

Project Torch to Host Russian Wrestling Club in International Dual Meet

The Project Torch foundation announced today that it is building on the tremendous success of last year's dual meet against the Beroe Wrestling Club of Bulgaria by following it up this year with a dual meet between some of the best wrestlers from the Chicagoland area and the elite Club Olympus from Dagestan Republic of Russia on Wednesday, June 10th, 2009. The dual meet will be held at R.A. Faganel Hall located at Elmhurst College, 221 Walter Street, Elmhurst, IL.

This rare event comes three years before the next Summer Olympic Games and features high school-aged athletes, some of whom may be taking a shot at the 2016 Olympics, which may be hosted by Chicago. The wrestlers will compete under international freestyle wrestling rules, and there will be a dual meet score kept between the two teams. Line-ups for both teams will be posted on the Project Torch website (www.projecttorchusa.org) by June 3, 2009.

"We're excited to be hosting an event of this magnitude at our school," said Elmhurst College head wrestling coach Steve Marianetti. "For young wrestlers to be able to compete with foreign athletes at such a high level at their age, and especially from a cultural exchange standpoint, it is a great experience to be able to do this."

Team USA coach and Overtime School of Wrestling owner Sean Bormet explained the reasoning for the international dual meet, "We wanted to put together an exchange and host a dual meet that would allow some of the best young wrestlers in the Chicagoland area to measure themselves against some of the best young wrestlers from Russia. I have tremendous respect and regard for the Russian wrestling tradition and their history of success. At the senior level, the Russians are one of the greatest powerhouses in international wrestling today. So it will be interesting to see how we match up at an earlier stage of development. This event will be great for all of the athletes, and for all kinds of wrestling enthusiasts."

R.A. Faganel Hall holds a crowd of 1,800. Ticket are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Kids 5 and under will be admitted for free. Doors open and tickets will go on sale at 6:30pm on Wednesday, June 10th. The first match will begin at 7:30 pm.