

Verina Wihongi – Wahine Toa mō te Taekwondo

He tuatahitanga mō te haere ki Ātene!

He toa a Verina Wihongi ki te hākinakina e kīia nei ko te Taekwondo. He tātua pango reanga tuatoru tōna ā, ko ia te wahine tuatahi, te Māori tuatahi anō hoki kia haere ki ngā Kēmu Orimipia mō te whakataetae Taekwondo.

I runga i tōna tohutoa koura i ngā Kēmu ki Āhia, kātahi ka tonoa ia kia tū hei kaipara mō Aotearoa i ngā Kēmu ki Ātene. I te tau 1996, i riro i a ia te tohutoa hiriwa i ngā Kēmu mō ngā whenua i raro i te mana o te Kuini o Ingarangi. I te tau 2001, i riro hoki i a ia i te tohutoa koura i ngā Kēmu ki Korea.

Ehara te taekwondo i te hākinakina tuatahi i kitea ai ōna pūkenga. E kāo. I a ia e rangatahi ana, he toa ki te oma, arā ko te 100m, ko te 200m, ko te 400m, ko te peke roa hoki ōna eketanga. Ko ia tētahi o ngā toa o te rohe o Waikato i aua wā.

I nāianei, kua rerekē tōna titiro.

Nā tōna matua kēkē te akiaki kia uru ia ki te karapu taekwondo i Tāneatua. Tekau mā tahi tōna pakeke i taua wā.

“Kāore au i te tino aro ki te hākinakina i taua wā. He mea whakahoahoa, he mea whakawhanaunga noa iho” te kī a Verina.

Engari haere tonu ia ki ngā akoranga e toru ia wiki. Ka tekau mā rima ōna tau, ka whakawhiwhia ia ki te tātua pango iti, kātahi ko te tātua pango.

“I taku whiwhi i taua tātua pango iti, i hinga ahau i tētahi whawhai i te whakataetae ā-motu. I te toa ahau i ngā whawhai katoa i mua i tērā. He tuatahitanga tēnā māku. Ahakoa tērā, i akiakingia au e ngā tohunga taekwondo huri noa i te motu kia haere tonu, kia whai i te hākinakina nei, kia tae ahau ki te tihi o te maunga” ko tōna kī.

Nō Ngā Puhī, nō Ngāi Tūhoe ia. Ā, i te tiaki pāmu a Verina rāua ko tōna hoa rangatira a Ngatai Hurkmans, nō Ngāi Tūhoe, ki te tonga o Otākou. Kei reira tonu rāua tahi e whakahaere nei i te karapu taekwondo o Clutha Valley.

Engari anō mō ngā hāora me whakapau ia mō te hākinakina i ēnei



Ko Verina Wihongi e rere ana

rā hei whakapakaritanga mōna. Kua mutu tōna mahi pāmu, ka rima haora ia rā ia e whakangungu ana.

Ehara a Verina i te wahine tino tāroa. Kotahi mita, e ono tekau mā waru henimita tōna tū. Ko te tāroa o te nuinga o ōna hoariri ki Ātene, kotahi mita, e whitu tekau mā rima kē. Ko te taumaha o tōna rōpū whawhai, i waenga i te 57 ki te 67 kirokaramu.

“He tino wero tēnei whakataetae ki Ātene. Kua waitohungia ngā kaipara katoa i raro i ngā waitohutanga o te ao. Ko te nuinga, nō Korea, nō Haina hoki. He tino toa rawa atu rātou katoa!

“Waimarie ahau he tātua pango hoki tō tōku tāne. Ko ia te tangata e akiaki nei i ahau i ngā wā katoa kia parakatihi, kia haere ki te whare kori tinana. Ko ia hoki taku hoa whawhai. He kaitā ake ia i ahau. He pai hei hoa whawhai mōku.”

Nā reira, ko te pātai i nāianei, ko wai rā o te tokorua nei te tino toa mō te whawhai? “I a māua e whawhai ana i ngā akoranga o te karapu, ka whakahē māua i a māua anō mō ngā māka. Heoi anō, i ētahi wā ka toa ahau, i ētahi atu wā ko ia ka toa ” me

tana menemene mai.

Oti anō rā, kei runga noa atu a Verina mō te taekwondo i tēnei wā. Ko ōna hiahia mō ngā tau e whai ake nei kia whakaako tamariki ā, kia whakaako tamariki Māori ki tēnei hākinakina. “He tino pai te taekwondo ki te Māori. Ka pakari hoki te ngākau titi. Ka whakatikangia koe e koe anō! Ko te nuinga o ngā kaiwhawhai tino pai i Aotearoa nei, he Māori.”

Kia kaha rā e hine kia eke anō ki te taumatatanga. Ka wani kē tō mahi!

Kupu hōu

tātua pango iti
tātua pango
reanga tuatoru
Ātene
hoa whawhai
tohutoa
waitohungia
waitohutanga o te ao
māka
whakataetae ā-motu

black tip
black belt
3rd degree
Athens
sparring partner
medal
ranked
world ranking
points
nationals