a friendly team that really cares about the work. Wrestling is their passion and I enjoy being around people who love what they do.

Last week we participated in OFSAA tournament in Ottawa. As someone new to living in Canada and very new to Canadian competitions I was impressed by the scale of the event. I think our kids were well prepared. In my opinion coaches were giving them highly professional guidance regarding the wrestling strategies. But, what is more important, they were a good emotional support for them both in their wins and losses.

As someone who competed before I understand the emotional intensity of the event for our kids. I understand that the losses may haunt us especially if we are very focused on reaching high results, and, that supporting a kid in the failures and giving them right tools to deal with their ups and down is very important. I believe that our coaches did their best in that regard as well.

Beat the Street Toronto is doing important work helping to channel kids' energy into a creative outlet that may teach them many useful skills. It also helps to create connection for kids with 'big brothers' - coaches who may become their role models. We can share our experience in wrestling and in life which is so important in our world that becomes for our kids more demanding and more isolating.

I feel grateful for the opportunity to work with kids in a supportive environment of Beat The Streets Toronto.

Coach Jeremy LaTour:

This year Martingrove took 7 wrestlers to OFSAA which included 5 men and 2 women bringing home a bronze medal as well as 2 other top 6 finishes. Although this wasn't the result we were hoping for the foundation for future success in the program has been established. Out of the 7 wrestlers that participated at OFSAA 5 out of the 7 came from the Dixongrove JMS program. We will continue to build on the success of our middle school programming to feed our high school..... Next year Martingrove will crack the top 3 at OFSAA.



ATHLETE PROFILES

Arely Torales

I found my wrestling year of 2019 very successful, My goal for this year wrestling season was to give it my all at each tournament and thanks to Beat the Streets Toronto I was able to meet those goals.

Wrestling is a full body sport, from head to toe, and bst helped me improve both my mental and physical game. not only did they provide great training for me but they also helped me financially. During the summer I worked for bst. The money I earned was a big help to my wrestling season because I was able to focus on my school studies and training and not how I was going to pay for my tournaments.



ATHLETE PROFILES

Tyler Berry

My name is Tyler and next month I will be Graduating grade 8 and going on to high school.

I go to The Holy Trinity in Etobicoke and have since my first day of kindergarten. I have always been a pretty good student with decent grades but everything got better after grade 5.

I joined a gym called Battle Arts Academy and soon after joined a wrestling team. After a few months into it I found out about Beat the Streets Toronto.

I would try to make practice every week but because of my Moms job it wasn't always easy. Sometimes older students from BTST would take me there and a coach would make sure I got home okay. Wrestling and Beat the Streets really did change my life.

I was always sort of athletic but too shy to really try. Even in school, I would do my homework but would never speak out or take on any type of leadership.

My principal noticed a change in me just after a year of wrestling. She started

picking me for solo parts in school concerts and for once I was okay with it. What I really like about BTST is the friends I have made. We all live in different areas and go to different schools but it doesn't matter.

The coach's are another reason why BTST has changed me. They are always there for me even if it has nothing to do with wrestling.

I will continue wrestling in high school and know that BTST will be a part of it.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SEASON

This season has been an exceptional season for the Beat the Streets Toronto's Middle School After School Program. It's hard to believe that we started this program three years ago with one school; Dixon Grove Junior Middle School. I remember that year Dixon Grove brought 25 kids to the Fergus Youth Tournament and ended up winning the whole tournament. It is a testament to the hard work of these kids, the coaches and the staff at Dixon Grove three years later to have them be a part of the winning team of the Bantam (12-14yrs) age group at this year's Canada East Festival (National Championship for Provinces east of Ontario)!

Congratulations to all the coaches and the teachers and the principles and all the wrestlers that were involved in this year's program. Since that first year we have grown our after-school programs to 5 middle schools in underserved areas. We currently run programs out of Dixon Grove Junior Middle School, Elmbank Junior Middle Academy and Greenholme Junior Middle School in the rexdale area. We also have programs at Brookview Junior Middle School in the Jane & Finch corridor and Samuel Hearne Middle School in Scarborough.



Our after-school program now boasts over 250 students that participate in regular after school wrestling and mentorship programs. Its constantly growing and the results are astounding. It is great to see the benefits of kids who dedicate themselves to the sport of wrestling and how it affects their academics especially when they develop a passion for the sport. We use that passion to motivate them to do well in school. We are now graduating kids from middle schools who have wrestled for three or more years into a high school program. The benefits of having such a transitory program is that we get to

MIDDLE SCHOOL SEASON

help develop these students into successful people as early as 8 years old and they finish the program at 18 years old, graduating from high school. We also support them with mentorship and job opportunities through our Canada summer jobs programs once they've graduated from high school.

The middle school program is geared towards helping not only the students but parents. Our programs run during the most vulnerable part of the day for these children which is right after school between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. At that time parents can be reassured that their children are participating in a healthy and successful after school program dedicated to driving children to becoming successful adults.

By focusing on building programs at this time of the day we reduce the amount of time these children are left vulnerable to negative experiences from their community and their environment. We are very proud of the fact that many of these children are responding to our programming. According to their parents, behaviors are changing for the better and we received raving reviews from teachers and principals who speak very positively about the impact and effects that are Beat the Streets programs have on their children. We hope to



grow this program and continue to build it with the help of our partnership with the TDSB, all of our donors and funders and our our grantors.

Thank you to everyone involved, thank you for all your contributions and you donations. Visit our website www.btstoronto.com for a better idea of how are after school programs are impacting young people in underserved.







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