

By Christopher A. McCabe

Gladiator Fight Club

Combat for the New Millennium

With a pre-fight weigh-in party, a modern venue, and community involvement, Virginia's Gladiator Fight Club is an example of how a modern MMA show should be run!



The problem with so many modern MMA promotions is that it is hard to get the public to understand the difference between a well-run event and shows that never should have been allowed to happen in the first place. The ones that should be followed are those which are committed to bringing a higher standard to the sport.

In my time in the MMA world I have been fortunate to encounter some of the most inspiring athletes, trainers, fans and sponsors that one could have possibly crossed paths with. However, I have also been witness to several of the most horribly run promotions in the State of Virginia.

These are characterized by promoters who are willing to match-up any brawler with a warm pulse and who are willing to take advantage of venues and fighters alike by failing to pay agreed-on amounts or even to pay at all! They also routinely deceive fighters by not telling them who their opponent is until the night of the fight. This is a dangerous practice that legitimate promoters avoid whenever possible.

A Labor of Love

A good show is in large part a labor of love by a promoter who goes the extra mile to please schools, fighters, and fans in hopes of hearing such comments as, "This is an event I want to come back to," "This was very well

run," "The fights were great," and "The sponsor booths were the best." When you see the fans standing on their toes yelling and pumping their fists into the air, supporting their favorite fighters while surrounded by great music, friendly ring girls, and fighters with great attitudes, you know that you have hit the top shelf. This is what I envisioned for Gladiator Fight Club and what everyone on the GFC team has strived to achieve.

A Festival of Fight

The Gladiator Fight Club festivities start out the night before the event with the weigh-in party. Held at Sweet Carolines Bar and Restaurant, owned by Terry Hudson, it's the perfect MMA venue with a large stage, professional lights, and live entertainment after the weigh-ins.

The night of the event fans walk through the doors, past ticket-takers Connie McCabe and Debi Buono and the smell of fresh Anthony's Pizza and into the main arena that has been

Main sponsors Frank and Nicole Klebieko of PRK Drilling and Blasting, Inc. of Winchester, Virginia, enabled fighters like these to get it on!



transformed into an MMA masterpiece. The first thing that hits you is the immense 24-foot sponsor-laden cage complete with catwalk and stainless diamond plate stairways!

The production values are unsurpassed with 18-foot suspended trussing with plenty of both fixed and intelligent lighting with neatly packaged wiring snaking behind the glass to the control booth. The two jumbo screens that are mounted high on the walls, relaying images



from professional cameramen, make sure that fans won't miss any action in the cage, even when the fight goes to the ground.

Super Sponsors

There are sponsor booths everywhere, giving the fans the opportunity to meet and support the sponsors that support the Gladiator Fight Club. These great companies include **Whiplash Motor Sports**, **CasZone Home Theater**, **Gameday Clothing** and **Winchester Ford** with its black Cobra Mustang on display. You can also stop at the **Max Muscle** booth for some health supplements or get adjusted at the **Capital Rehab** booth. If you're from out of town a relaxing room at the **Country Inn and Suites** owned by the **Nerangis family** will end the evening right.


When intermission comes, fans hit the concession stand that is always sponsored by **Debi and Claudio Buono**. Up in the VIP mezzanine area the food sponsor is **Gourmet on the Go** with their ever-popular fajita bar. This section overlooks the cage and provides a great view. It's a great atmosphere for family and friends alike and an MMA fan's dream come true.

Gladiator Girls Rule!

The fighters are announced by **Terrance Crawford** but are almost always in danger of

being upstaged by the gorgeous Gladiator Girls, which include Playboy models. If you don't believe me then check out the ring girl bios on www.gladiatorfightclubtv.com. Needless to say we have spent a lot of time refining our event to make it more than just a fight and it can be viewed online at the SAN Network. The matchmaking is extremely balanced with some of the best local and national level MMA fighters available. GFC is very lucky to be associated with **Mario and Fernando Yamasaki**, which only adds to the excitement for the fans and the fighters.

Family Friendly

Gladiator Fight Club is intended to be a family production which moms, dads and kids can enjoy together. We emphasize skill not brutality, and strive for balance not beat downs. This is no toughman contest but rather a display of dedication, skill, and honor from highly trained athletes competing at the highest level as part of a sporting revolution called MMA. To believe how good Gladiator Fight Club is, you'll just have to see it yourself! 

For further information on attending, sponsoring, or competing in Gladiator Fight Club contact Christopher McCabe at 540-529-8300 or go to www.gladiatorfightclubtv.com.

