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# STEWART STRIKES GOLD IN ITALY

## ABELEV SILVER & CLEAVES BRONZE AT INTERNATIONAL MEET



📷 : DON RYAN

**MAY 30, 2016**  
**SASSARI, ITALY**

This past weekend five athletes from the Black Bears Wrestling Club in Fredericton, New Brunswick competed in the Memorial Matteo Pellicone International in Sassari, Italy. The group, which was part of a strong contingent from Canada, claimed three medals at the event, including one Gold, one Silver, and a Bronze.

The New Brunswick group consisted of Allyssa Cleaves, Samantha Stewart, Ilya Abelev, Grayson St-Laurent, and Alex Thoms. Bring home gold at the event was Samantha Stewart in the Women's 55kg division. Stewart defeated a competitor from Russia to capture the top spot on the podium.

Ilya Abelev finished in second place at the event in the Men's 70kg weight class. Abelev advanced to the finals with a win over an Israeli competitor, but had to settle for Silver after a defeat by 2016 European Champion Magomedmurad Gadzhiev of Poland.

Rounding out the medals was Allyssa Cleaves. Cleaves finished in third place after a win over Canadian Jade Papke in the Women's 48kg division Bronze Medal final.

The five athletes in attendance were selected as part of the 2017 Jeux de la Francophonie Wrestling Program. They will now remain on the Italian island of Sardinia until June 8, for an international Training Camp. The camp will feature athletes from Austria, Colombia, France, Italy, Romania, and Canada.