

Aurora's Loeza crowned national junior welterweight champion



By Jake Courtepatte

He's only been in the ring for a few years, but Antonio Loeza's resume is growing.

The 15-year old Dr. G.W. Williams student earned the title of Canadian Junior welterweight champion at the Boxing Canada Super Channel Championships last week, scoring a split-decision in the close final match.

In a 63-kg category that pitted Loeza against three other elite boxers from across Canada, he eliminated New Brunswick's Jonah Wiebe with a first-round knockout in day two of the four-day tournament to fight for the belt against Quebec's Jordan Cadran. Loeza was scored as the winner by two of the three judges in the Radisson Hotel ballroom, earning him the victory.

With hopes to represent Canada in the Olympics one day, the 5'10" Loeza is well on his way.

Falling in love with the sport after watching it on TV, he decided to pick it up himself at the age of 13, joining Atlas Boxing Club of Toronto to train six days a week, while getting cardio in every morning with a run before school.

Having already won twice at provincial Golden Glove tournaments, the pinnacle of the amateur boxing circle, he adds to a trophy case that also includes a silver at the Brampton Cup tournament, while continuing to participate in club shows across the GTA.

His win in Edmonton, the first of his career outside of Ontario, moves his record to 8-4 including a streak of three in a row.