

Connacht students excel at Munster taekwon-do championships



Labane instructor Lisa Connolly with her medal-winning students Charlie Bermingham (left) and Aaron McEvoy.

The success of Connacht taekwon-do students in 2009 seems to have no limits after the magnificent results from this year's Munster championships. Gold was the order of the day as members from white to black belt dominated the various divisions at the first of the four major Irish United Taekwon-do Federation tournaments. Chief instructor of the Connacht Taekwon-do Schools Shane Fitzgibbon led the talented group to Tralee. There were students in attendance from Galway city, Oranmore, Labane, Loughrea, and Ballinasloe. --

The day got off to a great start with a Galway black belt taking gold. Mary Mannion won the third dan ladies' patterns. Fitzgibbon competed in patterns (fourth dan +) and took away third place. Pdraig O'Connor (originally Listowel) won the male +75Kg sparring with distinction. The number of trophies brought back to the county shows the colossal amount of work the instructors have put into their schools, and the schools' immense standing in Ireland.

Other results:

Gustin Forde (Galway), two silver; David O'Connor (Loughrea), gold; Brendan O'Connor (Loughrea), bronze; Kayla O'Connor (Loughrea), bronze; Paul Doyle (Loughrea), bronze; Myriam Cochonneau (Loughrea), bronze; Ciaran Doyle (Galway), silver; Yvonne McHugh (Ballinasloe/Galway), gold, silver; Evan Liu (Galway), silver; Roisin Dalton (Galway), bronze; Pdraig O'Connor (Listowel/Galway), gold; Paul Farrell (Galway), gold; Anthony Datsko (Galway), gold, silver; Brendan Walsh (Galway), silver, bronze; Darragh Rabbitte (Galway), gold; Conor Rabbitte (Galway), silver; Shane Rabbitte (Galway), gold; Mary Mannion (Galway/Athlone), gold; Brendan Kenny (Oranmore), gold; Charlie Bermingham (Labane), gold; Aaron McEvoy (Labane), bronze.