

Night of Champions gets international publicity kick

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Maurice Elmalem has set many records for glass breaking.

The Night of Champions martial arts exhibition this weekend featuring the world renowned Team Paul Mitchell will get some welcome publicity through one of its aficionados.

The exhibition is on Saturday night at the Arts and Recreation Centre at Camana Bay from 6-7 p.m.

It will be featured in Budo International martial arts magazine and the editor Maurice Elmalem is flying in from New York on Thursday. The feature story will be about the team's training camp being held at Camana Bay, the martial arts exhibition with Team Paul Mitchell and Cayman Karate Academy's children's demo team.

Organizer Bob Daigle appreciates that local company Zulu Distributors has sponsored the flight for Elmalem.

Daigle is a former heavyweight karate world champion who has met Elmalem at a martial arts event a few years ago. He is not just the editor of an international martial arts magazine, Elmalem is a seven-time world champion, 7th Dan black belt with one federation and 10th Dan black belt with another.

He holds a Ph.D. in martial arts from the National Dragon Council University of Asian Studies, in Virginia, eight Guinness World Records, has been featured in more than 250 magazines and newspapers, participated in more than 750 championships worldwide and has accumulated hundreds of trophies and dozens of gold medals in fighting and breaking.

Elmalem has been inducted into many Halls of Fame. He holds world records in splitting five one-inch boards with head breaks, shattering 105 sheets of glass with an elbow strike and 50 sheets of glass with a knife hand strike.

He has also broken five one-inch boards with a flying side kick over six chairs.

"We are very excited to have someone like Mr. Elmalem covering our event," Daigle said.

One of the demonstrations this Saturday night will be with Rudolph Jackson and teammate Kyle Montagna. They will perform a synchronized weapons form that brought the house down when they performed it recently in Ireland.

“We would like to thank Kensington Management Group, and Tyson Construction who recently came on board as sponsors,” Daigle said. There will be a special sneak preview demonstration this Friday night from 5.30-6 p.m. at the Crescent at Camana Bay. Team Paul Mitchell will perform a short demo and pose for pictures with the public.

Tickets can be purchased at Body Sculptor Fitness Centre at the Mirco Centre on North Sound Way or at the door starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

“Special thanks to Camana Bay for sponsoring the venue for this martial arts showcase,” said Daigle. “I can’t say enough about how helpful they have been.

“We would also like to thank Villas of the Galleon and Sunshine Suites for sponsoring some of the accommodations, FAST Signs, Watler’s Metal products and Dollar Car Rental for providing transportation for the team while they are here.” He added that without support from the business community, events like this are not possible and he hopes more companies and individuals support this event.

Tickets for the show are \$10. Net proceeds will provide martial arts scholarships for young Caymanians who cannot afford martial arts lessons.

For more information about this event or to reserve tickets, email bobdaigle@me.com.