



**COOPER ROSS**



**SCHOOL:** Ernest Manning HS  
**TECHNOLOGY:** Web Technologies  
**TRAINER:** Matt Waggoner  
**EXPERT:** David Cantwell  
**HOMETOWN:** Calgary, AB

**What was the first thing that went through your mind when you realized you had made Team Canada?**

*"It felt so surreal (and still does, if I'm honest). I kept thinking about how far I'd come since my first competition. My first year competing I hadn't known what to expect, and made a lot of mistakes. This year was the first time I felt like I had no regrets even before the results were released. It was exciting, a little overwhelming, and definitely something I'll never forget."*

**What are you most excited to experience in Shanghai, China?**

*"Honestly, just getting to go to China is kind of wild to think about in and of itself. It's such a cool place with so much going on, and it's somewhere I've always wanted to visit. I'm also looking forward to meeting the other competitors from around the world. Every single skill is so incredibly interesting to me, and I get to learn it from the best. That, and the food. There's a lot of food I'd like to try when I'm there, and I'm just hoping I get the chance."*

**Do you have any words of encouragement for future Skills competitors?**

*"Pick a skill you actually enjoy. It sounds (and is) cliché, but the grind is so much easier when you like what you're doing. Everyone I've met seriously loves their skill, and I think that passion shows in their performance. When you genuinely care, you'll be able to push through long practice hours, setbacks, and pressure. I'd say focus on learning first, and then winning, because the skills you build will outlast the competition. I know that's kind of generic advice, but at least in my experience it's been true."*

**What do you love most about your trade/technology?**

*"Web development is such a huge umbrella, so there's lots of room to explore different paths within it. That means I can have a bunch of other interests but still pursue web development at the same time. It's great! I can build websites I want to build, and call it my training. I'll likely do some actual focused training, of course, but I don't need to do as much."*

**What has been the best part of your Skills journey so far?**

*"During my second year at provincials, I became quick friends with a competitor from Saskatchewan. He won that year, and I celebrated with him. When I won this year, he was watching the livestream and cheering me on the whole time. Knowing he was rooting for me the same way I did for him really stuck with me. That kind of support makes the competition feel like more than just results, because it's also about creating these friendships and being part of a community that lasts long after the event."*