

MARACLE, Kylee.

Intell
June 28/90



KYLEE MARACLE WITH HIS WWF IDOLS

Photo-Ady Vos

World Special Olympics

Maracle to wrestle in Holland

With heroes like Hulk Hogan, the Ultimate Warrior, Brutus Beefcake, Randy Savage and the Killer Bees it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that 14-year old Kylee Maracle loves wrestling.

While his professional idols from the World Wrestling Federation are the best in the business, Maracle, of Shannonville, is also an elite wrestling competitor.

The difference between Maracle and the WWF stars is that Kylee has been blind since birth.

Maracle hasn't let his handicap prevent him from participating in athletics. In three weeks he will be competing at the World Special Olympics in Holland.

Maracle says he's been interested in wrestling as long as he can remember and his five years of competing has finally led him to the World Special Olympics.

"I usually compete at 114 pounds but there won't be anyone there (Holland) in that division so they're moving me up to 126 pounds," he says.

Although he admits moving up to a bigger weight class will likely pose some problems he's not overly concerned.

"I'll just have to be a little quicker, that's all. It's going to be hard moving up but that's the way it goes," he says.

A victory at a qualifying meet at Brantford in March has sent Maracle to the championships.

As the Ontario and Canadian blind wrestling champ at 114 pounds, Maracle has had the opportunity of doing some travelling.

He's been to Toronto, Montreal and even Little Rock, Arkansas but he admits flying overseas will be the ultimate.

Although he qualified for the World Special Olympics, Maracle still had to raise the

competition fee and spending money for his close to two-week stay in the Netherlands.

Raising the money didn't prove to be a problem.

Maracle raised the funds thanks to donations by Sam Dean Blue Jay Charters, Procter and Gamble, the Mohawk Recreation Committee, Bayview Variety, Shannonville Take-out plus friends and family.

Maracle, who goes to school in Brampton during the week, leaves for Holland July 14 but the competition doesn't begin until July 21.

He says blind wrestlers start each bout with their hands on the opponents arm. From there it's a matter of knowing the holds, strength and quickness. So far Kylee's skills have taken him to the World Special Olympics.

He says he's ready to meet the challenge.