



American Judo

A Journal of the United States Judo Association

Spring 2006



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President

AnnMaria DeMars
Vice President

George Weers
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On the cover: Clinic with Jim Bregman at the Yorktown Coast Guard Judo Club
Hosted by Pete Mantel January 2006

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**USJA is now accepting bids
for the 2008 USJA Junior Nationals
Interested parties can contact
Gary Monto
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE USJA



By now most of you have undoubtedly heard that the USJA has elected a new Board of Directors. After an election that admittedly had a few glitches, the final people to be named to the Board were:

1. James Webb - 1,573 votes
2. Virgil Bowles - 1,298 votes
3. Michelle Holtze - 1,268 votes
4. James Bregman - 1,189 votes
5. Lowell Slaven - 1,185 votes
6. Mike Szejter - 1,171 votes
7. Jim Pedro, Sr. - 1,170 votes
8. AnnMaria Rousey DeMars - 1,139 votes
9. George Weers - 1,126 votes
10. Peter Contardo - 1,123 votes
11. Robert Sprayley - 1,114 votes

Our first meeting of the new Board was held in Las Vegas this past weekend. At that time we elected officers. Your new officers are:

Jim Webb – President
AnnMaria Rousey DeMars – Vice President
George Weers – Secretary
Lowell Slaven – Treasurer

We also named two official positions that were not Board Members:

Glenn Nakawaki – Corporate Counsel
Chief Operating Officer – Gary Goltz

During the course of the day we started to name the Committee Chairs. Those we identified were:

Standards & Ethics – Pete Contardo
Coaching Education – Jim Pedro, Sr.
Tournaments – Lowell Slavin
Publications – Constance Halporn
Promotions – Virgil Bowles
Women – Deborah Fergus
National Board of Examiners – Charlie Robinson
Camps & Clinics – Gary Monto
Awards – Ronald Charles
Business Planning – Pete Contardo
Funding – Gary Goltz
Development - AnnMaria Rousey DeMars
Military – Pete Mantel
Kata – Gary Monto
Jiu-jitsu - Ken Nazmeth

There are a few committees not listed above – that is because we have not yet identified a committee chair.

So how did the meeting go – you ask? I am getting this question a lot. The election process was highly spirited, to say the least. Most Board members entered the room with the intent to put the negative campaigning behind them. I am happy to report that the meeting itself was very positive. Of course, there were the undertones that we had to notice.

First of all, let me say that I have been humbled twice through this process. My first dose was when so many of you chose to vote for me. There were some excellent people running for the Board. The second time I was humbled was when Jim Bregman asked me to be the President and my friend Mike Szejter further endorsed that notion. When the vote came, I received votes from all but one of the Board Members, who abstained.



For those of you who know me, you know I have chosen to be a low-key behind-the-scenes guy, just trying to get things done to make judo and jiu-jitsu more appealing. My leadership style is to enable other people to do good work and take the credit. I hope you will remember this when volunteering to serve on one of our committees.

Unfortunately, most of the other officer votes reflected the split coming through the election process. The good news is that everyone is loyal to the USJA and wants to make it a better organization.



My leadership style is to enable other people to do good work and take the credit. I hope you will remember this when volunteering to serve on one of our committees.

I get a lot of questions regarding the financial health of the USJA. Fair question. For the past many years we have plodded along without any real financial net below us should we stumble. We currently have a \$100,000 line of credit that started at \$70,000 and we have paid it down to \$35,000. Not great, but that is progress. We have also build up the Endowment Fund to over \$17,000. Once again, not great but progress. The past Board was able to sell the building we owned – a move that was necessary as we were starting to look at major repairs and maintenance for the property that would have put a severe drain on cash flow.

Of a more recent note, AnnMaria Rousey DeMars came into the room in Las Vegas and handed me yet another stack of donations to the USJA Development Fund. For those of you who do not know, we have created this fund to enable us to recognize some of our judo junior champions and their coaches. This fund was last used to fund a team made up of champions from all over the country who represented the USJA at the Ocean State Championship in Providence, RI. The USJA women's team won the team championship.

Even better was the \$9000.00 donation I just received from Dr. James Lally! He credited his belief in the skills of Gary Goltz and AnnMaria Rousey DeMars to move the organization forward. Who will be the next person to donate to the USJA to help us become debt free and strengthen the operating budget?

Most important – this is YOUR organization. Through the election Gary Goltz noticed that hits to our web site were up dramatically while our membership dropped dramatically. The last few months of 2005 were sub par – testing that financial net I talked about earlier. I believe I speak for the rest of the Board in saying that the USJA is the best grass roots martial arts organization in the country. Incumbent in this statement is our recognition that we need your help at every level.

Club coaches need to register all of their members!

We need judo and jiu-jitsuleaders to actively contribute to our committees – where the real work of the organization is done!

And we need to find ways, together, to build our membership with new people!

Personally, I do not believe that we compete against the USJF and USA Judo. We compete for members against other activities such as soccer, tennis and karate. Hayward Nishioka gave a great presentation to us in Las Vegas detailing out a plan to retain the teenagers that tend to drop out after a few years in judo. I am looking forward to sharing that with you, as well as other news of your organization, in future messages.

Respectfully,

Jim





2/1//05

To: All USJA Members

Subject: Golden Tiger Martial Arts Supply Agreement

We are very please to announce that Gary Goltz, Chairman of the USJA Funding Committee has completed a very beneficial supply agreement. You will find GTMA offers an extensive line of judo gis and equipment ranging from their quality brand to Adidas and Mizuno.

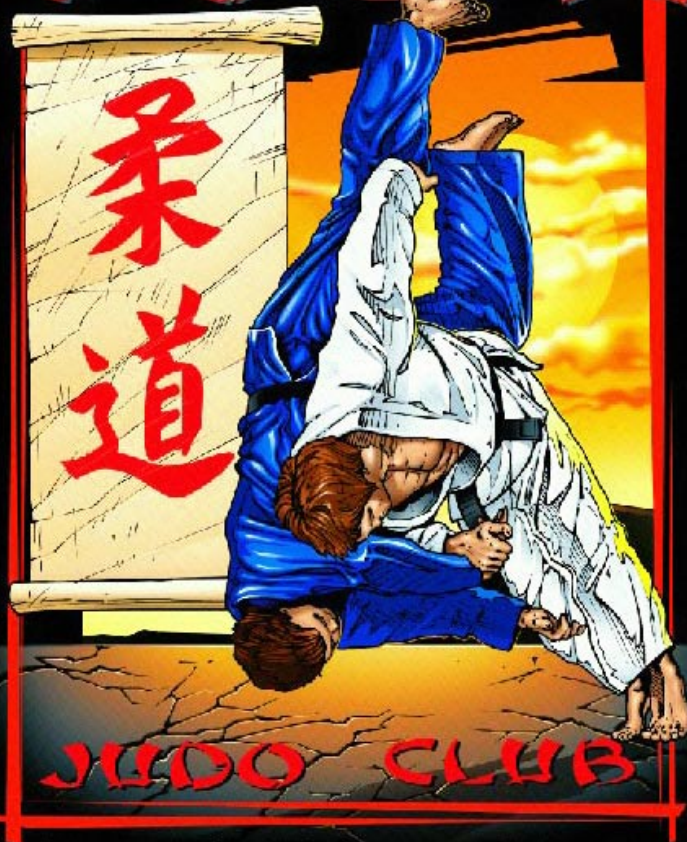
Under this agreement all USJA Members will receive a 10% discount off of retail on:

- All GTMA Brand of Uniforms including Unbleached, Bleached, and Blue Judo Uniforms in Single and Double Weave and Reversible Competition Judo Uniform.
- All GTMA Brand Protective Pads, Stretching/exercising Equipment, Punching Bags and Gym Bags.
- All Adidas Brand Judo Uniforms including Club, Contest, and Champion Uniforms in both Bleached and Blue.
- Adidas Brand Accessories including Knee Pads, Ankle Pads, and Warm Up Suits.
- All Mizuno Brand Single and Double Weave Uniforms in both Bleached and Blue.

USJA Club Leaders who open wholesale accounts with GTMA will receive substantial discounts on all of their purchases.

The USJA will receive a royalty from GTMA on all purchases by our Members and Club Leaders. This is money will go towards helping the USJA fund its operation in order to continue to bring you outstanding services. Thank you for your continued support.

GOLTZ



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Official Host

USJA CHAMPIONSHIPS

to be held in

Ontario, California

December 2 - 3, 2006

Information:

gary@goltzjudo.com

www.goltzjudo.com



Vince Tamura – USJA 9th Dan

by James R. Webb



It was a celebration of a lifelong passion -- an affair with a mistress that could never be wholly satisfied. It was a great day for judo.

In June 2004, Vince Tamura was recognized for his competitive accomplishments and spending a lifetime giving back to the sport he loved.

It all started in Fife Dojo in Washington where Vince, under the watchful eye of big brother Mas, remembers losing many matches as a young student. All that would change as Vince grew older and stronger -- stronger with excellent technique. By 1954, he regularly was winning the US National Championships and was chosen to represent the United States as our top player at the first World Championships in 1956 in Tokyo. He made it to the semi-finals -- notable in an era of no weight classes.

When judo made it into the Olympics in 1964, Vince represented the United States as a referee. There he helped train the first USA Olympic Team: Jim Bregman, George Harris, Ben Campbell, and Paul Maruyama. Jim Bregman's aggressive attacking style of judo earned him the first Olympic medal for the USA.

Flash forward to 2004.

Vince now is retired after years of producing national and international champions from his Tamura Judo Institute in Dallas, Texas. His family jiu-jitsu style, Heike-Ryu Jiu Jitsu, is flourishing as a practical approach to self-defense.

At the request of his longtime judo and jiu jitsu student, Jim Webb, Vince is presenting a rare clinic to attentive students at Dallas' Chamberlain Center. However something is not quite right. A strange person in a blue judogi lurks in the back, avoiding eye contact. An hour into the seminar, over a hundred people enter the visitor's area.

As if on cue, Jim Webb takes over the class and lines up everyone, receiving quizzical looks from Vince Tamura. A short speech introduces a distinguished guest in the dojo -- that strange person in the blue judogi was none other than Jim Bregman, President of the USJA. Vince has not seen Jim since the 1964 Olympics and is speechless. Jim Bregman delivers a passionate speech about the life and contributions of Vince to judo. Vince remains stunned. Then comes the presentation everyone except Vince anticipated -- Vince's promotion certificate for Kudan (9th degree black belt).



Vince makes a gracious speech about being unworthy and his reluctant acceptance, followed by the breakout of sake for toasting one of the most worthy Kudan ever to grace the USJA with style, knowledge and technique.

It was a great day for judo.

Later, I interviewed Tamura Sensei at his home in Texas:

Sensei, what first interested you in judo?

Well, as the youngest of seven brothers, I really didn't have much choice. My father and older brothers built the dojo adjacent to the Japanese language school in Fife, Washington.



Who were some of your early influences in judo?

We all naturally looked up to Iwakiri Sensei, head instructor of the club. My older brother Mas influenced me most. He was the club's best competitor. In those days the biggest competitions were region versus region. In our case it was northern Seattle versus southern Los Angeles. At one such tournament Mas had a particularly good day. Jigoro Kano was visiting the United States and witnessed that event. He promoted my brother to Sandan on the spot, a huge honor for him and, for me, big footsteps to follow!

Tell us more about Mas.

I recall the times I threw him. I was very small, and that I could throw my big brother, made me feel as though I could take on the world. Of course he was letting me throw him, but I didn't care -- it was a thrill that I remember all these years later. Many black belts don't realize the huge influence that they have on younger judoka.

What advice do you offer younger competitors?

Judo, like most sports, requires following a long and very hard road to become a champion. The most important thing to work on is perfection of technique, which requires years of training. Of course you need to be in great shape, eat right, and avoid things such as drugs and alcohol. At the highest level, everyone is in great shape. It is there that technique makes the difference.



ANNOUNCEMENT

January 8, 2006:

Kodokan Judo Institute, Tokyo, Japan, during the (Sun) Kagami Biraki Ceremony (New Year's rice-cake cutting ceremony), the performance of several Kata, some Randori with members of the national team, then the Judo Dan Grade awards ceremony with 3 Judans awarded. Toshiro Daigo (80 years old), Ichiro Abe (83 years old) and Yoshimi Osawa (79 years old) - were promoted to 10th Dan. There has been no "Kodokan Judo Institute" 10th Dan holders for 15 years since Sumiyuki Kotani died in 1991 - he was promoted to 10th Dan in 1984. It is first time 3 men have been promoted at the same time.

(Source - JudoInfo Site)



Grassroots Clinic Series by Gary Goltz

We kicked off our Saturday Morning Grassroots Clinic Series on January 28th with none other Dr. AnnMaria Rousey Demars, 6th Dan, VP of the USJA, Head of the Grassroots Development Committee, and 1984 World Champion. She covered some outstanding groundwork techniques to a group of 50 judoka of all ages, sizes, genders, and ranks from all over Southern California. \$150 was raised towards the Grassroots Funding efforts!



















USJA – Saturday Morning

grassroots clinic series

- Saturday January 28, 9 to 11AM – AnnMaria Rousey
- Saturday February 18, 9 to 11AM – Jin Iizumi
- Saturday March 18, 9 to 11AM – Paul Nogaki
- Saturday April 15, 9 to 11AM – Gerald Lafon
- Saturday May 13, 9 to 11AM – Butch Ishisaki
- Saturday June 17, 9 to 11AM – Steve Bell
- Saturday August 26, 9 to 11AM – Terry Kelly
- Saturday September 16, 9 to 11AM – Mike Noriega

Location:

GOLTZJUDO CLUB
ALEXANDER HUGHES COMMUNITY CENTER
1700 Danbury ROAD
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

909-399-5490

Fee:

\$5 USJA members, \$10 non USJA members

Sanctioned by the USJA

For More Information Contact:

Gary Goltz

909-985-0486

gary@goltzjudo.com

www.goltzjudo.com

More clinic dates to be announced...

Proceeds will go towards the USJA Grassroots Funding efforts



GOLTZ JUDO CLUB

Host of



2006 USJA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Seniors, Masters, Juniors, and Kata)

Registration: Friday December 1

Competition: Saturday & Sunday December 2 & 3

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL

901 Francis Street

Ontario, CA 91761

Gary Goltz, Tournament Director
909-985-0486, gary@goltzjudo.com

Bernie Semel, Head Referee

Greg Fernandez, Head Kata Judge

Joan Shiosaki, Travel Agent
310-222-8690, aawaytv@aol.com

Best Western Country Inn, Host Hotel
2359 South Grove Ave.
Ontario, CA 91761
800-770-1887

For More Information go to www.goltzjudo.com



A Dream Come True by Deb Fergus

In my 35 years of Judo, I have watched clubs come and go. I have watched female Judoka start Judo, some going far, some giving up after some years. I have seen our numbers rise and fall, climbing in the 70's, and 80's and the downward turn of the 90's and somewhat surge of the 2000's.

Let's face it. There are few opportunities for females to compete, advance, be head instructors, coach, play and train with other females. The list goes on. We do have the ever so few females that become the elite athletes age 14 to 18 that have had the support of their Senseis, Coaches, and Parents and have become World Champions, National Champions, State Champions and Olympians. But then something happens and very few continue. If they do they will go to tournaments, wait long hours to compete against one competitor, if they are lucky or maybe none. And usually there is no one left to watch them. Kata suffers the same but is climbing back.

Until we females take charge of our own destiny we may continue to see our numbers dwindle. We need to become more pro active in our organizations. Make the changes in the clubs to support and increase the numbers of females, communicate with other females, organize a working group of women and girls to attend various events so there will be competition. These are things we can do if we work together for a common goal.

I have heard talk of a Women's Event for many years. I even spent those years dreaming about a Women's Event but did not have the means or maybe the guts to push for one. One day early winter of 2004 Bob Treat, our Head Sensei at Southside Dojo and I were talking and he asked, "Deb, what do you want for women?" My answer. "I want to have an all female tournament. I want women to be the spotlight". Bob basically answered DONE. And so the "All Women's Championship" of Nov. 11th was born.

The most important participants were the women who came to play and become the first to be part of this historic event. They had courage and grit.

This had been a thought of many minds and in the 3 US organizations over the years but for various reasons, i.e. no one will come attitude, too much work, not needed and no support for the effort, it never happened. It took one Dojo's Courage, effort and drive, and self funding to become a reality.

Even as plans were in progress we were met with resistance to the event but Bob and the Southside gang persisted. It was truly an amazing event.

We had the First Lady of Judo, Rena "Rusty" Kanokogi, as our Chief Referee and Frances Glaze, an icon in Kata, as our Head Kata Judge. Dr. AnnMaria Rousey DeMars, the first US World Champion and a leader in the Judo Community, and Corinna "Broz" West, a 1994 Olympian, as our Coaches Clinicians.

We were honored to have high ranking referees including:

Rusty Kanokogi,	NY.	IJF-B
Kei Narimatsu,	Ill.	IJF-A
Ralph Reyes,	NY.	National
Anthony Grisanti,	NY.	IJF-C
Brett Wood-Taylor,	Wis.	IJF -C
Mark Frankel,	Wis.	National
Don Flagg,	MI.	IJF-C
Tom Sheehan,	MI.	IJF-B
Frank Gerlitz,	MI.	National
Charles Hooks,	Ind.	National
Jim Murray,	MI.	Regional
Alex Murray,	MI.	Regional
Don Wilson,	MI.	Regional

Kata Judges: Tom Sheehan, Don Flagg, Elizabeth Spaeth and Karen DuPage

Jan Kumagai, National Champion, Corinna West and Dr. DeMars gave a 2 hr. workout immediately after the competition.



We were also honored to have Ms. Liz Roach of Canada, Founder of the World Master Athlete Organization, on site who brought her grand daughter to compete.

The most important participants were the women who came to play and become the first to be part of this historic event. They had courage and grit. They took action to be a part of this, and not take the "I'll wait and see how this first event goes" attitude. To you, we are truly in your debt.



9 Jr. Light	1 st Kaitlyn Bennett, 2 nd Kelsey Rickard,	Wayne, Oh. Schoolcraft, Mi.	Bushidokai America Southside Dojo Ltd
10-11 Jr. Middle	1 st Ewelina Szewczuk, 2 nd Kendall Rickard,	Brighton, Mi. Schoolcraft, Mi.	Saito Dojo Southside Dojo Ltd
13-14 Jr.	1 st Natalie Budnick, 2 nd Rachelle Budnick, 3 rd Monica Harmsen,	Grand Rapids, Mi. Grand Rapids, Mi. Kalamazoo, Mi.	GR Judo GR Judo Southside Dojo Ltd
15-16 Jr.	1 st Melissa Smith, 2 nd Nikki Alexander	Appleton, Wis. Wayne, Oh.	Fox Valley Judo Bushidokai America
	Team A 1 st Natalie Budnick / Kendall Rickard / Kaitlyn Bennett Team C 2 nd Rachelle Budnick / Melissa Smith / Kelsey Rickard Team B 3 rd Monica Harmsen / Nikki Alexander / Ewelina Szewczuk		
Sr. Adv. Heavy	1 st Becky Frankel, 2 nd Erika Becker, 3 rd Jnise Ramsey,	Richmond, Ill. Mt. Pleasant, Mi. Flint, Mi.	Welcome Mat CMU Judo Shiawassee Martial Arts



Exhibition Light	1 st Natalie Budnick,	Grand Rapids, Mi.	GR Judo
	2 nd Rachelle Budnick,	Grand Rapids, Mi.	GR Judo
	3 rd Maggie Shum,	East Lansing, Mi.	MSU Judo
	4 th Erin Herbst,	Mt. Pleasant, Mi.	CMU Judo
Masters Middle	1 st Laurie Tanimura,	Chicago, Ill.	Tohkon
	2 nd Martha Waltz,	Portage, Mi	Southside Dojo Ltd
	3 rd Tammy Reed,	Oak Forest, Ill.	Tohkon
Sr. Novice	1 st Heather Woodhams,	Portage, Mi	Southside Dojo Ltd
	2 nd Martha Waltz,	Portage, Mi	Southside Dojo Ltd
	3 rd Jocelyn Renner,	Evanston, Ill.	Tohkon
	4 th Victoria Good,	East Lansing, Mi.	MSU Judo
	5 th Erin Herbst,	Mt. Pleasant, Mi.	CMU Judo
Sr. Light	1 st Jan Kumagai,	Rockford, Mi.	MSU Judo
	2 nd Maggie Shum,	East Lansing, Mi.	MSU Judo
	3 rd Karen Belter,	Lakewood, Oh.	Chu To Bu
Masters Light	1 st Jan Kumagai,	Rockford, Mi.	MSU Judo
	2 nd Karen Belter,	Lakewood, Oh.	Chu To Bu
Masters Heavy	1 st Shandra Smith,	Appleton, Wis.	Fox Valley Judo
	2 nd Julee Cope,	Bowling Green, Oh	Bushidokai America
	3 rd Robin Roach,	Keswick, Canada	Ryudokan
	3 rd Heather Woodhams,	Portage, Mi.	Southside Dojo Ltd
Sr. Middle	1 st Shandra Smith,	Appleton, Wis.	Fox Valley Judo
	2 nd Danielle Clinton,	Mt. Pleasant, Mi.	CMU Judo
	3 rd Ann Berends,	Evanston, Ill.	Tohkon
	3 rd Maggie Shum,	East Lansing, Mi.	MSU Judo
Nage no kata	Natalie Budnick	Grand Rapids, Mi.	GR Judo
	Rachelle Budnick	Grand Rapids, Mi.	GR Judo
Ju no kata	Janet Johnson,	Spencerport, NY,	Renshinkan
	Joyce Gugino,	Buffalo, NY	Kin-Tora
Goshin Jitsu	Frances Glaze / Ryan O'Connor, Toledo, Oh.		
Novice Best Technique	Ericka Becker		
Jr. Best Technique	Natalie Budnick		
Master Best Technique	Shandra Smith		
Sr. Best Technique	Jan Kumagai	Seiho Kawasaki	Kaitlyn Bennett



On a final note, I did not write much about the details of the event, the roses, the ambience etc. It was the best run, organized and cordial tournament I have seen in a long time. What I will tell you is that the "All Women's Championship" was recorded. Every match, Kata, opening ceremony, awards, coaches and players workout after the competition. There is a DVD being produced.

It was a wonderful event and I am very much in awe and gratitude to Bob Treat and Southside Dojo, for making my dream come true. I look forward to seeing many of the women who read this Nov. 4 and 5 2006 at the 2nd All Women's Championship.

All-Women's Judo Championships by Corinna West

After over a year of planning, the first annual All-Women's Judo Championships was held with a solid success. Tournament planner Deb Fergus says, "People heard about the tournament and came to support us because they wanted to be in on the first one." There were junior, senior, and kata divisions, with both individual and team events.

Fergus says, "I wanted to allow the women of our sport to have a tournament of their own, to be in the limelight and not just the add-on. Young women have no access to role models in Judo. This was a prime experience for them."

The refereeing for the event was superb, with six IJF referees, including Kei Narimatsu, from Illinois. There were also three nationally certified referees, Ralph Reyes, Mark Frankel, and Frank Gerlitz. Fergus points out that many of the referees wanted to be a part of this historic event. "I think that the referees that came believed in what we are doing and were curious to see if this event would make it."

One of the unique parts of the tournament was the competitor's workout that was held immediately after the awards ceremony. Clinicians were Ann Maria De Mars, a World Champion, Jan Kumagai, a several time National Champion, and myself, a 1996 Olympic Team member. De Mars told the competitors, "Hey, put down those roses and medals and get back on the mat. What are you waiting for? Hustle up."

Nikki Alexander, one of the competitors, wrote, "I especially liked the clinic held afterwards. It really helped me realize things that I had done wrong, and it felt nice to be able to work out with another girl, who was my own size and strength. I think that the people who organized the tournament had the right idea, and I will be looking forward to attending the Second Annual All Women's Judo Championships."

Julee Cope, one of the master's contenders, pointed out how it mattered to be a women's tournament: "Arriving at the school and weighing in - getting a rose, water and Gatorade - told you this was not the same kind of tournament as others we have attended. It had a different feel to it. It was great watching the styles of the women, usually you see two or three women compete and being new to the sport, I observed things I have only seen men do." Cope's family also brought several boys to watch the tournament, and she wrote, "Two of the boys who traveled are also judo players and did not understand why they were not competing - what a big change for them."

Katie Bennett, from Cope's dojo, received the fighting spirit award, even though before the tournament she had pointed out how scared she was. She had also been a member of the winning junior team. The goal of the team tournament was to give everyone a chance at as many matches as possible.

According to Rusty Kanokogi, "It was a delicious smorgasbord of Judo."

The tournament was intended to promote women's Judo, and it did just that. Julee Cope's reaction to the event sums it up nicely: "I learned so much about Judo this past Saturday. I had no idea about what occurred in 1958 or who Rusty is/was. I had never really looked past my dojo mats. But now I know there is much more out there and I will be one of the women that will help further the sport, even if just beginning at age 40."



Judo Coins by Dr. Ronald Allan Charles



The Soviet Union issued the first judo coin in 1979 as part of a set commemorating the 1980 Moscow Olympics. When I saw it in a Montreal coin shop window, my heart skipped a beat. When I saw the \$300 price tag, it skipped another. It didn't matter whether the dollar sign represented Canadian or American dollars; it was beyond my budget. Naturally, the shopkeeper wouldn't break the set.

But knowing what to look for is half the job. Finding it is the other half. I haunted coin shops for years, eventually finding the coin outside the set.

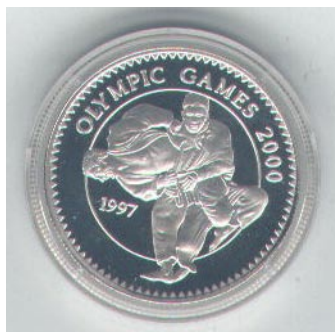


Tonga issued a judo coin showing a kick. The Tonga mint obviously needs a judoka on its staff.

Fiji's coin features mat-work (kesa-gatame). Most judo coins (and stamps and phonecards) depict throws.



Mongolia's, South Korea's, and Australia's judo coins explode with action.



Cuba issued copper-nickel peso and silver five-peso judo coins. The larger five-peso's design is identical to the peso.

Some coins are proofs. These are double-struck on specially prepared planchets using dies, often themselves polished, of the highest quality. Proofs have a mirror-like finish and cost more than uncirculated coins.



Australian and Isle of Man judo coins include other sports. The Isle of Man minted its judo coin in copper-nickel, silver, gold, and platinum. Collecting all metal variations is expensive. I'm satisfied with copper-nickel. Besides, this coin is unattractive, with judo the size of the head of a pencil eraser. Multiple sports themes earn revenue from collectors. An Australian coin is well armed, showing arms with hands holding sports equipment. The tennis player holds a racket, for example; the judoka is empty handed. A judogi sleeve identifies judo. Big deal. I could have designed a better coin. So could you.

Though coins cost more than judo phonecards, pins, and most stamps, many are beautiful and worth collecting. Occasionally e-Bay offers them, saving treks to coin shops where prices often are higher.

The Isle of Man issued 30,000 copper-nickel judo coins, selling for about US\$3 apiece, but produced only 100 from platinum, each costing about US\$1,200. Judo coins are not in circulation anywhere. Collectors' items, they generate revenue and celebrate something and are not minted in sufficient quantity for general use. Though they have value and COULD BE spent, only a fool would do so. And there are no fools in judo.

Tokens, often issued in sets, lack denomination or face value and generally are made from low grade metals and of quality inferior to coins. Unlike a judoka, they cannot be spent. One from the Sydney Olympics features Syd -- a platypus -- in a judogi. Hmm. Syd from Sydney. What a coincidence! Tournaments down-under must offer some unusual competitive divisions.



Shell Oil Company issued tokens celebrating the Sydney Olympics -- Fuelling the Games.



Canada issued a square token.



Though America has lagged the rest of the world in issuing judo stamps, coins, and phonecards, a USA token celebrates the Los Angeles Olympics.

Another American token, featuring Dr. Kano, commemorates the centenary of judo.



See the flip side of judo coins and tokens in the world's largest collection of judo coins (and judo stamps and telephone cards) online at <http://usja-judo.org/~judo.stamps>. Click onto the Judo Coin List in the index for conditions, number minted, cost, and a view of the items. Last time I printed this, months ago, library staff flipped because I had exceeded their ten-page limit by over 100 pages, not including nearly 2,000 images. The List now is considerably longer.

Judoka, when flipped, can land on heads or tails, just as coins can. You'll flip when you see the coins and tokens. Allow time to browse. No referee will stop your activity for going out of bounds, but try not to get lost. Some who dive into the List of ALL judo coins and tokens become distracted by 1,300 stamp items and 400 phonecards, never again to surface. You have been warned. Hajime!



THE USJA AWARDS PROGRAM by Dr. Ronald Allan Charles



The USJA Awards Committee selects recipients each year for recognition in State and National categories. Three hundred and twelve awards (up to six for each state, D.C., and Overseas) are allotted annually for the State category. Fewer awards are designated for the National category.

STATE AWARDS:

An Outstanding State Junior Competitor, State Senior Competitor, State Junior Kata Player (or Team), and State Senior Kata Player (or Team) is chosen based upon a point system. Points earned by placing in competition are tabulated on the nomination form, available from USJA website (under *Forms*). Any Coach may submit nominations, and Judoka may nominate themselves if the Coach endorses their nomination forms.

Each honoree receives a voucher for \$100 to match a Life Member contribution. This is the Awards Committee's way of showing how much we appreciate membership in our organization and the hard work that went into earning these awards. Our payment of money on a Life Membership indicates our desire to help those selected to become permanent members of our Association.

Awardees receive beautiful certificates and recognition on the website Hall of Fame, plus free entry to Camp Tomodachi International. The Tomodachi International camp fee is waived for those receiving State awards for the previous year. This national camp is held during July or early August in southern Florida. Camp details are available on the USJA website.

In order to democratize the process, we solicit recommendations from every club. Club coaches play a vital role in selecting these outstanding players by nominating Junior and Senior USJA Competitors for each of two categories, Kata and Shiai. Coaches should begin thinking of candidates long before the March 31 deadline and should download and submit the nomination forms early. Points are accumulated for the calendar year from January 1 to December 31. Coaches should ensure that their candidates keep competition records current. This makes tabulating points easier.

Nominees from each state are considered together objectively, using the point system on the nomination form. Coaches may nominate persons not USJA members if membership application and fee are sent with the nomination, and may nominate themselves or persons from other clubs.

Coaches who don't recommend anyone exclude their competitors from any consideration. Sometimes only one club in a state will send in nominations. Such nominees win by default.

NATIONAL AWARDS:

The Coach of the Year and the Outstanding Life Member Contributor, Kata Practitioner or Team, Female Athlete, Male Athlete, Female Masters Competitor, and Male Masters Competitor are selected Committee based on achievements. These Hall of Fame inductees receive engraved plaques in addition to having their names posted in the web site Hall of Fame. They also earn free entry to Camp Tomodachi International. The fee for the Tomodachi International camp, held during late July or early August in southern Florida, is waived for those receiving National awards for the previous year.

Ronald Allan Charles, Chairman

See the 2004 National and State Awards:

<http://www.usja-judo.org/awards04.htm>

National Hall of Fame:

http://www.usja-judo.org/hall_of_fame.htm

Nomination form:

<http://www.usja-judo.org/forms.htm>



Promotion Time: Things to Consider

by Virgil Bowles, Chairman, USJA Promotion Board



When your sensei determines it's time for your promotion paperwork becomes important, and the higher the rank, the more there is. For promotions above sandan and **for anyone being recommended for promotion to any rank who is counting points earned from SERVICE to judo, a background check is required.** Evidence of successful screening must accompany the paperwork and fees, or the process stalls.

Club instructor tasks:

The sensei maintains student records to verify time-in-grade. The sensei also prepares the applicant for examination and ensures the application is completed properly, with signatures and supporting documentation.

Examiner tasks:

The sensei is usually, though not always, the examiner. The examiner evaluates the candidate's skills and makes sure the application form is properly completed with signatures and supporting documentation, such as a picture of the candidate for high dan rank. In cases requiring two Master Examiners' signatures, the candidate will test in the presence of both or for each Master Examiner in different locations. In cases where it is not practical for candidate and examiner(s) to be together (such as candidates who are overseas or in remote areas), electronic means such as videotapes or DVDs may be used to show techniques to the examiner(s).

The candidate's role:

The candidate studies and passes the rank examination, after which he or she signs the application to verify meeting requirements. Remember the book for keeping track of points? It's the candidate's job to maintain accurate promotion point records, so as to assist the sensei with information needed on the promotion form. Pay the appropriate fee. For high dan promotions, a picture of the candidate is required to help Promotion Board members put names to faces, since they cannot know every applicant personally. And the candidate must have been a member for a required time period, as documented by having paid membership dues. If the candidate was not a USJA member for all the time-in-grade years required, member fees for those missing years must be included with the form. For Life Members, this means having paid the Sustaining Member Fee for those years or including fees for any lapsed years.

National Office role for high dan promotions:

Prior to the Promotion Board meeting, where paperwork concerning ranks above sandan is evaluated and decided upon, the National Office verifies that examiners are current members with valid and appropriate-level Examiner status and thereby eligible to examine for promotion. Required documentation, including the background check, is verified.

HIGH DAN PROMOTIONS FOR YEAR 2005

Those recommended but not promoted were advised privately as to the reason(s) and guided accordingly. Some would have been promoted if they had followed guidelines set forth in the Senior Judo Handbook and on promotion forms available from the National Office and online.



The United States Judo Association is proud of our recently promoted leaders. I congratulate the following and encourage you to continue your diligent study of the sport of judo.

YODAN

David Baker
Dan C. Brown Jr.
Paul Drescher
David Ellis
Roy Hash
J. Irvine-Calcutte
Melvin E. Keach
C. L. Ledger
Donald MacLeod
James D. Nagy
Hugh Reed
Scott Lee Smith
Ed Thibedeau

GODAN

Sam R. Exnicious
Frederick Fries
Richard Kennedy
Jacques Legrande, Jr.
Clinton Main
William Montgomery
Mark Oermann
William P. Romaine
Bruce Voelker
Igor Yakimov

ROKUDAN

Dr. Lawrence Beard
Russell D. Burke
James Haynes
Bernie Semel
Eric E. Shellum
Mehran Viseh

SHICHIDAN

Richard Celotto
Jesse Goldstein
Jason Morris
Dr. Paul Terse

KUDAN

Walter Dean
Jesse Jones
Jacques Legrande



Judo Clinic in Kansas City Mo., 12/29/05



photos on this page by Steve Scott



photos on this page by Steve Scott



USJA National Judo Shiai and Kata Championships at Disneyland



