



**ASSOCIATION DES SPORTS DES SOURDS DU CANADA
CANADIAN DEAF SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Deaf young men reunited 20 years later to represent Canada at the Deaflympics

MONTREAL, August 10, 2009 - On September 1st, two local deaf young men, Cole Sanderson, 21 and Ian Molenaar, 28, will travel with Team Canada to Taiwan to represent Canada in Beach Volleyball at the 21th Deaflympics.

In 1989, when Sanderson was just 14 months old and recently diagnosed deaf, he started attending the *Elks Family Hearing Resource Centre* program in Surrey (now named BC Family Hearing Resource Centre), which Molenaar had been the very first student to enroll in 5 years previously. Molenaar then went on to become mainstreamed as an oral deaf student, meaning he accesses information primarily through the spoken word. Sanderson continued to use sign language and enrolled in the BC School for the Deaf, and later with an interpreter into his local school, Semiahmoo Secondary. Their paths as deaf individuals have been very different. Almost 20 years later the two have been matched up to represent Canada at the Deaflympics – one of them is a *signer*, and the other is a *talker*, but both are deaf and share a passion for volleyball.

Sanderson and Molenaar have been training together for the past 14 months to prepare for the Deaflympics. They have both been very involved with volleyball for years. Sanderson focusing primarily on beach since a back injury sidelined him from indoor a few years ago; while Molenaar has been more involved in indoor, primarily coaching for the past 10 years at Langley Christian Secondary school.

“I am so excited to represent Canada and my Deaf community at the Deaflympics. I’ve been competing in sports all my life and I’ve never had the privilege to compete against people that communicate similar to me. I’m looking forward to the competition, but also to meeting thousands of signing people”, signs Sanderson.

“I never done anything like this – it’s all new to me. I’ve been training very hard and I’m really looking forward to this experience. This past summer I’ve spent a great deal of time learning beach volleyball and perfecting my game” comments Molenaar.

This will be the first Deaflympics for both Sanderson and Molenaar.

Photo Interview Opportunities:

The following are a number of opportunities to meet the team while at a training session:

Thursday, August 20th, 7 – 9 p.m. Kits beach

Tuesday, August 25th, 10 – 12 am, Kits beach

Wednesday, August 26th, 10 – 12 am Kits beach

Thursday, August 27th, 6:30 – 8 pm Kits beach

Note: If you plan to attend please confirm with Kim Sanderson to ensure a sign language interpreter is on site.

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Contact:

Kim Sanderson, Manager/PR Contact

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Background

Cole Sanderson

Sanderson has won many provincial titles for beach volleyball in recent years, including winning U16, U18 and U21 *Provincial Championships* -always being the only deaf amongst hearing competitors. Sanderson also won gold at the *BC Summer Games* and was an alternate for the BC team at *Canada Summer Games* in PEI this August. In 2006, he was one of 25 Canadians to be awarded the ***Terry Fox Humanitarian Award*** and is returning for his third year at post secondary at University of Victoria immediately following the Deaflympics.

Ian Molenaar

Molenaar has been involved in coaching at Langley Christian Secondary School for the past 10 years. Ian also attended and played for Langley Christian and finished 2nd in Provincials in 1999. He graduated from Kwantlen College has been employed as a chef for a number of years and is currently working for East Side Mario's in Langley since 2004. Molenaar is First Nations, of the Dene band.

Personnel:

Jonathan Guinta, Team Canada Chef-de-mission

Dolphin Kasper, Head Coach

Ben Feist, Trainer

Kim Sanderson, Manager & PR Contact

(604 535 9810 or k-sanderson@shaw.ca)

Sponsors/Supporters:

- **Canadian Deaf Sports Association (CDSA)** has been responsible for developing Team Canada, which consists of 19 athletes from across the country. CDSA is a non-profit, private corporation that brings awareness to Canadian athletes with a hearing loss of 55 db. They are the governing body for Team Canada participating in the Deaflympics, Pan-American Games for the Deaf and various World Deaf Championships.
- **BC Deaf Sports Federation (BCDSF)** has assisted financially with supporting the Beach volleyball team.
- **Elks lodges** throughout BC have helped with financial support for Canada's Beach Volleyball team. Both team members and their family's attended the Elks Hearing Resource Centre and have stayed involved by giving back to the centre as adults.
- **Overkill** has provided the uniforms and clothing for the Beach Volleyball Team.

Background on the Deaflympics:

- The 21st Deaflympics will be held in Taipei , Taiwan from September 5 – 15, 2009.
- The first Deaflympics, originally known as the World Games for the Deaf, was held in 1924 in Paris, 28 years after the first Olympics Games in 1896. The first Deaflympics was also the first Games ever on earth for athletes with a disability.
- The difference between the Deaflympics and the Paralympics lies in the participating athletes. While the Paralympics is mainly for those handicapped in their limbs or trunks, the Deaflympics requires its participating athletes to have a hearing loss in their better ear of more than 55 decibels.
- The most recent Deaflympics in Melbourne in 2005 included 3,660 athletes and team officials from 97 countries.
- It is anticipated that in 2009 in Taiwan, Taipei more than 4,000 athletes will be participating, bringing the total to well over 5,500 including all participating adults.
- Currently there are 20 sports on the 21st Summer Deaflympics program.
- Some of the nearly 100 countries participating are Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chili, China, Denmark, Finland, France Germany, Great Britain Greece Hong Kong Iceland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, State Venezuela, Zimbabwe and the host Chinese Taipei.
- There isn't one shared universal sign language shared by all deaf people as many of these countries have their own unique sign languages.