



For Immediate Release: Team USA Set to Represent the United States in the 2nd Annual Combat Wrestling World Championships.

May 14, 2016 - The International Combat Wrestling Federation (FICW), governing body for Combat Wrestling, is giving this historic Japanese sport its rightful place on the international stage. Combat Wrestling has existed for over two decades in Japan and was the creation of legendary wrestler Noriaki Kiguchi. Before ADCC, Grappler's Quest, NAGA, Polaris, EBI or Metamoris, there was Combat Wrestling. On October 16th, the 2nd Annual Combat Wrestling World Championship will be held in Tomasi, Hungary. At the 2015 World Championship in Varna, Bulgaria Team USA took home one gold, two silver and two bronze medals; and was the only national team in which every wrestler placed. We are aiming higher this year!

On April 9th the 2nd Annual USA Combat Wrestling Nationals and Team Trial was held in Lowell, Arkansas. This year's trial saw a significant increase in number and quality competitors; many of whom travelled across the country to earn a spot on this coveted and **fully funded national team**. Among the accolades carried by those who competed for a spot on this year's world team were Judo & BJJ Black Belts, decorated MMA fighters & collegiate wrestlers, NAGA & AGF champions, veterans of Polaris & ADCC Pro, international Sambo champions & Masters of Sport as well as some of the most talented up and coming grapplers in the country. It is our pleasure to introduce you to those who were victorious and will represent the United States in Hungary this October.

MEN'S TEAM

100 kg - Anthony Pastorello (Legion X Grappling, Colorado Springs, CO)

Anthony is a black belt in Judo and Chuan Fa Kempo Karate, a veteran wrestler, kickboxer and Sambo practitioner. He is a former combatives and boxing instructor at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Anthony won Silver at the American Sambo Association Freestyle Sambo Nationals and USA Judo Dallas International.

90 kg- Niko Koliastasis (Championship MMA, Fort Smith, AR)

Wrestling since the age of 12, Niko became an Oklahoma junior high school and high school state champion. During his collegiate career at Bacone College, Niko was the first All-American in the college's history, a 3x First Team All-American wrestler and 2x national finalist. Team Captain for four years, Niko was awarded "Most Valuable Wrestler," "Wrestler of The Year," and a "Champions of Character Award." After completing his triple major bachelor's degree, Niko became a Graduate Assistant Wrestling Coach at Missouri Valley College where he assisted in coaching several All-Americans and helped the Vikings finish in the top 4. Not long after finishing up his Masters in Business, he found himself training Muay Thai, boxing, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and Catch Wrestling in preparation for an MMA career that culminated with a combined amateur and professional record of 9-0. During the past 7 years, Niko has won numerous BJJ and submission grappling tournaments at the expert or black belt level. He is currently Lead Wrestling and MMA Coach at Championship MMA in Fort Smith, AR.

82 kg- Aaron Butler (Westside MMA, Little Rock, AR)

Aaron is a decorated high school and collegiate wrestler, Black Belt in Judo and blue belt in BJJ who currently trains under GFTeam 2nd degree Black Belt & 2015 FICW World Combat Wrestling Silver Medalist Roli Delgado. A well rounded grappler, Aaron has won national titles in wrestling, as well as national and international titles in Judo including gold at the 2014 USA Judo Collegiate Open. Aaron is currently the Head Wrestling Coach at Little Rock Central High School.

74 kg- Mitchell Hall (Westside MMA, Little Rock, AR)

Mitchell has been training Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for nine yrs and competing for eight. He is currently a brown belt under GFTeam 2nd degree Black Belt & 2015 FICW World Combat Wrestling Silver Medalist Roli Delgado. He started training in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in 2007 under Pedro Sauer Black Belt John Blunchi in West Monroe, Louisiana. Mitchell is a multiple time Arkansas Invitational, AGF, NAGA, and Louisiana Open Champion.

68kg- Craig Chiles (Katamedo Jiu Jitsu/UFC GYM/Gracie Humaita, St. Charles, MO)

Craig is a credentialed high school and college wrestler who currently trains out of Katamedo Dojo, UFC GYM St. Charles and Gracie Humaita. Throughout Craig's wrestling career he was a 3x high school state qualifier, 4x collegiate National Qualifier, 3x collegiate All-American and 2x NCWA Finalist. He recently won his MMA debut via rear naked choke.

62 kg- Tim Setala (American Top Team, Savage, MN)

Tim started competitively wrestling in 3rd grade and continued his career through his first year of college earning multiple conference, regional, sectional victories and an All-State title. In 2007 Tim became Assistant Wrestling Coach and later Head Coach (in 2009) at Itasca Community College. During his 4 years as Head Coach Tim coached 18 National Qualifiers, 5 All Americans, 1 National Finalist and led his teams to multiple top 10 finishes including a 4th place national finish. He was awarded "Coach of the Year" by the 2011 Minnesota College Athletic Conference and 2011 NJCAA Regional "Coach of the Year." Tim currently trains Sambo and BJJ at American Top Team, where he also coaches wrestling. Tim is a North American Freestyle Sambo Championship Bronze Medalist, North American Catch Wrestling Open Champion, Saint Croix Grappling Games Champions and Next Level Challenge Champion.

MASTER'S TEAM

82 kg- Cody Clayton (Quincy, CA)

After 18 years out of competition, Cody returned to the mat to secure a spot on the Master's World Team by defeating men many years his junior and placing 2nd in the men's division. Cody has an extensive wrestling background, including 4 years as a varsity wrestler at Western State Colorado University (along with teammate Shane Carwin) that culminated in an "Outstanding Wrestler" nod at the Colorado Collegiate Championship where he beat out the number one seed. Cody has since refueled his love for grappling as not only as Head Wrestling Coach at Quincy High School, but as a competitor as well. He has begun training BJJ and plans of future competitions this summer to prep for the World Combat Wrestling Championships.

74 kg- Stephan Goynes (Bay JiuJitsu/RDojo, CA)

Stephan began training Judo & Japanese Jiu Jitsu in 1996 and BJJ in 1998, in Santa Cruz, California. He was awarded his BJJ black belt by Eduardo Rocha after winning numerous brown belt titles including 2010 IBJJF Houston International, 2009 California Classic, 2009 NAGA East Coast, 2010 Copa Pacifica, 2009 IBJJF American Nationals and the 2009 American Cup. Stephan is the owner of Bay Jiu-Jitsu in, a chain of 3 gyms in San Francisco. He won Silver at the 2016 USA Combat Wrestling National Championships & Team Trial in the men's division, securing himself a spot on the Master's World Team. In addition to martial arts, Stephan is a longtime gymnastics coach.

SUPPORT TEAM USA

The 2016 US Team is proud to announce we have reached **full funding** for all members of our men's world team this year and are looking to secure funding for our masters team members as well. Funding a team's international journey is no easy feat. It is our goal to assure the growth of Combat Wrestling in the United States and to secure funding for our future events and teams. **We are proud to announce we are an officially recognized 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit Organization.** All donations are tax deductible in accordance with current state and federal tax law. Please consider supporting TEAM USA and USA Combat Wrestling today!

For sponsorship inquiries, please contact USACW Treasurer Micah Thompson: MicahkThompson@yahoo.com
For media inquiries please contact USACW Public Relations Advisor Shene Robinson: shenerobinson@gmail.com
For more information about USA Combat Wrestling please visit www.combatwrestling.us



Chambers Bank (www.chambers-bank.com) was established in 1930 and since its conception; Chambers Bank has expanded into more than 20 locations throughout Arkansas. As one of Arkansas' foremost banking institutions, Chambers Bank is dedicated to providing Arkansas communities a comfortable place for personal, hands-on banking support. Team USA is extremely thankful for Chambers Bank's generous financial support and willingness to help build Combat Wrestling in the United States.