



















## The Canadian Team finished 4<sup>th</sup> at the World Championships

From September 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> In Vienna, Austria, 18 countries competed at the National Teams World Championships of Racketlon. Team Canada made it to the semi-finals against the winning team of Austria and then played for the bronze medal against Germany. It was only the second year that Canada participated in those national team competitions and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> was satisfying. Last year champion team Poland finished 5<sup>th</sup> and the preceding years champion Sweden finished 7<sup>th</sup>.

In racketlon every point counts as the results of the games up to 21 points of table tennis, badminton, squash and tennis are added to determine the winner. In the context of team matches, every point of every discipline and of every player count which makes it even more exciting. The games or sets in each discipline are up to 11 points instead of 21 and all players in the line up must play successively table tennis before going to the second discipline of badminton and so on to squash and tennis. This team format allows for team members to watch and encourage their teammates during every game. Coaching is allowed before each game and when players change side.

Here is a photo of the team just before playing against Hungary.

### Positions:

- 1 -  Team Austria
- 2 -  Team Finland
- 3 -  Team Germany
- 4 -  Team Canada
- 5 -  Team Netherlands
- 5 -  Team Poland
- 7 -  Team Czech Republic
- 7 -  Team Sweden
- 9 -  Team England
- 9 -  Team Belgium
- 11 -  Team Hungary
- 11 -  Team France
- 13 -  Team Switzerland
- 13 -  Team Slovakia
- 15 -  team Israel
- 15 -  Team Wales
- 17 -  Team Slovenia
- 17 -  Team Russia



From left to right on the photo, the team members are:

	<b>World rankings</b>	<b>Residence</b>
Jeffrey Klotz	82	Toronto, ON
Dany Lessard	94	Dorval, QC
Chantal Castonguay	64	Laval, QC
Evan Mancer	140	Winnipeg, MA
Patrick junior Laplante	62	Granby, QC
Mary Hall	61	Toronto, ON
Frédéric Damours	125	Rivière-du-Loup, QC

The world rankings given above are from August 1<sup>st</sup> and these ranking were used for the order of the players for the single matches. There will be major changes in the ranking of October 1<sup>st</sup> for some players, particularly for Evan Mancer.

The biggest news being spread as a shock wave in the sport center was “Canada has beaten Sweden”. Yes it was a very nice feeling for the team. But let’s not forget how difficult it has been against Hungary. Them too had their eyes on the Swedish team and were hoping to reach the semi-finals. We could feel





the pain in their heart while we were completing the biggest come-from-behind victory of the tournament.

<b>Team Hungary</b>  [HUN] 42 41 24 28 <b>135</b> 29 32 35 50 <b>146</b> <b>+11</b> <b>Team Canada</b>  [CAN]	<b>Team Canada</b>  [CAN] 28 35 26 42 <b>131</b> <b>+6</b> 37 34 35 19 <b>125</b> <b>Team Sweden</b>  [SWE]
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The Hungarian team was leading by 22 points after table tennis and badminton but we came back to win by 11 points. We knew we could finish strong with tennis but frankly we have been scared by the Hungarian team. We remained friends with the Hungarian team for the rest of the tournament as they were pulling for us against other teams, trying to figure out how they themselves would have performed.

#### Key points to remember

- Against Sweden, the badminton match played by Patrick junior Laplante against Stefan Adamsson was very impressive with a score of 11-6 in favour of Patrick. After four disciplines, Patrick was -1 against this player ranked no. 2 in the world.
- Part of our comeback rally against Sweden was the tennis game played by Mary Hall against Liza Wulffeldt. With a score of 11-1, these points were precious for the team victory.
- In our match against Germany for the bronze medal, expectations were on the rise and concerns were visible in the opposite clan when Frédéric Damours and Evan Mancner won their table tennis match in double 11-6 against Lars Bosselmann and Christian Wiessner. It is amazing how some athletes can pick-up abilities in a fourth discipline so quickly.
- The experienced German double team got their revenge right away with a score of 11-6 against Damours/Mancner. Against Germany, we lost only on badminton as the scoreboard shows below.

<b>Team Austria</b>  [AUT] 44 45 37 3 <b>129</b> <b>+43</b> 22 36 26 2 <b>86</b> <b>Team Canada</b>  [CAN]	<b>Team Canada</b>  [CAN] 33 18 35 16 <b>102</b> 32 44 33 16 <b>125</b> <b>+23</b> <b>[2] Team Germany</b>  [GER]
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Performances in individual categories:

- Jeffrey Klotz finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> position in Junior under 21.
- Patrick Laplante finished first in Junior under 21.
- Frederic Damours had made it to the final one week earlier in a Challenger tournament in Linden, Germany. He had beaten in first round German player Lars Bosselmann, ranked no. 10 in the world.
- Evan Mancer has beaten Marcel Weigl from Austria, ranked number 8<sup>th</sup> in the world before being eliminated in the quarter-final round against Krzysztof Samonek from Poland, ranked number 19. Then Evan won against Peter Duyck, ranked number 11, to merit the 5<sup>th</sup> position of the Elite tournament.

What others said about Canada:

EXTRACT FROM THE WEBSITE [WWW.RACKETLON.NET](http://WWW.RACKETLON.NET)

**8-9-2010** **WORLD CHAMPS VIDEO IS NOW ONLINE**



At the 9th FIR World Champs Teams Austria takes its first title with a final close +13 victory in a thrilling final in front of 300 spectators against Finland. Third place went to Germany with a victory over the surprise team of the tournament Canada. A second victory was taken by the Austrian u21 team in the premiere of the Juniors competition, while Germany took the first +45 Seniors medals in Racketlon history. The singles in NOVOMATIC Austrian Open was won by the tournament director himself, Christoph Krenn. In the women's draw, unseeded Marta Jez from Poland surprised to win her first tournament on the FIR World Tour. All results are on [www.resultreporter.com](http://www.resultreporter.com).

The World Champs Teams video is now online on <http://racketlon.at/video-team-wm/>

**Note:** FIR = Federation Internationale de Racketlon



### **Surprise team was Canada**

The surprise team of the tournament was Canada. The North Americans are the first team out of Europe ever to reach the semifinals of a World Champs team event. In the match of third place they lost to Germany, who took the Bronze medal. Especially the victory of Dany Lessards team over Sweden (who were the disappointment of the tournament) in the quarters was glorious with a young and inspired team around the u21 player Patrick Laplante Junior und Squash-god Evan Mancer. In general the competition was so close with many teams at a similar level. The last place went to Russia as 18th but only because the planned women did not get a visa. Sadly neither did the team of Pakistan. "Our charity this year will be donated to Pakistan flood victims", said Tournament Director Christoph Krenn and FIR-President Marcel Weigl reminded: "If we were a recognised sport it would be no problems to get visa. That is why our main aim is still to get 40 official national federations."

#### Conclusion:

It has been a great and fun experience for the team members. New players may have the chance to join the team next year. The 2011 National Team World Championships will be held in May in Italy. Canada has started to build a good reputation in the world of Racketlon and let's keep it up. We can also make a strong team in the Senior category.

Thanks to our sponsors for the tracksuits, T-shirts and car rental. Sponsors are Hydro Expertise, Voith Hydro, Weir Canada, Jean-Sébastien Bonneau FBN, Centre chiropratique de Rivière-du-Loup, and Black Knight.

Dany Lessard  
Team Captain  
Sept.15, 2010