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IFL Teams and Information

International Fight League Facts and Information



DRAGONS

Dragon's Team:

Coach Carlos Newton
Ivan Menjivar 155
Claude Patrick 170
Brent Beauparient 185
Wojtek Kaszowski 205
Rafael Custodio 265

[Team Info](#)

Carlos Newton's team started their IFL lives strong, notching a 3-2 victory over Frank Shamrock's Razorclaws. Light-heavyweight Brent Beauparient, who is expected to move down to middleweight for 2007, has particularly impressed crowds with his gritty fighting style.

In the team's second outing, the Dragons were overwhelmed by the Quad Cities Silverbacks, who went on to win the 2006 World Team Championship. The Dragons have the advantage of training alongside coach Carlos Newton, who is as active as ever in his own fighting career. Training out of an MMA hotbed in Toronto, Canada, the team enjoys a great deal of hometown support.



TIGER SHARKS

Tiger Shark Team:

Coach Maurice Smith
Shad Lierley 155
Brad Blackburn 170

[Team Info](#)

Maurice Smith's team got off to a fast start in the IFL, shocking Renzo Gracie's Pitbulls, 3-2, in their first match. Not many expected the team of relative unknowns to be so

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competitive right away, but the team has rallied under the guidance of the legendary kickboxer Smith.

The Seattle squad has already formed a bit of a regional rivalry with Matt Lindland's Portland Wolfpack, a team who narrowly beat them the last time out. Though Seattle and Portland may be natural enemies in the Pacific Northwest, this one takes that rivalry into the ring, where it can truly be settled.



Silverback's Team:

Coach Pat Miletich 28-
Bart Palaszewski 155
Rory Markham 170
Ryan McGivern 185
Mike Ciesnolewicz 205
Ben Rothwell 265

[Team Info](#)

By far the IFL's most dominant team thus far, Pat Miletich's squad has rolled through some of the best in the league. The team trains together out of Miletich Fighting Systems in Iowa, an academy long-known for producing MMA champions.

Miletich's own fighting career was by no means insignificant, but his success as a coach is likely to be his legacy in the minds of fans. Particularly impressive for the Silverbacks has been heavyweight Ben Rothwell. The big man has looked flawless in his first full season, and the rest of the IFL's heavyweight division will be gunning for him because of it.

The Silverbacks set the standard for team training in 2006, and have inspired awe and imitation throughout the league.



Sabres' Team:

Coach Ken Yasuda N/A
Savant Young 155
Antonio McKee 170 18-
Kazuhiro Hamanaka 185
Vladimir Matyushenko 205
John Marsh 265 7-6

[Team Info](#)

A new team in 2006, the Sabres will feature an almost entirely new lineup, as well as strategy, for the 2007 season.

Coach Ken Yasuda went out and found a whole new crop of fighters, including veteran light heavyweight Vladimir Matyushenko, who looks to be a force at 205 pounds.

Only Kazuhiro Hamanaka returned to the team from the 2006 lineup. Yasuda also recruited Savant Young and Antonio McKee, two highly respected fighters and journeymen of the sport. With a new philosophy of team first, the Sabres are anxious to avenge their losses with a breakout year in 2007.



Pitbulls' Team:

Coach Renzo Gracie 12-
Erik Owings 155
Delson Heleno 170
Fabio Leopoldo 185
Jamal Patterson 205
Bryan Vetell 265

[Team Info](#)

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One of the IFL's original four teams, the Renzo Gracie's Pitbulls have struggled to find the right lineup in their first season.

Gracie has combined fighters from his homeland in Brazil, such as light-heavyweight Andre Gusmao, with members of his Manhattan jiu-jitsu academy, such as lightweight Erik Owings. Gracie, who looks to his family members to help train his team when he is consumed with preparations for his own bouts, has said he plans to bring everyone "under one roof" for the 2007 season.

After seeing the success of the Wolfpack and Silverbacks, who train as one cohesive unit, Gracie said he has come to realize that team unity in training is essential to IFL success.



Wolfpack Team:

Coach Matt Lindland
Ryan Schultz 155
Chris Wilson 170
Matt Horwich 185
Aaron Stark 205
Devin Cole 265

Team Info

Added with the second phase of teams in late 2006, Matt Lindland's Wolfpack energized the league by providing a balanced, established fight team to rival that of Pat Miletich and his Silverbacks.

Drawing from the MMA stronghold in the Pacific Northwest and Lindland's Team Quest, the Wolfpack have offered a variety of tough fighters for fans to cheer on.

Welterweight Chris Wilson has looked like one of the league's most polished fighters thus far, decimating Rory Markham in the World Team Championships.

Though that fight offered the Wolfpack their only win in an ultimately disappointing night, the team is already looking forward to a rematch with the reigning-champ Silverbacks later in the year.



Anaconda's Team:

Coach Bas Rutten 27-4-1
Chris Horodecki 155
Jay Hieron 170
Benji Radach 185
Alex Schoenauer 205
Krzysztof Soszynski 265

Team Info

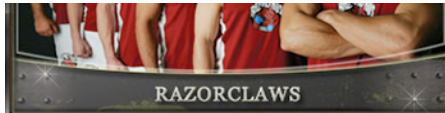
One of the IFL's charter teams, the Anacondas train and compete out of Bas Rutten's gym in Los Angeles, California. Though the lineup has seen some changes since the team's inception, standouts have included lightweight Chris "The Polish Hammer" Horodecki and welterweight Jay Hieron.

Although the Anacondas lost their first match, 4-1, to a tough Silverbacks squad, they rebounded by shutting out the Tokyo Sabres, 5-0, in Portland. A close 3-2 loss to the Wolfpack at the semi-finals in November of 2006 eliminated the Anacondas from title contention, but they're hoping to come back even stronger in 2007, likely with a score to settle with the reigning champion Silverbacks.



Razorclaws' Team:

Coach Frank Shamrock 21-
Josh Odom 155
Ray Steinbeiss 170



Brian Foster 185
Raphael Davis 205
Vince Lucero 265

[Team Info](#)

One of the IFL's new teams in 2006, Shamrock's squad suffered a heart-breaking loss in their first match against the Toronto Dragons in Moline, Illinois.

Though the team's look has changed for 2007, lightweight Josh Odom, an Iraq War vet, returns as one of the team's bright spots after his impressive TKO of Rob Di Censo. Particularly of interest to coach Shamrock in 2007 is the addition of his brother Ken's Nevada Lions team.

The Shamrock brothers have had a strained relationship in the past, and both are extremely competitive with one another. While the Razorclaws look to make a name for themselves in 2007, they'll also have their eye on the Lions.



Lion's Team:

Coach Ken Shamrock 26
John Gunderson 155
Pat Healy 170
Daniel Molina 185
Vernon White 205
Roy Nelson 265

[Team Info](#)

Lions coach Ken Shamrock sports a mixed martial arts record that reads like a who's who of the sport. In his thirteen-year career he's faced everyone from Royce Gracie to Tito Ortiz, and spread his talents across the athletic and entertainment spectrums.

Shamrock got his start in Japan's Pancrase organization in 1993, where he battled fellow IFL coaches Bas Rutten and Maurice Smith. He later moved to the newly formed Ultimate Fighting Championship in America, then back to Japan to take on Scorpions coach Don Frye in the Pride organization. Shamrock also had a successful pro wrestling career in the WWE, where his volatile ring persona electrified fans.

Shamrock is perhaps best known for founding the Lion's Den, a submission fighting academy in San Diego specializing in MMA techniques that were far ahead of their time. The Lion's Den produced many notable fighters under Ken's watch, including Jerry Bolander and Guy Mezger. His protégés were known for their leg and ankle locks, as was Shamrock himself. His Nevada-based team, which must endure the infamously brutal Lion's Den workouts, has the advantage of training with one of the sport's most respected and recognizable figures.



Condor's Team:

Coach Marco Ruas
Adam Lynn 155
Rodrigo Ruas 170
Jeremy Williams 185
Justin Levens 205
Antoine Jaoude 265

[Team Info](#)

Condors coach Marco "King of the Streets" Ruas is a true legend and pioneer in the sport of mixed martial arts.

The creator of Ruas Vale Tudo – a visionary fight academy in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – Ruas was the first to truly blend submission grappling and kickboxing techniques into a single coherent art form. The former UFC champion also won bouts in Pride and was a four-time Brazilian Thai Boxing champion, in addition to training many notable champions of his own, including UFC heavyweight Pedro "The Rock" Rizzo.

Ruas is known for his pulverizing leg kicks and methodical, relentless attack. He is considered, alongside the Gracie family, to be one of Brazil's most famous martial artists, and he gained a large fan following after several memorable bouts with "The Russian Bear" Oleg Taktarov. Ruas now makes his home in Laguna Niguel, California, in the heart of Orange County, the home of his Condors team.



Red Bear's Team:

Coach Igor Zinoviev
 Peter Kaljevic 155
 Mark Miller 170
 Chris Albandia 185
 Armin Mrkanovic 205
 Mo Fozi 265

[Team Info](#)

Red Bears coach Igor Zinoviev is revered and respected among hard-core MMA fans in an uncommon and almost mysterious fashion.

Officially, his record stands at 4-1-2, but the former Soviet army commando has far more fights to his credit than the record books show. Born in St. Petersburg, Russia to a poor family, Zinoviev suffered through a serious bout of meningitis as a child before eventually becoming a world-class athlete.

As a young man he studied boxing and judo and discovered a love of combat sports and the hard-won camaraderie he found among the participants. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Zinoviev came to the U.S. at the urging of an American businessman who promised him money to participate in underground fighting events. Zinoviev eventually became involved in the legally sanctioned form of no-holds-barred fighting, defeating jiu-jitsu legend Mario Sperry in the Extreme Fighting Championship, despite being a heavy underdog against a man most thought unbeatable.

Zinoviev has since made his living as a personal trainer, celebrity bodyguard, and stuntman. He's known for his striking physique and deceptively warm personality, displaying a kindness that few expect from such a daunting figure. Zinoviev's last bout came in 1998, when fellow IFL coach Frank Shamrock knocked him out with a vicious slam that broke Zinoviev's collarbone. A long-time teacher of martial arts, Zinoviev brings decades of experience to his team of Russian-born fighters.

The team trains in a restored firehouse in Chicago, a city that has long been a hotbed for mixed martial arts.



Scorpion's Team:

Coach Don Frye
 Ed West 155
 Gabe Rivas 170
 Shane Johnson 185
 Mike Whitehead 205
 Chad Griggs 265

[Team Info](#)

Scorpions coach Don Frye says there is one requirement for his Tucson, Arizona-based squad: never quit. It's an attribute that Frye exhibited throughout his pro fighting career, from his first tournament victory in UFC 8 to his memorable clashes with UFC and Pride superstar Mark Coleman.

Frye first began as a wrestler at Arizona State University, training under UFC champion Dan Severn. When he launched his own pro fighting career, Frye was forced to give up his job as a Bisbee, Arizona firefighter due to political pressure.

It proved to be a financially sound, though personally difficult decision for Frye, who went on to a long and successful career in several fight organizations, including Pride and K-1. Frye was recently voted one of the top five fan favorite fighters of all time in the UFC, edging out even jiu-jitsu icon Royce Gracie.

Frye, an Arizona native, requires all his fighters to move to his home state to train regularly with the team, where he imparts the lessons of determination and fortitude that he says he learned through many hours on the wrestling mat and in packed arenas around the world.

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