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The News SPORTS

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Martial artist one of province's best athletes

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By: Chris Clay

March 26, 2009 06:00 PM - A Mississauga martial artist is in the running to be named the top female athlete in Ontario.

Margherita Cina, who began studying the Chinese martial art Wushu at the age of four, is one of three nominees for the Female Athlete of the Year award, to be presented tonight at Westin Bristol Place Hotel in Toronto, site of the 2008 Ontario Sport Awards. Stouffville gymnast Karen Cockburn and Whitby track and field competitor Priscilla Lopes-Schliep are the other finalists for the annual award.

Last December, Cina had a memorable showing at the World Junior Wushu Championships in Bali, Indonesia. During the three-day tournament, she captured a gold medal in the Women's Group A (age 16-18) Spear event and placed fourth in Group A Female Straightword. Cina, who trains at Sunny Tang Martial Arts Centre in Mississauga, was part of a team that won 10 medals at the event, including three gold.

In 2008, Cina helped Canada win its first-ever gold medal at a world championship event. In total, she took home nine gold medals from various competitions last year.

Wushu dates back centuries and is a time-honoured sport in China, with millions of practitioners around the world. Using various weapons and hand routines, Wushu incorporates acrobatic jumps, flips and swirling maneuvers to demonstrate skills and agility of the athletes.

It was made famous by the likes of Jet Li and Jackie Chan. cclay@mississauga.net



Mississauga Wushu artist Margherita Cina has been nominated for the 2008 Ontario Sport Awards' Female Athlete of the Year. The winners are being announced tonight in Toronto.

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