

Team Canada Sweeps the Medals in the World Martial Arts Games

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The World Organization of Martial Arts Athletes (WOMAA) announced on July 20 that Team Canada swept the medals at the WOMAA World Martial Arts Games VI in Rosenheim, Germany. The Canadian team, headed by Ken Marchtaler of Victoria, participated at the games held July 15-17. Made up of athletes from Alberta and BC, the team came home with five gold medals, four silver medals, and six bronze medals.

Marchtaler was recently appointed head coach and manager of the team. He happily came home with two gold medals himself, and coaches team member Roxanna Feraru at the OMAC Martial Arts School in Victoria. With black belt degrees in Okinawa Shorin-Ryu Shorinkan Karate, Shorin-Ryu Shinkokai Karate, Okinawa Kobudo, and Ryu Kyu Kobudo, he is well equipped to lead the team.

"Everyone on the plane coming back was all smiles and celebrating," Marchtaler recalled. "It is the first recorded major winnings of the team in its six-year history. This opens up avenues for corporate sponsorship."

Asked what the team would do next, Marchtaler said, "We are going to be going to the games next year, plus we are forming some new programs for the fall. It will be exciting."

To qualify for this year's team, the athletes competed at the 2005 Fireball Challenge in Burnaby, BC and the 2005 Tiger Balm Internationals in North Vancouver last spring.