

■ JUDO: Former resident to compete in Pan American Games in Mexico

# Local joins national judo team

TREVOR HOWLETT  
Today staff

One of Fort McMurray's own will be participating in the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico next month, as 27-year-old Laurie Wiltshire was named to the national judo team.

Wiltshire, who now lives in Calgary, learned the ins and outs of the combat sport at the Ni-Ten Judo club. She has won seven straight gold medals in the 52-kilogram women's category at the Canadian Senior National Championship and currently holds the rank of Sandan, a third degree black-belt. She said she was ecstatic to find out she was selected to go to Guadalajara.

"I'm really excited to go. This was my goal for the year, so I'm looking forward to competing," said Wiltshire.

Wiltshire has been involved in judo for 18 years. The Westwood High School grad said she loves everything about the sport.

"I love training, I love the

competition aspect of it, I love working with my teammates. I just love the whole judo community and staying fit and staying in shape."

Wiltshire said she has high hopes for the Pan American games because she knows a lot of the competitors, having competed against them in the Pan American Championships.

"I'm definitely hoping for top five. I think if I have a good day and everything comes together we'll definitely be top five and hopefully be a contender for a medal.

"I know quite a few of the girls because I've faced them in the Pan American Championship. I placed seventh at the championship last time but everyone I lost to was an eventual medalist. So I know a lot of the top ones, and I should be able to do well."

Wiltshire will be the lone Albertan on the national Judo team at the Pan Am games. The judo portion of the event starts on Oct. 26.

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Supplied photo  
Fort McMurray-raised Laurie Wiltshire will represent Canada in Judo at the Pan American Games in November.

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