

The Virgin Islands Consortium

17-Year-Old Virgin Islands Fencer Achieves Top-10 Finish at Pan Am Games

Kruz Schembri, Youngest Competitor in Men's Individual Foil, Represents Team ISV with Pride

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Kruz Schembri

Kruz Schembri, the young fencing sensation from the U.S. Virgin Islands, has secured a Top-10 finish in the Men's Individual Foil competition at the 2023 Pan American Games.

The achievement comes just six days after his 17th birthday, highlighting his status not only as a rising star but also as the youngest fencer among the 19 competitors in his event.

Schembri's journey to the Pan Am Games began with his qualification at the 2022 Pan American Championships in Asuncion, Paraguay. Reflecting on his accomplishments, Schembri shared, "I did it when I was 15! To represent the VI while I'm here also means a lot. I'm just using that as motivation for every point, every bout, going on through this tournament and onwards so it really means a lot to be here."

The dedication of this home-schooled athlete to his sport is evident in his rigorous training schedule. Schembri commits to three days of fencing each week, each session lasting two hours, and maintains his physical fitness by running 40-50 miles. His impressive record is tracked on fencingtracker.com, where he is listed with the Masters Fencing Club/Tampa's Fencing and Tennis Academy, boasting an all-time record of 929 wins and 259 losses, equating to a winning ratio of 78.2%.

To maintain his competitive edge, Schembri has his sights set on upcoming events. He excitedly notes, "The U20 World Cup Season starts soon, so during the winter into spring I'll be attending Junior World Cups and I have the Olympic Qualifier in April."

For more information on the results of the Pan Am Games and to watch the competitions, visit <https://results-santiago2023.org/> and <https://www.panamsportschannel.org/main/>.