

## Montreal's Maccabiah proud Games participation

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Eight medal winner Elise Levinoff with Ami Trauber. Trauber is a former Israeli Olympian and now swims for Canada. Photo courtesy of Maccabiah Canada



When Team Canada marched into the opening ceremonies of the Maccabiah Games in Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium Montreal was in the house as 125 athletes, coaches and support staff from the greater Montreal area were part of the squad. By the time the book was closed on the 20th edition of the Games, Team Canada had racked up a total of 50 medals in Junior, Open and Masters' events. Canada placed fifth in the Open, fourth in the Masters and 16th in Junior, which was good enough for fifth place overall among the 10,000 athletes and 74 nations that took part. The highlight was the gold medal open hockey final as eternal rivals Team USA and Team Canada met in the title tilt at the Pais Arena. Team Canada, which included Montreal's Jordan Simon and Jason Goodman Simon, Canada took the gold by a 7-2 score before a raucous crowd of 9,000 fans in the stands plus countless others as the match was broadcast throughout Israel. Montreal brothers Robbie and Howard Manis were part of the silver medal winning Masters hockey team following a 6-2 loss to Team Ukraine at the Pais Arena. It was a gutsy performance by Team Canada as they had dropped their preliminary contest against Team Ukraine 10-2.

There were a pair of bronze medal performances on the hardwood with the Junior boys and the Masters' men. Montreal area players Noah Sochaczewski, Max Eisenberg, Michael Mekurow and Jonah Autmezguine contributed to that effort. At the helm of the Masters' basketball squad was coaching legend John Dore.

Montreal wrestlers, led by coach (and former Olympian) David Zilberman, did very well with two of the three medals earned by Montreal's Sam Barmish (silver) and Gabriel Choueke (bronze). The Open Men's softball squad was golden meaning Montreal's Rob Bohbot returns home with a very precious souvenir from the Games. Team Canada was strong in the swimming disciplines as Master women's swimmer Elise Levinoff made a huge dent in the Canadian medal haul as she powered to eight medals in the pool and open water events. Mount Royal MP Anthony Housefather collected a quartet of medals three in the pool at the Wingate Institute and one in the open water events in the Masters Men's 45-49 division. Swimming in the women's Masters 45-49 events Stephanie Klam took home a silver and bronze medal for her efforts. Triathlete Kayla Segal came away with two medals, a gold in the Open Maccabi woman 30-39 event and a silver in the Open triathlon, 35-39 category. It was an amazing repeat for 85-year-old Brahm Faber as he successfully defended his gold medal from the previous Games in tennis.

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