

BEAT THE STREETS TORONTO

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER



IMPACTING YOUTH
THRU WRESTLING

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's been a remarkable year since our last newsletter! We are very happy with our results so far as we continue to impact youth through wrestling. At the core of it all we are lucky to have some amazing people that are the driving force of our organization.

I would like to take some time to thank some of the unsung heroes of our program. These people give tremendously of their time and resources and without them, it would be very difficult to run our programming. I would like to thank **Mr. Courtney Lewis** for being so generous with his time and resources. **John Park** who is the backbone of our organization and is always ready to support us in any way he can. **Richard Pilosof** for his generosity, **Scott Prokosch** and **John Ewing, Nayu Akbar, Nick Xiang** and **Mike Quinn**, we appreciate your support dearly! Also a thank you to **Boris Stoikos, Ivor Tony, Salima Kassam,** and **Vera Babnik** for helping our program grow in the Toronto District School Board.

2018/2019 we look to build on the After School Program and increase our reach into the underserved areas of the city. If you are looking for a way to positively impact young people in the city of Toronto please consider supporting Beat the Streets Toronto!



Thank you!
Neal Ewers
Executive Director



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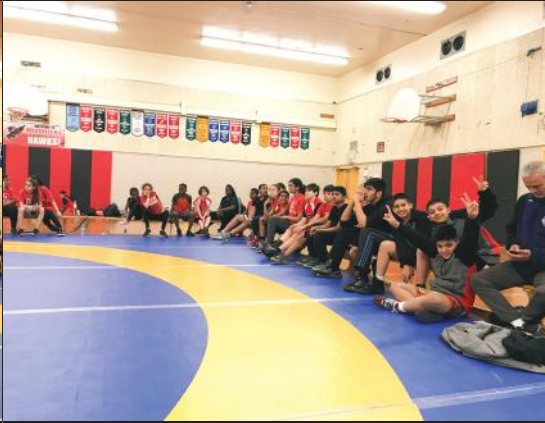
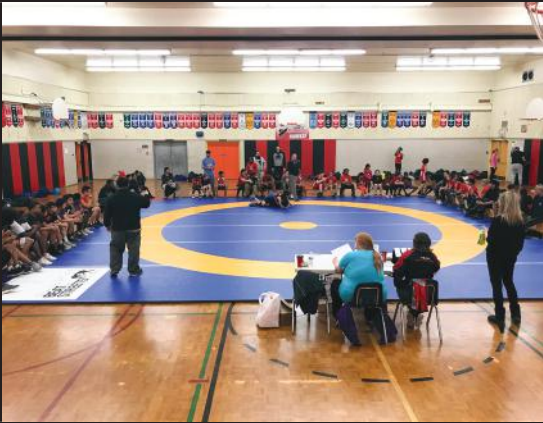
MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENTS

ORSF FUNDING IN ACTION

Last year BTST received a grant from the Ontario Recreation and Sports Fund to start middle school after school programs in underserved communities. We started 6 programs that not only trained and competed throughout the season but we were able to put on two middle school tournaments in the city of Toronto for the first time in over 40 years.

Of this we are very proud. We intend to grow this program over the years and eventually build it into a city wide tournament in the TDSB. Thank you to all the schools involved, Dixon Grove, Queen Alexandria, Brookview Middle School, Hollycrest, John G Althouse, and Elmbank for participating this year.





GOTHAM GIRLS WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

BREA RODGERS & ARELY TORALES' PERSPECTIVE

We had a lot of awesome experiences at the Gotham City Girls Open tournament this year. We got to know the girls from Ontario a lot better, we bonded and opened up to one another.

This tournament was a great opportunity to strengthen our relationships and get to know each other on a new level. Not only did we get to bond with our own team, but we also got the chance to meet different teams with strong female wrestlers. One of those teams was Jalisco, a team from Mexico. Since I speak Spanish fluently I was able to communicate more with them and also translate for my teammates (Arely). We

had a good time getting to know them and bonding, so before we said goodbye we exchanged some of our wrestling gear with them.

We had the amazing opportunity to meet female wrestlers, Adeline Gray and Helen Maroulis. I had the chance to talk with Helen, and it was such an awesome experience getting to hear her perspective on things like mindset, wrestling in confidence, and focus (Brea). This tournament was full of amazing wrestlers which gave us the chance to get in some really good mat time. This tournament was full of impactful experiences, both on and off of the mat.

**BEAT THE STREETS TORONTO
ENCOURAGING THE GROWTH OF GIRLS
WRESTLING**







LOSING OUR DEAR FRIEND, AARON WRIGHT



On June 9th we lost our friend and BTST participant Aaron Wright from a tragic and senseless attack in Little Portugal as he was on his way to work.

For those that know Aaron, this was devastating. Aaron was a very respectful and gentle soul. Many of our athletes grieved this loss; it brought many in our wrestling community together.

BTST and Central Toronto put on a memorial event at the scene of the crime to commemorate his death.

**CONTRIBUTE TO AARON'S
GOFUNDME ACCOUNT**



BeathStreets
RIP Aaron Wright

BeathStreets
RIP Aaron Wright

BeathStreets
RIP Aaron Wright

BeathStreets
RIP Aaron Wright





WRESTLE THE NORTH GIRL'S EDITION

THOUGHTS FROM JESSICA MARASOVIC

Hi, I'm Jessica, a Canadian ex-pat supporting the amazing work of Beat the Streets Toronto from sunny Valencia, Spain. Maybe you've seen me around BTST running all over place taking photos and videos at summer BTST events.

Aside from watching the WWF many years ago (The Rock was the champion last time I saw it) I have to admit I did not know much about the sport of wrestling and the impact it can have on youth. Now I do.

These events are special to me because they give me an opportunity, once a year, to join my team and witness first-hand the positive impacts that wrestling has on young people. These children blow me away! They are well behaved, funny, bright, they have strong voices and will give you a hearty handshake and look you in the eyes as they introduce themselves with confidence. If I'm struggling with a heavy camera bag, within seconds I will have 3 – 4 offers of help from these kids. Absolutely incredible!

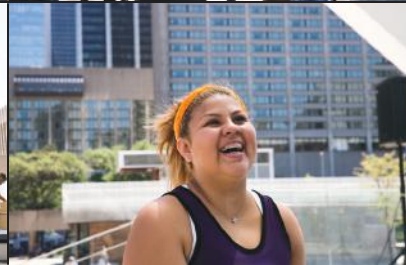
I watched these students wrestle at the OAWA championships, the Wrestle the North Edition (goooo girls!) and the Belaglazov Wrestling Camp. They are focused, strong, supportive and dedicated. There is such a genuine camaraderie between the students and don't get me started on their physical fitness levels! At these events, I see strong children, capable of taking on the world and conquering any dreams they have. Then I hear back-stories and I simply cannot match the spirit of the child to the reality and harshness of their lives.

And that's why I love being part of BTST. It's seeing children from all kinds of backgrounds all struggling with their own personal stories, coming together to create a supportive network. Witnessing them take small steps towards a positive change and within months, leaping, practically flying towards a new future gives me a sense of pride that the work of Beat the Streets Toronto is truly making an impact.

So this is a big thank you from me, to all of those who are involved in such a great movement. Thank you to the coaches for giving 100% every single time. Thank you to the children for giving me hope for our next generation, thank you for showing me that you can be smart, funny, strong and dedicated, keeping a positive outlook while struggling through the trials and tribulations of life ... and kicking butt at the same time! I know that great future's await our BTST students and I'm so thankful to be a small part of your journey.

Sincerely,
Jessica

[VIEW FULL WTN GALLERY
ONLINE](#)







WTN JULY 2018 IN PICTURES

OMERS FOUNDATION GRANT



Date: July 9 2018


OMERS Foundation

Pay to the order of: Beat the Streets Toronto

\$ **25,000**

The sum of: Twenty-five Thousand

Re: OMERS Foundation Grant



This summer Beat the Streets Toronto was awarded a \$25000 Grant from the Omers Foundation.

Where Omers employees fund raise and choose a cause to support as a group. It was presented to us at our Wrestle the North Festival.

We are truly honoured to receive this Grant and we will put it towards helping students in undeserved communities and building up vibrant commutes across the GTA.

We would like to say a very big thank you to the Omers Foundation for your generosity.

To learn more about the Omers Foundation, please click on their logo:

 **OMERS**

BEAT THE STREETS TORONTO
IMPACTING YOUTH THRU WRESTLING

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Dollars.

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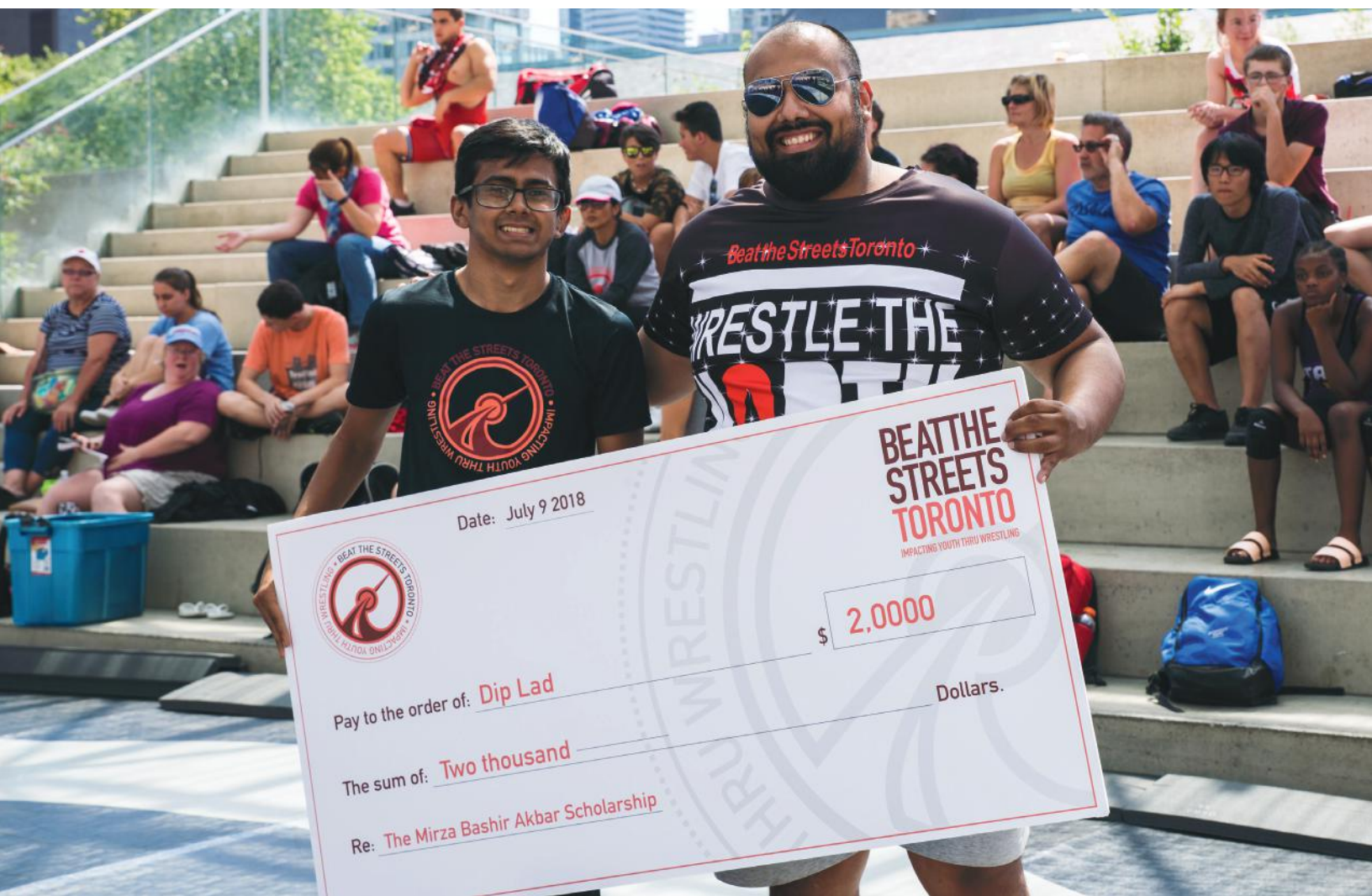
BTST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This years BTST scholarship was awarded to Dip Lad. Dip started with BTST all the way from its inception back in 2014, where he showed a passion for wrestling.

Through that grit and determination, he was able to bring his marks up and pursue post secondary education as he is taking Sports Management at Humber College and will end up with an Associates Degree.

Dip comes from challenging community of Rexdale where many social and economical barriers exist and BTST scholarship program has helped with giving kids an advantage.

We at BTST would also like to Nayu Akbar who donated the money for the scholarship. It is people like Mr.Akbar that help our athletes/students get ahead in life.



MIRZA BASHIR AKBAR SCHOLARSHIP

I am honoured to have received the Mirza Bashir Akbar Scholarship of \$2000.

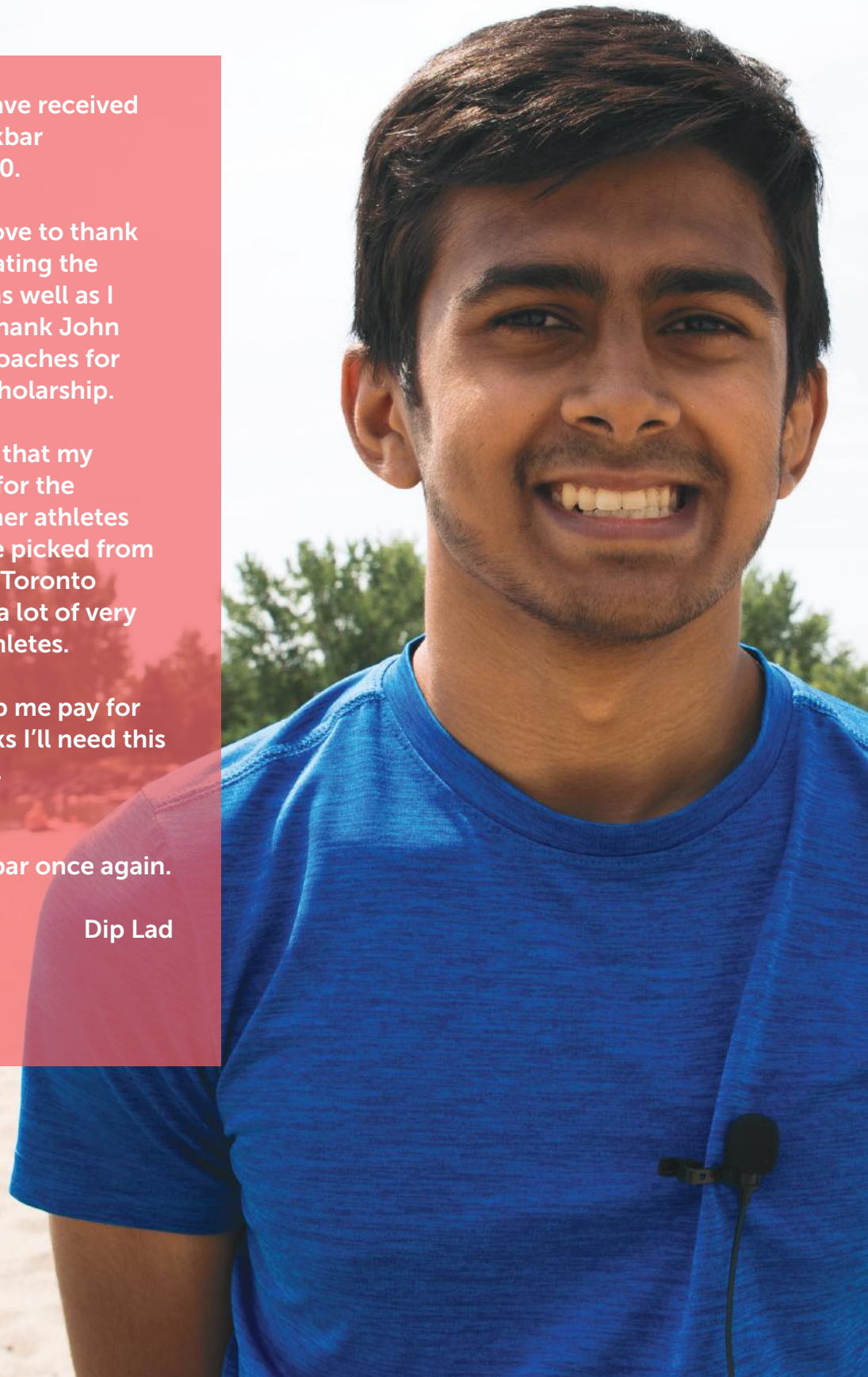
I would also really love to thank Naya Akbar for donating the scholarship for me as well as I would also love to thank John Park as well as my coaches for awarding me this scholarship.

It means a lot to me that my coaches picked me for the scholarship with other athletes that they could have picked from the Beat the Streets Toronto Program which has a lot of very talented student/athletes.

It's gonna really help me pay for tuition and textbooks I'll need this upcoming semester.

Thank you Naya Akbar once again.

Dip Lad



BTST SUMMER MENTORSHIP RECAP

This summer the Mentorship program expanded its outreach by not just following academic achievement, but by also mentoring our student/athletes into the workforce.

During this past summer, Brea Rodgers, Arely Torales, Ana Mendez all worked with BTST. The job/internship included clerical work, research and community outreach. We here at BTST strongly believe that getting real work experience is beneficial to overall growth of an student/athlete. Giving high school and first year university students life skills will open doors that were not previously accessible.

Additionally, by employing BTST student/athletes we were able to expand our

outreach to various communities throughout Toronto. This was achieved by using promotional tools like having our students write articles on an online platform and use guerrilla tactics like handing out flyers and promoting at festivals and events.

Conversely, through our partnerships with employment agencies like LEF, Learning Enrichment Foundation and VPI Work Solutions we were also able to help other members of the BTST family to find meaningful employment like, LEF daycare services, Milestones, Party City and the KEG. Again, by working on the three pillars of wrestling, academics, and life experience students will be prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. Overall it was a great experience for the kids.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



BREA RODGERS

I FEEL THAT MY RESUME WILL BE SO MUCH BETTER NOW THAT I AM ABLE TO ADD BTST AS AN EMPLOYER.



ARELY TORALES

I ENJOYED WORKING AND LEARNING WITH BTST. I WAS ABLE TO GET OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE AND LEARN SOMETHING EVERYDAY. IT ALSO BEAT FLIPPING BURGERS.

BEACH PRACTICE JULY 2018



HOSTING THE GIRLS FROM NEW YORK CITY!

A LETTER FROM COACH LEE ([COACH BTSNY](#))

I cannot say enough positive things about our experience with BTS Toronto, and especially director Neal Ewers, who hosted our kids from New York City for a week of competition and training. From the first communication to our last goodbyes at a family style BBQ, Neal made sure we were taken care of like family. BTS Toronto provided us with a place for the kids to stay (Thanks coach Mar!) as well as amazing training & facilities. The results? Simply incredible. Our kids from south of the border were pushed beyond their comfort zone while being supported in a way that made them push each other even when things got difficult. Once we got back to NY, I asked the kids on their thoughts:

"Our trip to Canada came with many lessons; it taught us that nothing in life is easy and you have to work hard & do things you've never done to get things you've never had. Coach Neal, coach Mar, and the Beloglazov brothers taught us than not only should we

strive to become better wrestlers, but also better people. We should fight hard on the mat in the same way you fight for things in life because if you're afraid to fail, you'll never succeed."

The quote above comes from a wrestler who was at first lukewarm to even the idea of wrestling. Then she decided she'd try out because her friends were doing it, but often letting me know she wasn't coming back next season. Now she always wants to know when/where the next practice is, and most importantly, when we're going back to Canada. Y'all funny talking folks are sure doing something right up in Toronto. Special shout-out to coach Bernard and trainer Mario for their support. We can't wait to come back!



Coach Lee



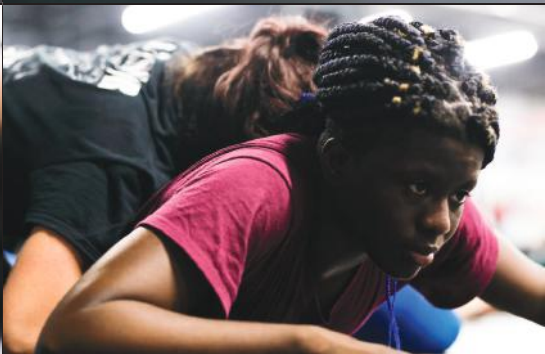
BELAGLAZOV WRESTLING CAMP JULY 2018

This year we at, Beat the Streets Toronto were lucky enough to have a summer camp hosted by both Anatoly and Sergei Beloglazov! I can't say enough great things about the Beloglazovs, if you haven't been to a [Beloglazov Wrestling Camp](#) then you're missing out! They are very professional and as they were as wrestlers, they are perfectionists as clinicians.

At our camp they worked tirelessly with kids of all levels, giving their attention to 6 year olds as well as 18 year olds. They were very patient and moderated the camp to the skill level of the campers.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR A GREAT EXPERIENCE GENTLEMEN!







PLEASE VISIT
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TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR STUDENT ATHLETES.

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