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News Release & Official Results
New York Arm Wrestling[®] Association
2010

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ARM WRESTLERS COME TO GRIPS AT NEW YORK'S PORT AUTHORITY
Upsets, Amazing feats of Strength at NY State Arm wrestling Memorial



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Email:

New York, NY Nov. 18, 2010 - On Saturday, November 18, arm wrestlers converged on New York City's Port Authority Bus Terminal to compete in the 33rd Annual Empire State Golden Arm Tournament Of Champions. The proud sponsors were Supercuts, Clear Wireless Internet and Ironmind[®] Captain's of Crush[®] Grippers.

Before the matches began, Camp paid tribute to one its own, U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Shaun Lin from Staten Island, a former arm wrestler who won the Empire State Championships in 2007. Tragically, Lin was killed last month during training exercises aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Frank Drew when he fell into the James River in Newport News, VA. Three of Lin's brothers were on hand and they were presented with a new arm wrestling table. Adjacent to the competition tables, a photo of Lin in uniform was posted on the wall.

Michael Selearis, an arm wrestling champion, who grew up in Elmhurst, New York, remembered Lin's grappling prowess. "He was very intense, very focused," said Selearis. "You could see it in his eyes." Selearis said that Lin has inspired at least one of his family members to grapple. "One of his brothers came up to me," said Selearis. "He says 'I want to compete. I want to wrestle in Shaun's memory.'"

Just after 1pm, the competition led off with New York Arm Wrestling Association founder-president Gene Camp. "Welcome to the Port Authority Bus Terminal!" announced Camp to applause from the anxious mid-day crowd.

This year's competition featured more female competitors than ever, 110 pound national title holder Valerie Beach, 27, from Nashua, New Hampshire discussed her mindset between matches. "You have to find your focus and your center," said Beach. "If you don't believe you're going to do it, you won't do it." While grappling, Beach wears flamboyant earrings and says that she wants to project a strong, feminine image. "I want women to see an image and say that I can do that," said Beach, a bartender-waitress and model.

Instead of walking the runway now, Beach - who often practices against men because of the shortage of female arm wrestlers in Wilton - paces wildly before and after matches, often

intimidating her opponents by shouting and slamming the table. Competing against women much larger than her self, Beach wound up coming in third place in the women's open division. In the title match of that same category, Joyce Boone from Brooklyn upset Winnipeg's favorite daughter, 10-time Canadian women's champ Josee Morneau who also captured the title of NYC Queen of Arms last year at the NYC Big Apple Grapple International, the premiere arm wrestling championship in NYC. The victory was extremely gratifying for Boone, who broke her arm at this event in 1997. "It's a wonderful comeback story," said Camp. "Joyce practiced every single day. She's truly the most dedicated female arm wrestler in the association. She deserves this."

In the men's tournament, all eyes were on West Virginia's own Travis Bagent, who has been featured on ESPN, as well as in the popular arm wrestling documentary, "Pulling John." A crowd favorite, Bagent fist bumps fans and competitors alike. After winning matches, Bagent strikes a Hercules pose. Not surprisingly, Bagent, 34, won the left handed super heavy weight men's division. In the right handed event, Bagent was upset, losing to Georgi Geloshvili, a native of the Republic of Georgia, who now lives in Brooklyn. According to Camp, Geloshvili is the City's best arm wrestler hands down.

However, Bagent and Geloshvili were overshadowed by a much smaller, quieter man, Roman Tsindeliani, who moved to New Jersey from Russia just a year ago. Despite weighing just 150 pounds, Roman was able to win seven weight classes. The only match that Tsindeliani lost during the day was to Bagent, who has more than 150 pounds on him, in the overall left handed category. "Roman is the best weight for weight arm wrestler I have ever seen," said Camp. "I've been doing this for 33 years and I've never seen anything like it."

After one of his many victories, Tsindeliani, speaking through a translator, was asked about his training regimen, Tsindeliani, who works as a driver, refused to reveal much though. "I have no secrets," Tsindeliani replied. "I train like everyone does."

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