

King trampolinist Burnett soars to third Olympic Games

By Jake Courtepatte

For the third-straight Summer Olympic Games, hometown pride will be twofold on the trampoline for the Township of King. Nobleton's Jason Burnett booked his ticket to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio last week, earning one of eight qualification spots available in men's trampoline gymnastics at a test event in Rio.

Burnett joins fellow trainee Rosie MacLennan, the gold medal winner in women's trampoline in 2012 and a King City native, both of whom train out of Richmond Hill's Sky rider's Trampoline Place.

MacLennan earned a spot on the team after winning the Canada Cup event in Kamloops, B.C. in March.

Burnett's path to Rio, however, was much more rocky. An ACL tear in 2014 left the 29-year-old requiring lengthy [acl tear treatment](#) which meant he was well behind in his training schedule, and despite a first-place finish on the men's side of the Canada Cup, Burnett needed last week's qualification meet as a last-chance effort to make the team.

Burnett finished 10th overall in the qualifying rounds with a total score of 104.515, but did not advance to the final. His second optional routine scored fifth highest, however, his first compulsory routine's score of 47.545 left him too much ground to make up. The five highest-ranked athletes in the qualifying rounds without already securing an Olympic berth were given one, with the sixth spot allocated to continental representation, with Burnett as the next highest-ranked athlete in the category.

Winning the silver medal at the 2008 Games in Beijing, Burnett finished in seventh place in 2012 in London.

"I accomplished what I set out to do and I can't ask for anything more than that right now," he said in a Gymnastics Canada news release. "Dealing with the aftermath of my ACL tear was tough, but we've found a number of different strategies that keep my knee happy and strong. Training has consistently been improving and I'm looking forward to improving in the standings in upcoming competitions."

According to the Canadian Olympic Committee's "Own the Podium" program, Canada is striving to surpass the 18 medals received in London and finish among the top-12 on the overall medal count.

MacLennan earned Canada's only gold medal in those Games.