



Ben “The Teacher” Holscher and STRIKEFORCE Fight For Education

Portion of Online Ticket Sales for November 6 STRIKEFORCE Challengers Event In Fresno To Be Donated To Clovis Unified School District

NEW YORK (Oct 21, 2009)- Clovis High School teacher and mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter **Ben Holscher** and world championship MMA promotion **STRIKEFORCE** aren't taking the recent California state school budget cuts lightly. In fact, they have teamed up to fight for education, beginning with the *STRIKEFORCE Challengers* event that will take place at Save Mart Center in Fresno on Friday, November 6.

Beginning today, Wednesday, October 21, 20 percent of the (net) of each *STRIKEFORCE Challengers* event ticket purchased online using the promotional code “TEACHER” at Ticketmaster online (www.ticketmaster.com) and at STRIKEFORCE's official website (www.strikeforce.com) will be donated to the Clovis Unified School District following the event.

The 28-year-old Holscher, who teaches Health and coaches wrestling at Clovis High, will make the fourth start of his professional MMA career on the event's preliminary bout card when he faces Johnny Goh of Sacramento. Holscher was victorious by way of submission (rear-naked choke) in the first round of his STRIKEFORCE debut at Save Mart Center on May 15.

“I am thankful that I have the opportunity to use my career as a mixed martial artist to give back to the students who are in my life,” said Holscher, a former NCAA wrestling standout for Chadron State College in Nebraska. “Times are tough right now so I'm just going to do my part to give back and help the education system persevere.”

For the last two years, Holscher's exceptional work ethic has been the driving force behind his ability to maintain two careers as well as an inspiration to his students.

“It's a challenge, but I was a college athlete and I grew up on a farm so time management was ingrained in me a long time ago,” said Holscher. “If I wanted to make my schedule easier, I could just take a few things off my plate, but I don't want to do that right now.”

In the STRIKEFORCE Challengers main event, unbeaten lightweight (155-pound limit) sensation **Billy Evangelista** (9-0) will battle with Brazilian Jiu Jitsu black belt and electrifying brawler **Jorge Gurgel** (13-5). The live SHOWTIME telecast, which will include as many as five bouts, will begin at 11 p.m. ET/PT (delayed on the west coast).

Save Mart Center doors will open for the *STRIKEFORCE Challengers* event at 5:15 p.m. PT. The first live, non-televised, preliminary bout will begin at 6 p.m.

STRIKEFORCE Challengers is a proving ground for up-and-coming MMA fighters. The series is designed to provide today's top prospects with the opportunity to step-up their level of competition and demonstrate their ability in a nationally televised event.

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About STRIKEFORCE

STRIKEFORCE (www.strikeforce.com) is a world-class mixed martial arts cage fight promotion which, on Friday, March 10, 2006, made history with its "Shamrock vs. Gracie" event, the first sanctioned mixed martial arts fight card in California state history. The star-studded extravaganza, which pitted legendary champion Frank Shamrock against Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu black belt Cesar Gracie at San Jose's HP Pavilion, played host to a sold-out, record crowd of 18,265. Since 1995, STRIKEFORCE has been the exclusive provider of martial arts programming for ESPN and, after 12 years of success as a leading, world championship kickboxing promotion, the company unveiled its mixed martial arts series with "Shamrock vs. Gracie." In May 2008, West Coast Productions, the parent company of STRIKEFORCE, partnered with Silicon Valley Sports & Entertainment (SVS&E), an entity created in 2000 to oversee all business operation aspects of the San Jose Sharks and HP Pavilion at San Jose.

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