

SUSHI MASTERS

C O M P E T I T I O N

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THE NATION'S CAPITOL HAS A NEW SUSHI KING *Creativity and skill carry chef to victory in Washington SushiMasters*

Washington, D.C. --- Chef Randy Noprapa emerged victorious in today's SushiMasters Washington, DC Regional Competition, the first such event held outside of California.

Noprapa, of Tara Thai, an Asian-themed restaurant and sushi bar owned and operated by Asian Work Inc., took best of show honors, after winning a gold medal for his Signature Roll and a bronze medal for his Morikomi Plate. He earned the right to compete in the SushiMasters Finals Competition in Los Angeles this September.

"Competition was really, really intense," Noprapa said. "This is unbelievable!"

Noprapa said a big key to his success was using high-quality California rice, which is found in every piece of sushi made in America.

The California Rice Commission established SushiMasters in 2005, to highlight the growing interest in sushi and showcase the important role of rice in this and other world cuisine.

In other sushi news, House Agriculture Committee Staff Director Chandler Goule captured the inaugural Washington, DC Capitol Roller Competition on Friday, besting Derek Harley, Chief of Staff for Representative Wally Herger and Callie Varner, Senior Legislative Assistant to Representative Dennis Cardoza.

For making the best California roll as judged by an enthusiastic audience, Goule was presented with a framed samurai sword, to be displayed on Capitol Hill until next year's competition.

Photos and additional information on both competitions are available by contacting Jim Morris of the California Rice Commission at 916/387-2264 or jmorris@calrice.org.