



PRESS RELEASE

CNMAA ANNOUNCES FOUR DIVISIONAL HEADS

September 21, 2007 Victoria, BC Canada – The Canadian National Martial Arts Association (CNMAA) is pleased to announce the appointments of Edward Laramie to Director of Chinese Divisions, Sukwinder Manhas to Director of Sparring Divisions, Tim Henry to Director of Grappling Divisions and Wolfgang Manicke to Director of Breaking/Self-Defence. These appointments follow recent changes to the overall CNMAA structure and will provide expertise in the development of these divisions as well as our coaches and Canadian athletes.

"I am truly honoured and excited to have been asked to take on the role of sparring division head for the CNMAA. I believe the CNMAA provides a unique opportunity for martial artists of all disciplines to come together under one umbrella and move martial arts competition forward in Canada.", said Sukwinder Manhas, new appointed Director of Sparring Divisions, "Canada possesses a wealth of talent in the martial arts and I look forward to working closely with Ken Marchtaler so that we may put the best possible team together to compete in Korea in 2008. I also look forward to meeting and working with a wide range of martial artists from across the country!"

"I am honoured to represent such a fast growing, diverse and professional entity that is definitely taking our athletes to goals only dreamed about a few short years ago", said Tim Henry, Director of Grappling Divisions, "In recent years a large spotlight has been placed on MMA because of UFC, Pride and other televised MMA events. Even though many MMA promoters have tried to regulate and improve its image, there remain many unresolved issues regarding safety and the violence level in MMA, not to mention the concern of parents when it is viewed by a young fan audience. CNMAA has not only found a solid and positive solution to this growing concern, but has remained true to its doctrine by offering these young up and coming athletes of MMA a stage in which to showcase their skills."

"I would like to thank CNMAA for asking me to oversee something I really love and enjoy in Breaking and Self-Defence. Breaking is an art by itself, putting oneself against oneself, overcoming fear through technique and perseverance", said Wolfgang Manicke, newly appointed Director of Self-Defence/Breaking Divisions, "My first objective is to listen to those already competing in these events, to see what their needs might be, and to put my own experience to the test so we can make this part of martial arts better known. I hope to help Breaking and Self-Defence become more popular at tournaments held in Canada".

The new Team of Divisional Directors supports CNMAA's expansion goals and desire to improve opportunities for Canadian martial arts athletes. CNMAA is still looking to fill Directorships for Japanese/Okinawa, Korean and Creative Divisions. The Director of Chinese Divisions - Edward Laramie, was not available for comment at the time of this release.

"Assembling a team of martial arts experts from across Canada, to serve our Canadian athletes is like a dream coming true for me", says Ken Marchtaler, CNMAA President, "These individuals have been leaders in their disciplines for many years. All have won world titles at some point in their martial arts careers. All run successful martial arts schools and share the vision of putting the athlete's needs ahead of all we do. I am looking forward to drawing on their expertise to put Canada in the forefront of the World Martial Arts Games Movement and international competition!"

The Canadian National Martial Arts Association (CNMAA) is a non-profit society formed in August 2005, to provide a formal structure for organizing and administering the Canadian National Martial Arts Team. Their goal is to work with all recognized martial arts associations and disciplines, to provide more opportunity for Canadian martial arts athletes, and to assist with the development of standardized programs for coaches and trainers. Their objectives are guided by the World Martial Arts Games Movement and the World Martial Arts Games Charter.

Further information about the Canadian National Martial Arts Association can be obtained by visiting the CNMAA website at www.cnmaa.com .

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