



**Above: USJA/USJF Winter Nationals**

# **GROWING JUDO**

## **Holiday issue**

### **November/ December 2008**

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## **Editorial: A National Organization**

*by Dr. AnnMaria Rousey DeMars, President, United States Judo Association*

No matter how busy I get, editing Growing Judo is one of the tasks I don't want to give up. Each issue allows me to see how judo really is growing around the country. This issue we have articles on judo in northwest Arkansas, their coaching clinic and tournament. Four members from USJA stalwarts Budokai Judo Club in upstate New York are off to France after qualifying for the Kata World Cup. Dynamo Judo Club is growing in Beverly Hills, Mayo Quanchi is hosting their annual Ocean State International in Rhode Island. Many of our members attended the Le Blanc Memorial Open in Connecticut. I remember Lenny Le Blanc. He ran the USJA Junior Nationals in Connecticut. I am pretty sure I won that year. The Naval Air Station club from Florida is competing in Louisiana, home state for such USJA star clubs as Acadian Judo and Wall to Wall Martial Arts. The USJA/ USJF Winter Nationals were held in December along with an athlete clinic and coach certification clinic. Judo is strong not just across the nation but across history. Articles in this issue recognize judo pillars in this country such as Rusty Kanokogi, Kyu Ha Kim and Gene Le Bell. In the far less distant past, we have an interview with Jimmy Pedro, Jr. and representing the future we have a USJA group on Facebook semi-moderated by Ronda Rousey.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=42008194147>

I noticed that the description is "A USJA sponsored group for anyone who interested in judo and who isn't a jerk."

To all of those mentioned and to those I did not have a chance to mention – thank you. Have a great Thanksgiving and a better Christmas and Hanukkah. For those of you who are atheists, have fun sacrificing chickens or eating tofu or whatever it is you do. Yes, judo is not going to rival soccer in numbers any time soon. However, as long as you are doing good within your own clubs, doing good for your students and having a good time, it's all, well, good. It's great to have you as a part of the USJA across the nation.

As always, if you want to volunteer, please contact our wonderful regional coordinator, Joan Love at [judolady210@aol.com](mailto:judolady210@aol.com) or email me at [drannmaria@fractaldomains.com](mailto:drannmaria@fractaldomains.com)

I apologize for the lateness in the last two issues. My New Year's resolution is to get Growing Judo to you more regularly and on time, with the same low price! What can you look forward to in the January issue?

- More on coach certification.
- More on the USJA/ USJF Winter Nationals with results and photos.
- Information on the upcoming USJA election including a report from election committee chair Dr. Martin Bregman. If you are interested in running, you need 100 signatures from USJA members age 17 and over. You can find the nomination form on the USJA website

<http://usja-judo.org/>

## **Four Members of Bushido Kai Judo Club go to the IJF World Kata Cup --- IN PARIS, FRANCE!**



*Photo Courtesy of Connie Halporn*

Heiko Rommelmann, Jr., Jeff Giunta, Kerry Forster and Kirsten Weisbeck, all of Bushido Kai Judo Club, in Rochester, New York, have been selected to represent the United States (USA Judo) and Pan American Judo Union at the International Judo Federation Kata World Cup in Paris, France on November 22nd and 23rd, 2008. These teams were selected based on their Gold Medal performances at the 2008 Pan American Judo Union Championships.

The 2008 Pan American Championships were held in Miami, Florida, this past May. Kata teams were selected based on the 2007 U.S. Nationals results and yielded three teams from Bushido Kai. Along with the teams of Rommelmann and Giunta, and Forster and Weisbeck, were club team members Kevin Osz and Chris Arena. All members of Bushido Kai medaled in every kata in which they competed. Their results were outstanding: Osz and Arena took a Bronze in Ju no Kata, Forster and Weisbeck took Gold in Katame no Kata and Silver in Nage no Kata and Rommelmann and Giunta swept the Pan American Championships for the second year in a row winning three Gold Medals in Nage no Kata, Katame no Kata, and Ju no Kata!

These results were a huge consideration in the selection process to represent the United States and the Pan American Judo Union at this inaugural event in Paris, France. This selection represents one of the highest honors that Pan American Judo can bestow upon a kata competitor.

Their hard work and dedication have carried them to this point, but they are in need of your help. This event is NOT FULLY FUNDED. USA Judo only budgeted \$500 for each competitor which will not be received until after January, 2009. You may help these two teams, along with Michelle Holtze and Kathy Buys (who will be competing in Ju no Kata), by sending donations to the USJA office, designated for the Kata World Cup Tournament. No donation is too small...these athletes will greatly appreciate any help that you may offer. All three of these teams are longtime members of the USJA.

## TRY THIS AT HOME!

Probably the most frequent question we get at the USJA Development Committee is how to grow a judo club. What are ideas for recruiting people into judo and keeping people in your club once you have them? In reviewing the information we have received from the largest clubs in the U.S. , for example, Amerikan Judo in Ohio (Mark Hunter), Wall to Wall Martial Arts (James Wall) and Acadian Judo (Jeff Miller) clubs in Louisiana, and some of the fastest growing, such as Industry Sheriff's (Butch Ishisaka) in California, Texoma Judo (Roy Hash), Budokan Judo (Marshall Coffman) in Maryland and Team Havok (John Renken) club down in Tennessee, there seem to be common threads.

1. They are organized. They have lesson plans. Regular promotions set up with requirements. They don't, as Mark Guerrero once put it "Dial it in" when it comes to their class. They show up prepared rather than figuring out what they are going to do when they get on the mat that night.
2. They make use of assistant instructors. In their club, assistant instructors really do assist. They teach some days, they help groups of students. It is not a program where one mighty O-sensei Grandmaster teaches while other talented black belts stand around and admire.
3. They have fun! They realize that judo is a social activity. Mark Hunter and Gary Goltz both frequently have events where they host one or two other clubs for a clinic or tournament followed by a pizza party. These clubs are innovative in their ways to socialize, with everything from barbecues to church services. Both Team Havok and Budokan Judo club are part of churches, with many of their young players and instructors involved in the church ministry.
4. They are creative in the ways they teach judo so that it doesn't get boring. James Wall and Jeff Miller do technical officials training, coaches clinics and referee clinics, often jointly with their two clubs. Butch Ishisaka just held a newaza clinic, hosting Sensei Okada from Japan. Roy Hash has a clinic hosting Ray Silverstrand from Spain and also runs a judo camp each summer.

In upcoming issues we will be highlighting specific ways clubs have grown and maintained their membership. Feel free to send us your stories!

## **Our First Shiai**

by Michael Dobbs, ARKJUDO

Judo is new to Northwest Arkansas...again. There was Judo here many years ago, even some major International Tournaments, but over the years it died down. When I moved here 18 months ago, there wasn't a USJA, USJF, or USJI Dojo in the area. Now there is.

ARK JUDO opened a little over a year ago. [Check out [www.ARKJUDO.com](http://www.ARKJUDO.com)]. Great Judoka, but lots of turn-over. We have 10 – 15 people on the mat on an average Saturday, sometimes up to 20, but only 5-8 of them have played for more than a few months. It is really hard to advance the class because we have so many beginners.



I really struggled with the idea of a Shiai. Are we ready? Will we get enough people to show up? How will we organize it? Will it really help grow Judo in the area (my primary goal)? Well, sometimes you just have to get started and have faith that things will work out.

I partnered with Ed Thibedeau from Arkansas Goshinkan. Ed is a USJA Regional Coordinator and certifies everything from Referees to Kata. Ed being involved was KEY. I wouldn't have had confidence to get started without his push. He also supplied all of the things that I needed from a score board to stop watches. I sanctioned the event with the USJA, made a flyer, and sent it out to everyone I know in a 3 hour radius. Now that everything is over, I have to say I believe we had a very successful first Shiai. I also think it helped grow Judo in the area, and I believe we'll get more judoka at the club as a result.

Some things I learned:

1. Don't try to run a Judo seminar before the Shiai. (Makes the day too long)
2. Add other things like referee certification if you can. (Gets other people interested)
3. Split the event into 3 or 4 job areas like Money, Registration, USJA relations, Event Tables, etc. Give responsibility of these different areas to Judoka that you trust. You can not do it all.
4. Make sure that Table Staff and other workers are trained in advance.
5. Work hard to keep the event flowing for everyone. Start on time, end on time.
6. Come up with a better name. Something more fun. I'm thinking of the NorthWest Arkansas Kano Cup for our next Shiai.

## The Event

We set up the area at 8:30 am. Around 10 am, Ed started a seminar for the Judoka that were there. It was really great to give this diverse group the chance to get instruction from a Sensei that they don't normally work with. They all learned a lot. He reviewed Harai Goshi and explained why it is a good Shiai throw. Even though some people had never been taught Harai and others use it regularly, Ed kept the class at everyone's level.

At 1pm the Shiai began. OK, it may have been 1:30pm before we actually began. Next time I'll try to be ready to start on time. We had 3 kids divisions, 2 teen divisions, and 4 adult divisions with a total of 30 Judoka playing. The kids went first. We worked hard to keep it low stress for them...more about playing than winning. We had children as young as 3, and we had young lady who is visually impaired. They all did a great job. When all of the kids finished we handed out the metals. I'd guess that 80 to 90 % of them got a metal. That was a big hit and I think it'll motivate them.

The senior competitors also did a great job. We saw a mix of levels, but everyone did their best. One of my Judoka who will go nameless (Francisco) had a great moment when he really hit a [Tai Otoshi](#). Well executed and with force. He took Bronze, and he deserved it! That said, he also had a more negative moment when he lost a match after trying Tomoe-nage. OK, he didn't lose because of the technique, but in my mind that is when he lost the match... Sutemi Waza as a White Belt is questionable. I've never taught it in class...because I do not believe in Sutemi Waza is for novice judoka. Maybe the one exception is a judoka who has GREAT newaza and is looking to either score or go to newaza...BUT be careful with that! If the ref does not believe you were really going for the throw, you WILL get a Shido for False Attack. (My understanding is that they will be awarding this Shido more in 2009). One more thing...a Shiai is not the place to try something new. Stick with technique you've been using in class and are having success with. Don't try to pull a rabbit out of your hat at a Shiai...that's what Randori is for! – OK, I'll get off my soap box now, sorry.

I believe we've developed a community through this Shiai. One of the Newspapers was there and did a really nice article for us (Wallworth, A. (2008, November 2). Martial Arts Patrons flip out. Arkansas Democrat Gazette, p. 5B.). Ed has volunteered to do a Kata Seminar and people seem very interested. We will be having more events and things will continue to grow...God willing. One of my goals is to continue having events and bringing clubs together. The events don't have to be HUGE, 20 people are fine. I'm just hoping to get out there and keep things going. I can not do it alone. If my dojo sees value, they will volunteer to help. If other Sensei see value, they'll help and have their own events. Together, we will **Grow Judo**.

## **Coach Certification: Answers to Your Questions**

AnnMaria De Mars, President, USJA

Recently, I received email from a few members asking for more information on coach certification. Specifically, some high-ranking, well-respected individuals asked could they be exempted from the clinic requirements for certification. I have been emphatically against any such exceptions. In this issue and next month's, I will do my best to answer some of those questions and explain my position and that of our coaching committee.

There are some valid concerns about our coaching program. These include the need for more instructors, more clinics at more convenient locations for our coaches. At the same time, I think Jim Pedro and his committee can point to a number of significant accomplishments.

- The clinics offered are of excellent quality. No one who has attended one - and I have attended several - can doubt the accuracy, currency and validity of the information presented.
- The current coaching program was designed based on an assessment of the needs of coaches. In short, the areas of focus include recruitment and retention of judo players, teaching at the developmentally appropriate level, motivation, matwork, gripping, counters, combinations and conditioning.
- This program is fair to everyone. There are no special privileges for special people. I have a Ph.D., many years college teaching and judo teaching experience and I attended a coaches clinic to become an instructor, as did eighth-degree black belt, former world team coach, world team member and A referee Hayward Nishioka and everyone else who has been approved as a USJA coach or an instructor for USJA coach certification. I believe the USJA needs to stand for credibility and fairness. That's one reason I attended the clinics. I think we as leaders need to set an example and not ask for exceptions for ourselves to rules we apply to other people. Another reason is that I always learn a lot from my fellow judo instructors. I want to set an example to my students of being a life-long learner, of not having the arrogance to pretend that I know it all.
- Coach certification requires time on the mat doing the activity in which one is being certified, allowing for authentic assessment.
- Course instructors are all required to attend a coach certification course to insure that we are delivering consistent information to our members.

All that said, there are areas that can be improved. We need to make our course materials, outlines and handouts more accessible to our course instructors. We have quite a bit of material for course instructors that could be made available on line, either

to the general membership or in a password protected site.

We can set up the capability for the classroom section of the course to be completed on line, which would allow clinicians the option of offering a shorter clinic with the mat-only portion. I know that in the most recent clinics offered in Los Angeles and San Diego, we had coaches who had come from Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and other states with a very long drive home. Having the clinic end earlier would have made it possible for them to drive home and arrive at, say, 10 p.m. instead of midnight.

We need to get an updated, complete list of approved course instructors and scheduled clinics to our national office on a regular basis and posted on line.

Everyone I talk to has a good idea for additional information that would benefit our coaches. They make the good point that not all teachers coach competitors. However, to include everything would require a two-year full-time program of study. Personally, I don't have the time for that and I bet most other judo instructors don't either! However, we do offer an Assistant Instructor option for coach certification that focuses only on instruction.

All of these improvements and others are a project that two members of our coaching committee, Bill Montgomery and Hayward Nishioka will be working on beginning in January. We have a good structure for a coaching program established. For the next year, we will be working on improving that structure.

My own New Year's resolutions for the USJA include getting Growing Judo out more promptly and more often, assisting our club coaches in getting certification with minimal inconvenience, including, especially, getting more information out more promptly. To that extent, see a partial list of approved coach certification course instructors below. I am sure I left some off but in keeping with my new resolution, this issue is going out TONIGHT and I will have an updated and expanded list in our January issue. We are working on greatly expanding this list by the end of 2009. Check Growing Judo next month for more details.

### **Coach Certification Instructors**

Dan Alef  
Maurice Allen  
James Bregman  
Serge Boussyou  
Lanny Clark  
AnnMaria De Mars  
Jacob Flores  
Roy Hash  
Rick Hawn  
Gerald Lafon  
Pete Mantel  
Jeff Miller  
Roman Mitichiyan

Tony Mojica  
Bill Montgomery  
Hayward Nishioka  
Paul Nogaki  
Mike Noriega  
James Pedro, Sr.  
James Pedro, Jr.  
Neil Ohlenkamp  
Mitchell Palacio  
Ronda Rousey  
Lowell Slaven  
James Wall

## **Rusty Kanokogi Receives Emperor's Award of the Rising Sun**

Congratulations to Rena 'Rusty' Kanokogi for receiving this prestigious award. Rusty has been an inspiration to women in judo since she began competing in the 1950's at a time when women were banned from competition. She is currently the president of Kyushu Judo & Community Service and serves as president of New York State Judo Inc. A former member of the Board of Trustees of the Women's Sports Foundation she was recently featured in an article outlining her many achievements.



<http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/Content/News/National-Womens-Sports/2008/Oct/Kanokogi-honored.aspx#>

## **PHOTO OPPS** **Bernie Semel Clinic** **October, 2008**

*Referee clinic with Bernie Semel of Judo America in San Diego and Dan Takata, from Nishi Dojo, at Goltz Judo Club, October 8. Judo instructors of all ages benefited from the expertise of two international referees. This clinic was especially timely and much appreciated given the new rule changes.*





**NOVEMBER 1, 2008**

**NEWAZA CLINIC**

**By**

**TOSHIZAKU OKADA (Kodokan)**

**and HAL SHARP (Gardena)**

**Hosted by Industry Sheriff Judo (PAL) Club**

**Butch Ishisaka, Head Instructor, 6<sup>th</sup> Dan**

**WHAT AN EVENT!** There were judokas across Southern California participating in this Newaza Clinic held by Toshikazu Okada Sensei (7<sup>th</sup> Dan from Kodokan), and Hal Sharp (7<sup>th</sup> Dan from Gardena Judo Club). This event was hosted by Industry Sheriff Judo Club, with Sensei Butch Ishisaka, Head Instructor and David Matutte, Instructor. Even in these hard economic times, members from eight dojos participated.

Participants were able to obtain a FREE DVD of Okada Sensei technique on Newaza at the cost of the clinic. What a deal! His techniques were something you would never see in books or even at local clubs in the United States. This 72 year old gentleman, made growth men cry and/or patted out due to the pressure and techniques illustrated by Okada Sensei techniques. With the new IJF newaza time of 20 seconds for Ippon, Okada's newaza pin lasted about three seconds before uke patted out. Yes! Three seconds! Okay, maybe four seconds. Okada Sensei, about 125 pounds had 200 lbs uke jump out of these judogis when he applied his unique arm bars and pins.

Both of these two senseis studied under the great Oda Sensei (9<sup>th</sup> dan) who was known in Japan to be one of the finest newaza expert. Participants were shown, not one, two or three different ways of doing chokes, pins, or arm bars, but about 30 to 50 different varieties, as well as special grappling techniques. Before the participant knew it, this four hour clinic for Shonen and Seniors was over. Time passes so fast when you are learning new and created ways of doing different techniques.

We also had a two hour Yonen Newaza Clinic in the morning. At noon, the Industry Sheriff Judo Parents managed by Gladys Sarabia, and Mickey Clark provided all the senseis and participants with lunch. Wow, what a treat it was too.

We are so sorry that other judokas had to miss this great opportunity.

*Butch*

Sanders Ishisaka

6<sup>th</sup> Dan, Head Instructor



Newaza Clinic, November 1, 2008. We had 13 yonens and about 26 shonen/senior participants from Goltz Judo Club, Cal State LA Judo, Norwalk Judo Club, Discover Judo Club, Long Beach Judo Club, Gardena Judo Club, San Gabriel Judo Club and Industry Sheriff Judo Club.

*Photo courtesy of Butch Sanders Ishisaka, Industry Sheriff Judo Club*



Judo at **Springdale's Jones Center.**

*Photo courtesy of Dr. Bob Bell*

## Clinic with Roman Mitichyan at Goltz Judo Club.



## Jimmy's Quest

- An Interview by Cesar Lazcano

*Jimmy Pedro is not just a legend in United States Judo. He is the measuring stick. As a four time Olympian, from 1992 to 2004 Olympics, with two Bronze Medals to show and as 99' World Champion, he is the most successful American Judoka in history. Here he tells us a little bit more about himself from his experience in the Olympics to his nickname peanuts. Ladies and gentlemen, this is Jimmy Pedro.*

CAL: Where is Judo going in the United States?

JP: It's at a status quo right now. The popularity and membership of the sport is not growing nor is it declining, it is the same as it has always been. We simply don't have enough Judo clubs nation wide. They're allspread too far out. Until we get more qualified people teaching, it won't grow.

CAL: How do we train any different in the States than other Judokas do say in Japan?

JP: I can only speak for my program. Japan and France have numbers. You go there and you have 300 to train with on the mat. Here, you'll get 15-20. With only four or five in your weight class. I believe we train smarter. Rather than 10 or 15 rounds (or randori, or free practice), we have more intense practices. I've had people come and be surprised by the intensity of our practice.

CAL: Ronda Rousey just made history by being the first woman to win a medal for the us since the women's division was introduced in 1992. How proud are you?

JP: Words can't describe the sense of accomplishment you get. People don't understand how difficult it is to make it to the podium. I have an awesome sense of pride for her. And to know that you helped someone else achieve their dream makes it all worth while.

CAL: Can you possibly attempt to describe the feeling you got when you won the World Championship in 1999?

JP: As a little kid, I always pictured myself fighting against a Russian in the finals of world competition. Kind of like a "Rocky" thing. In the finals of the 99' championships, I fought a Russian. So my dream came true. My goal was always to be the best in the world in my sport. I was full of overwhelming emotion and had a feeling of ecstasy.

CAL: You have competed in the Olympics four times. You must have many memorable moments to remember, which was the most profound?

JP: When you ask that, the first thing that comes to my mind is winning the bronze medal in Atlanta. I remember the people cheering me on and chanting "USA! USA!". It's a spectacular



*Above :Jimmy teaching at a clinic at the 2008 USJA/USJF Winter Nationals*

memory. Losing in Sydney is also certainly memorable, but in a different way. It was one of the lowest of lows in my life. Coming so close to placing especially when you are expected to win, and not doing so at all was a terrible feeling. And, finally winning the bronze in Athens was the highest of highs. Those three are the most memorable.

CAL: What is the best advice you can give to anyone who might be training for any competition?

JP: Dedicate yourself. Make sure you make all of the necessary sacrifices. Never settle for anything less than your best. If you pursue everything with all of your heart, you will achieve it. And if you don't, then wherever you end up, you can still look back with no regrets and be satisfied because you gave it your all.

CAL: When it's all said and done, what do you want your legacy to be? How do you want people to remember you when they look back in history?

JP: I think I'd like to be remembered as one of the most significant and influential people in American Judo ever. Not only as a great athlete, but also as a great coach and someone who made many positive contributions to the sport. Ideally, I will figure out a way to professionalize judo and launch a string of judo schools that are both profitable and produce champions.

CAL: Who has been the most influential person in your life?

JP: Two people have been (the most influential). My father, my coach. (He) has passed down all of my attributes that helped me become a great champion (eg; discipline, work ethic, attitude). And, my wife, who gave me a TON of support and motivation.

CAL: Is there any down side to being coached by your father?

JP: Having your father as your coach can be difficult and very emotional. When (fathers) push (their kids) for themselves then it is not a good thing. My father (pushed me) for me. I see parents trying to live through their children, and often times push the kid for the wrong reason. I think there's a balance between demands and high expectations and teaching kids life lessons. They need to teach them how to handle losing appropriately. I think my dad did a terrific job as my coach and father.

CAL: Did you every feel pressured by your family to be an Olympic athlete?

JP: I didn't always have the freedom to do what I wanted. My dad made me do Judo when I was young. But there was no pressure to become an Olympian. That was my decision. Ultimately, you're the one who has to train day in and day out, and who decides whether you're going to give up on the mat or not. If you don't want it, no matter how hard (someone else) pushes for you, it won't happen.

CAL: How was filming Fury on the Mat like?

JP: That was a project that I did with a guy I worked with. It was a collaborative effort. It's a legacy project for me and was meant to inspire the next generation of athletes to see their dreams through. Filming that (was) awesome because it brought back many memories and made me realize the LONG journey I took in my career.

CAL: "Peanuts" is a nickname of yours, where did you get that from?

JP: I got that in Japan. When training in Japan, we were in a karaoke place. There was nothing to eat and I was starving. So I kept eating all the peanuts (available) in my table. When they were all gone, I kept going from table to table greeting everyone eating their peanuts. After clearing eight tables, (my) Japanese (friends) gave me the nickname.

CAL: You have BA in Business Economics & OBM from Brown University. How was your experience in that school?

JP: It was a great experience. It was a good educational experience. I was very well prepared before I got there. I went to a prep school before getting there. St. John's Prep. It was three times harder than college was for me. I learned how to take tests, manage my time, and how to study properly. When I went to college, I couldn't believe how much free time we had because I just had three, four hours of school there in comparison with the prep school which took a lot of my time.

CAL: Are you big on golf?

JP: No. I used to be. When I was a kid, I used to live next to a golf course. I used to sneak in with my friends. Now, with a family and a school to run, I can't do it.

CAL: How well do you play?

JP: Not too well. Below 100.

CAL: Does your dad coach you when you play golf?

JP: My dad doesn't have the patience for golf!

CAL: What are the factors that led to your retirement?

JP: My age was 33 turning 34 when I retired. I felt that my competitive years were behind me. Even though I placed in the Olympics, in 04' I was not as good as I was in 99'. I retired in a high note. On a win. My last match was a win. I had three children at the time. At some point, you have to dedicate yourself to your children and not to yourself.

CAL: What other ventures are you pursuing now that you retired from Judo?

JP: I'm running a professional school. One that makes money and produces champions. I am an executive in marketing for Zebra mats. I am also producing DVDs and videos.

CAL: If you could go back in time, is there anything you'd go about differently?

JP: I would have rested more before the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. I didn't rest so much. I could've been a gold medalist that day.

## **Gene LeBell Answers Questions from Cesar**

Gene LeBell is known as one of the "toughest men alive". He is one of Hollywood's top Stuntmen, a former Heavyweight Pro Wrestling Champion who trains dangerous and aspiring MMA superstars at the Hayastan Academy in Hollywood. He is 76 years of age and shows no signs of slowing down. In fact, he was recently promoted to 10th Dan by Jon Bluming, Chairman of the Judo Karate-Do, Kyokushin Budo Kai.

Gene always tells anyone he meets to "keep smiling". Gene shares with us many memories and reasons why he himself keeps smiling. Gene also takes the time to wax philosophic with me on whether or not he is better looking than Gary Goltz, host of the 2008 Judo Winter Nationals in Southern, California

UA: You were the referee in the legendary Mohammad Ali vs. Antonio Inoki match, a boxer vs. wrestler match. How was that?

GL: I think Inoki could have won but he wouldn't tackle. Ali had boxing gloves on and he couldn't grab either. I think if Inoki could have tackled him, he could have tapped Ali out. Mohammad Ali should have gotten closer and knocked him out. It was a defensive match, but people don't want to see that. People already know how a bull fight ends, but people are there for the spectacle and enjoy it. I thought it was going to be a pre determined fight but it was legit. That was in 1976. If it had been an MMA fight nowadays, Ali would have had gloves allowing him to grab Inoki, and I think it would have been more exciting.

UA: Would you have liked to have gone one on one against either of these men? And how do you think you'd fare?

GL: Absolutely, I would have loved to be one of those contestants, Ali took home, \$6M, Inoki took home \$2M and the referee got \$5,000. If I'd been a contestant then I'd be too rich to talk to you now. But seriously, it would have to be a modern Mixed Martial Arts event. And you have to have the modern rules. Inoki got on his back a lot, its good as defense since Ali didn't know what to do. Inoki was one of the best wrestlers; I think he fought a bad match. Karl Gotch was in Inoki's corner and could've broken Ali. In modern MMA one has to know Boxing, Wrestling, Judo, all different forms of Karate. I like Muay Thai. I was in the first televised Mixed Martial Arts event in 1963. I fought Milo Savage. There are photographs of the fight in my book, *The Godfather of Grappling* available with my other books at [www.genelebell.com](http://www.genelebell.com). There's an unauthorized book floating around out there by another name, people have come and asked me to sign it for them before, and I tell them the complete story is in color.

UA: Why isn't Judo as big as a sport as it is say in France or of course Japan?

GL: I believe Judo in the U.S doesn't have enough quality coaches, I mean those that would be on par with the likes of Hayward Nishioka, the Chair for the Teacher's Institute of the US Judo Federation. I think that he has to be one of the most knowledgeable people in the sport. I seldom go to Judo tournaments, because of the politics involved, but I go to some. They need teacher from Japan on Tachi Waza. Then some for Ne Waza, Osaekomi. The United States needs the best of the best, from Japan, France, and Holland. Ronda Rousey just won the Olympic bronze medal and her mother also was the world champion in Judo. I thought (Ronda) was the best. She lost at overtime against a former world champion. But it could have gone either way. Jim Bregman, I can respect if he coached, but it's a full time job. A lot of people don't have the time. If the US Judo team could pick up a great coach like Jimmy Pedro, former world champion out of Wakefield, MA, or even the '96 Atlanta coach Mike Swain come on full time it still be a boon to the sport in this country.

UA: How did your pink gi get pink?

GL: In a Japanese tournament, in 1955 the local women used to wash gis by hand. Mine happen

to come back pink that night. The next day the Mamichi newspaper says, "[radish] wins!" So when they said pink, I thought they meant my hair, but they didn't. They teased me. I said the heck with it. I wear it when I teach now. It's a running joke. I don't take it serious.

UA: The Japanese crowd was livid when they saw you compete with the pink gi, how did that make you feel at the time?

GL: I didn't mind. The Japanese were so nice to me. They treated me better there, than anyplace else. I some pro wrestling while I was in Japan. Last time I was there was with my son, (at the time he was) 12 years old, we visited the Honda raceway, and Suzuki fun centers of and we rode [motor] bikes.

UA: At 165 pounds, you fought in the heavyweight division, did you have something to prove?

GL: No, my coach told me that I did well with heavyweights. He thought the heavyweights weren't very good; they weren't as fast as the 180 pounders. In the 1954 and 1955 championships I was lighter and we fought through the round robin, to the overall championship in all weight classes.

UA: Do you ever wish you would have had the chance to go to the Olympics?

GL: Yeah, when I specialized in Judo, Judo wasn't an Olympic sport yet and in my time, pros couldn't participate in Olympic wrestling. In 1980, I worked out with Russians; during the cold war our governments didn't like each other politically. You wouldn't know it if you had seen us. We gave each other hugs, hand shakes, and advice. I'd say if there's a war, let's have the two leaders of the countries fight it our alone.

UA: What is your all time favorite wrestling move?

GL: Any one that works!

UA: How do you feel about the direction professional wrestling has taken?

GL: Well, one of my teachers, Lou Thesz, went against these WWE guys, he would have called them clowns and beat them up. It's a show business. To get money, Vince McMahon has done a great job of taking wrestlers and making them into actors. Karl Gotch wouldn't wrestle a clown. I like legitimate wrestling, but I make my money on stunt work. I did well as an amateur, but all the trophies don't make one house payment. I've worked over 1,000 shows as a stuntman. I wrestled in Japan; there is no clowning around there.

UA: Who right now in MMA has the ability to be a major star and why?

GL: The best now is this kid from Russia. He was in P.R.I.D.E. (which was bought by the UFC); the most versatile guy; Fedor Emelinko, he does Boxing, Sambo, Judo, etc. I can spot a great athlete if he's been around for a few good years. There are a lot of good guys. And MMA really has become popular. Arnold Schwarzenegger supported making Mixed Martial Arts legal

in California and now it's legal in most other states. I give credit to Arnold. Mixed Martial Arts in the USA outdraws professional Boxing and Wrestling hands down. All sanctioned by state Athletic Commissions.

UA: You worked with Bruce Lee in the Green Hornet series. From then on the two of you shared a friendship. What did you learn from Mr. Lee? What did Mr. Lee learn from you?

GL: I learned a lot from him like the fancy spinning kicks and using your arms, mostly for the movies and I taught him judo and wrestling. He called me and said, "I'm filming Enter the Dragon, you should come." They offered me \$200 a week over there but I told him that I was making \$1,000 a week here. Bruce got me into three or four shows because I was a tumbler. What a great guy. Brandon Lee was a very good martial artist. I was one of the bad guys in one of his movies. I told him to kick me and throw me around, he said, "the script needs you to be shot." Nice kid. Shame they both died so young, they were great athletes. They could've done so much for martial arts and movies. Bruce said wrestling never will go anywhere. Wish he was still alive to see it.

UA: What is your favorite cuss word?

GL: Cuss word... uh, I try not to say anything bad. Because when people respect you, you're their idol. Everyone says a little something bad when they have their toes stepped on, but anytime I cuss I have to give a quarter to my grandson, Jimmy James LeBell. In our school if someone gets out of line, Gokor and I give "attitude adjustments" to anyone who needs it. Other schools I know of don't have such sadistic instructors, but I recommend Benny Urquidez, John McCarthy, Machado, and Bas Rutten if you want to play by the rules.

UA: McCain or Obama and why?

GL: I think they both would do a great job. I think they have different values. You never know. Muhammad Ali vs. Joe Luis? Karl Gotch vs. Lou Thesz? Who knows? I'd pay to see 'em though. I hope whoever gets in does a good job. It's time for a change. Politics is a strange breed. I hate that one puts the other down. (Hilary) Clinton said Obama wasn't qualified, now McCain says that. I think he [McCain] gets a lot of sympathy because he's a [war] hero. But it's not about what he did then, it's about what he can do for us now.

UA: Who is better looking you or Gary Goltz?

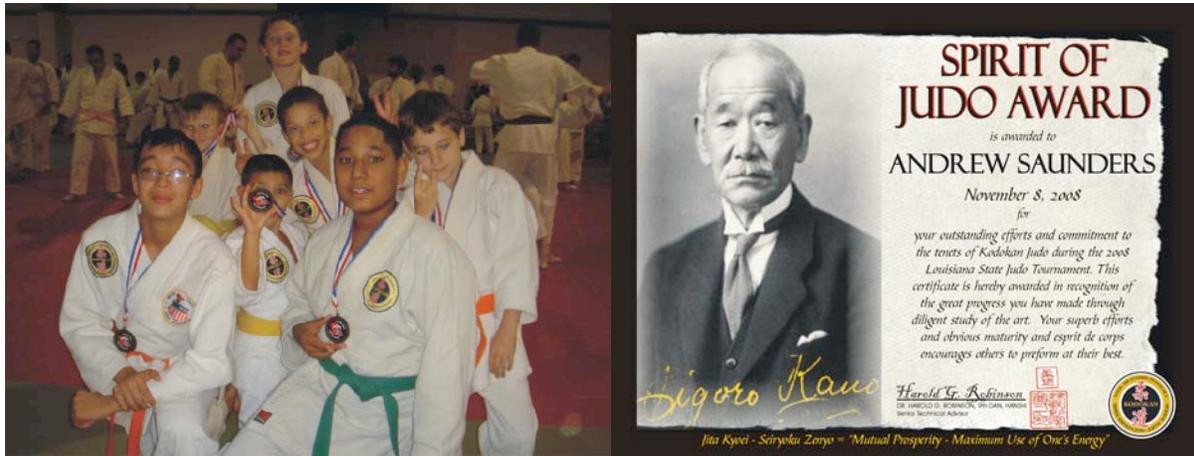
GL: Why don't you mention someone else? That's no contest. Why don't you put in Frankenstein? But as ugly as he is, and I would never tell him this, I have lots of respect for his many abilities. He just needs some plastic surgery done to his face. I love that man!

LEARN MORE AT <http://www.genelebell.com/>

-Cesar Lazcano

## Naval Air Station Pensacola Armed Services Judo and Jujitsu Academy Opens 2008 Season with Louisiana (LA) State Judo Championships

[Story and photo by Renee Robinson]



Naval Air Station Pensacola's Armed Services Judo and Jujitsu Academy (ASJJA) recently competed in the 2008 LA State Judo Championships in Denham Springs, LA, November 8, 2008. This year's event drew close to 125 competitors from Judo clubs representing 6 regional states. The ages of the competitors, male and female, ranged from 5 to 48 years. The fourteen competitors from ASJJA included seniors Jeffrey Hoffman, James Kelley, Minh T. Bui, Adam Neisler, Nathan Neisler, Nicole Powell Dunford, and Andrew Saunders. Junior division competitors included Wyatt Ballard, Joshua Dunford, Louis Henrick, Gavin Kelley, Austin K. Robins, Aaron Scott, and Erik Williams. The majority of ASJJA entrants were novices, i.e. participating in their first tournament. However, this wasn't a stumbling block for these highly dedicated and motivated athletes as every NASP representative walked away with honors.

**NASP "Warriors" demonstrating extraordinary dedication, technical skills, bravery and fighting spirit included:**

Juniors:

### NAME AGE MEDAL EARNED

Austin K. Robins 5 Gold  
Joshua Dunford 9 Silver  
Aaron Scott 10 Gold  
Louis Henrick 11 Gold

Erik Williams 12 Gold  
Gavin Kelley 12 Bronze  
Wyatt Ballard 12 Silver

Seniors:

**NAME MEDAL EARNED**

Adam Neisler Silver

James Kelley Bronze

Jeffrey Hoffman Silver

Minh T. Bui Bronze

Nathan Neisler Silver

Nicole Powell Dunford Silver

Andrew Saunders Spirit of Judo Award

Special thanks to Sarah Horacek, Jasmine Robinson and all the parents for providing our "Warriors" exceptional cheerleading support and motivation! Special kudos to Major Nicole Powell Dunford, US Army, MD for her invaluable medical assistance at mat side.

The coveted Spirit of Judo Award went to NASP Hospital Corpsman Andrew Saunders who's controversial match went into the only Golden Rule (sudden death overtime) of the tournament. Video tape examination of the match revealed significant errors on the part of the referee! However, Andy, in his usual good natured attitude, took it in stride.

The secret behind obtaining success in this Olympic sport, and popular MWR activity, is to never miss practice. The contribution Judo makes toward enhancing the advancement and development of keen mental and physical well-being of students continues to significantly benefit them in their everyday activities; whether in school or performing complex military duties.

Upcoming ASJJA Judo event participation includes:

- 3rd Annual Gulf Coast Open Judo Tournament, Biloxi Mississippi, January 17, 2009 - Pre-registration: December 17, 2008
- Akayama Ryu Jujitsu Winter Camp - Orange Beach Alabama - January 17 & 18, 2009 - Pre-registration: December 20, 2008
- 2009 Mississippi State Judo Tournament - Clinton Mississippi - March 17, 2009 - Pre-registration: February 15, 2009

Based upon the availability of adequate on-base training areas, a Bi-Annual Mini-Olympics Developmental Training Camp is held for two weeks during the summer and winter school breaks. This unique training brings in other instructors and specialists throughout the region.

For further information, please visit the ASJJA web site at [www.asjja.com](http://www.asjja.com) or contact Dr. H. G. Robby Robinson: [robin0305@aol.com](mailto:robin0305@aol.com) or Gerome Baldwin: [baldg5@juno.com](mailto:baldg5@juno.com).

## **November 15, 2008, Interclub Judo Tournament between Goltz, Discover, and Industry Sheriff**

Dear Sensei Gary Goltz

This was the most enjoyable and exciting judo event in my life. It was even better than when all three of my children placed first at the Jr. Nationals and when I competed in the Olympic Trials. Your leadership in creating and enhancing Judo Programs in Southern California and in the Nation must be commended. Without your leadership, I would not have had the opportunity to create or establish two clubs, the Cal State LA Judo Club and most recently the Industry Sheriff Judo Club (PAL).

As you know, Judo is an individual sport, unlike soccer, basketball or football which is a group sport. Like tennis, judo is an individual sport where a judoka is depended upon one thing.....themselves ...using their skills that was taught by their Instructors.

This Interclub Tournament between your sister dojos, Discover and Industry Sheriff is such a tremendous idea, other dojos should consider it. You have made an "individual" sport into a "group sport". I have not seen so many judokas, senseis, parents and families all yelling in support of their own club. You could hear the yelling for about two blocks away. It was so exciting. All of the competitors were not competing for a trophy or medal. They were competing for their senseis and their club. Boy, was it exciting. Our club had Zero Points in the first hour and half. Discover and Goltz had almost 100 points by then. Industry Sheriff slowly started to gain points and after four hours of competitions, it was almost even score. It was so exciting, everyone screaming and supporting their team members to win to obtain 1 point, 2 or 5 points for ippon. And they all tried for Ippons in order to obtain the maximum allowable points allocated, 5 points for a full Ippon. This event changed the attitudes of these students, seeking for an Ippon by pin or a throw.

I want to personally thank you for your leadership as a COO for USJA, your leadership to enhance the growth of judo in America, and for being my friend. My contribution towards judo in Southern California could not have been done without your guidance and leadership. You have provide all of the judokas from all the other judo organizations to share in learning from many of the masters at your clinics throughout the years. Having instructors like Jim Bregman, Charles Robinson, Jimmy Pedro, Ronda Rousey and many others only enhances the skills for all judokas.

Thanks

Butch  
Sanders Ishisaka, 6th dan  
Head Instructor Industry Sheriff Judo Club

## Dynamo Club

Dynamo Club, the mixed martial arts club which focuses on Judo and SAMBO, has had a period of change, adventure, and success. With team building events such as the Halloween scrimmage, extended practices, and even an international SAMBO competition in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Dynamo Club is currently re-energizing itself for the Winter Season, including Winter Judo Nationals (Gary Goltz and USJA event), on December 5-7, 2008, in La Verne, California, (<http://mysite.verizon.net/resptwx6/winternationals.htm>)

We had a lively Halloween day where wrestlers and Dynamo young men dressed up in a variety of wild outfits, highlighted by a 103-pound clown, a tutu-clad ballerina, a mummy, and the Incredible Hulk. Somehow, in a span of fifteen minutes, we were able to transform these characters into two teams of wrestlers who bravely battled in a spirited competition for several hours. The Pink Panthers' team, led by "Folkstyle" captain Tal Dahan, won by six points at the end of the day, but all wrestlers left with high spirits and high hopes for the upcoming season.

Many Dynamo Club members who share time with the Beverly Hills wrestling team are pushing themselves harder than ever in these last weeks. With the departure of Coach Villegas, Dynamo assistant coach Mark Mead has filled the breach as Beverly Hills High wrestling head coach. With the new head coach also comes a small change in philosophy that includes greater emphasis on conditioning. While Folkstyle practices are currently stretching to two or more hours, many of these same wrestlers continue to show up three nights a week and Saturdays to continue under Sensei Brezhnev's instruction in Judo, SAMBO, and for some, Combat SAMBO. With so many academic and social commitments outside our dojo, these dedicated souls who wrestle as many as seventeen hours a week are a testament to the Dynamo Club spirit of hard work and dedication.

Finally, Dynamo Club recently sent four of its members to compete in an International SAMBO tournament in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Sensei Brezhnev, the head coach of the US SAMBO team, led the four fighters not only as coach, but also as an official judge at the tournament. In this week-long event, these brave Dynamo boys, ranging from age 15 to 18, faced the most gifted SAMBO practitioners of their age and weight from formidable nations such as Russia, Georgia, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. Our boys fought like lions, each with a jaw-dropping story of the granite competitors and the titanic fights they engaged in and witnessed on the tatami. Each of these four boys came home with incredible stories, injury free, and seemingly four inches taller.

So, with new energy and focus, Dynamo Club is ready to face another winter season of Judo, SAMBO and Folkstyle wrestling.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

USJA Coach Certification Course  
Level D and E

Saturday, January 24, 2009  
9am to 5pm

Clinician: Gerald Lafon

Where: San Gabriel Japanese Community Center,  
5019 Encinita, Temple City CA 91780

Cost: \$25 to attend, \$25 to certify through the USJA.

What to bring: gi, notebook, pen, open mind

Topics: philosophy of coaching, conditions of learning,  
teaching methods, class management, dynamic factors  
affecting Judo, safety considerations, warm-up games,  
situational drills, and much more!

Note: minimum rank required to certify is sankyu.  
However, anyone interested in learning more about  
Judo can and should attend this clinic.

For further information, please contact San Gabriel Dojo  
Coach Mike Noriega (310 872-8515) or Gerald Lafon  
(858 527-9703)

# OCEAN STATE INTERNATIONAL 2009

## USA JUDO Junior Point event

March 21st- 2009

**Hosted by:** Mayo Quanchi Judo

**Director:** Serge Bouyssou (401) 647-4678

**Sanctioned by:** United States Judo, Inc.

**Chief Referee:** Richard J. Celotto

**Registration:** Serge Bouyssou (401)647-4678 Or Liz Byrne (401) 647-4678

**Headquarters: Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Crossings**

801 Greenwich Ave

Warwick, RI 02886 (401) 732-6000 - Fax(401) 732-6000 (800) 2CROWNE Mention Mayo Quanchi Judo OR for online registration go to [crowneplaza.com](http://crowneplaza.com) Group code is MAO Room Rates will be \$119 per night

**Tournament Site:** Coventry High School, 40 Reservoir Road, Coventry, RI 02816-6457

# Shout-outs:

- ❖ Thank you to Michael Goldsmith, Chair, Judge Walter Dean, Gene Fodor and Stacey Knapp for agreeing to serve on the USJA Ethics Executive Committee. Your willingness to be of service to the USJA is appreciated.
- ❖ Thank you to Dr. Martin Bregman for accepting the chair of the election committee.
- ❖ Thanks to Gary Goltz for agreeing to step in and fill the position on the promotion board left by Jim Webb.

## **What would YOU like to make happen in judo?**

**Want to give scholarships for kids to go to camps? Support young brown and black belts to become coaches? Promote women's development? Fund a clinic in your area of the country?**

Make a donation to the USJA Development Fund. Call (877) 411-3409 and tell them you would like to make a donation to the DEVELOPMENT FUND. We take credit cards.

You can specify if you would like the donation to be made to junior judo, senior judo, camp scholarships, coach education or just a general donation to the development fund.

Or you can make a check to USJA Development and mail it to:

USJA 21 North Union Blvd, Suite 200 Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5742

Any amount helps and we really do appreciate your support; 100% of funds go to support activities such as the camps and clinics you read about here

## **LeBlanc Memorial Open Judo Tournament**

The following are the results of Lenny LeBlanc Memorial Open Judo Tournament.

135 Judoka's competed, representing 24 different Judo Clubs.

There were 30 Sr. Men, 28 boys 9-12, 23 boys under 9, 18 boys 13-16, 17 girls 9-12, 8 girls under 9, 7 girls 13-16 and 4 Sr. Women.

### **Women's Open Master Division**

Joan Love	1st. Norwich Judo Dojo
Glennis Orloff	2nd.Hwangs

### **Men's Open Master Division**

Jake Freeman	1st. Univ. of New Hampshire
Yury Afenhem	2nd. Rossdan Sambo
Mike Pollice	3rd. Legro Sports

### **Girls White-Yellow Orange Divisions**

#### **Age 6 under 43lbs.**

Ariel Hines	1st. Legro Sports
Brianna McPherson	2nd. Kazoku Judo Dojo

#### **Age 7- 8 under 45 lbs.**

Victoria Goncalves	1st. War Memorial Judo
Dominique Domingo	2nd. Taki Gawa

#### **Age 7 - 10 under 52 lbs.**

Elianna Oken	1st. Legro Sports
Meilynn Stout	2nd. Norwich Judo Dojo
Queenie Diaz	3rd.Kazoku Judo Dojo
Yael Oken	4th.Legro Sports

#### **Age 8 - 9 Under 60 lbs.**

Grace Scott	1st.Tohoku
Erica Oliver	2nd.New London County
Daisy Jackman	3rd.Kazoku Judo Dojo
Rose Hensley	4th.Kazoku Judo Dojo

#### **Age 9-10 Under 73 lbs.**

Naomi Oken	1st.Legro Sports
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Austan Drossel 2nd.Valiant Judo  
Desiree Bumpus 3rd.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 9-10 Under 89 lbs.**

Nicole Roman 1st.Valiant Judo  
Erin Coombe 2nd. Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 12 Under 100 lbs.**

Arielle Lozefski 1st.New Britain Judo  
Katrina Fedors 2nd.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 13 Under 136 lbs.**

Destiny McCoy 1st.Mayo Quanchi  
Wilessa Rivera 2nd.Mayo Quanchi  
Midalia Santiago 3rd.New Britain Judo  
Jordan Henck 4th.Hwangs

**Age 11-12 Under 150 lbs.**

Wilessa Rivera 1st.Mayo Quanchi  
Destiny McCoy 2nd.Mayo Quanchi  
Anna Petrov 3rd.Valiant Judo

**Girls Green-Blue-Purple Divisions**

**Age 9-11 Under 90 lbs.**

Gabrielle Proska 1st.Granite State Judo  
Sabrina Rostkowski 2nd.Valiant Judo

**Age 9-10 Under 110 lbs.**

Wilessa Rivera 1st. Mayo Quanchi  
Gabrielle Proska 2nd.Granite State Judo

**Age 10-11 Under 78 lbs.**

Alana Mason 1st.Blue Dragon  
Madison Geores 2nd.Mayo Quanchi

**Age 13 Under 88 lbs.**

Caitlyn Mason 1st.Mayo Quanchi

Madison Geores 2nd.Blue Dragon

**Age 13-14 Under 122 lbs.**

Janessa Diaz-Sosa 1st.Mayo Quanchi  
Amanda Gomez 2nd.Tohoku

**Age 13-14 Under 132 lbs.**

Katelyn Bouyssau 1st.Mayo Quanchi  
Sandra Chevalier 2nd.Mayo Quanchi  
Madison Hatch 3rd.Mayo Quanchi  
Amanda Gomez 4th.Tohoku

**Senior Women White Belt Under 120 lbs.**

Nona McMaster 1st.Portsmouth Judo  
Caitlyn Mason 2nd.Mayo Quanchi

**Senior Women Black Belt Under 120 lbs.**

Katelyn Bouyssau 1st.Mayo Quanchi  
Kristin Condello 2nd.Mayo Quanchi  
Madison Hatch 3rd.Mayo Quanchi  
Sandra Chevalier 4th.Mayo Quanchi  
Nona McMaster 5th.Portsmouth Judo

**Boys White-Yellow-Orange Divisions**

**Age 4-6 Under 45 lbs**

Mark Botello 1st.JW Judo  
Anthony Boutilier 2nd.Valiant Judo  
Jakub Bak 3rd.Valiant Judo

**Age 6 Under 49 lbs.**

Casey Pollice 1st.Legro Sports  
Sean Bumpus 2nd.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 7 Under 48 lbs.**

Nicholas Botello 1st.JW Judo  
Trevor Villanova 2nd.Mayo Quanchi

**Age 7 Under 52 lbs.**

Blake Holder	1st.Gentle Way Judo
Dustin Tursalier	2nd.Legro Sports
Aidan Adams	3rd.Kazoku Judo Dojo
Jay Christopher	4th.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 6-7 Under 64 lbs.**

Noam Makover	1st.Kazoku Judo Dojo
Trevor Villanova	2nd.Mayo Quanchi
Aaron Gauvin	3rd.New Britain Judo
Norman Morales	4th.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 8 Under 50 lbs.**

Elexus Aponte	1st.Valiant Judo
Matthew Kaminski	2nd.Valiant Judo
Kevin Hinkle	3rd.Blue Dragon
Richard Martinez	4th.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 8-11 Under 58 lbs.**

Lucas Molak	1st.Mayo Quanchi
James Noel	2nd.Kazoku Judo Dojo
Matthew Kaminski	3rd.Valiant Judo
Matthew Bumpus	4th.Kazoku Judo Dojo
Elexus Aponte	5th.Valiant Judo

**Age 8-9 Under 80 lbs.**

Alex Hinkle	1st.Blue Dragon
RJ Darby	2nd.Kazoku Judo Dojo
Jared Neal	3rd.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 9-12 Under 62 lbs.**

Obdulio Santiago	1st.New Britain Judo
Justin You	2nd.War Memorial Judo
Jackson Adams	3rd.Norwich Judo Dojo
Xavier Stout	4th.Norwich Judo Dojo

**Age 9-12 Under 72 lbs.**

Lucas Pollice	1st.Legro Sports
Jordan Medeiros	2nd.Taki Gawa
Khalil Bradley	3rd.Valiant Judo

**Age 9-10 Under 96 lbs.**

Nathaniel Colicci	1st.Mayo Quanchi
James Sauro	2nd.Mayo Quanchi
John Martinez	3rd.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 10-11 Under 114 lbs.**

James Sauro	1st.Mayo Quanchi
Tommy Groinski	2nd.Valiant Judo
Dakota Cox	3rd.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 9-12 Under 120 lbs.**

Caleb Brown	1st.JW Judo
Andrew Topanian	2nd.Rossdan Sambo

**Age 11-12 Under 138 lbs.**

Andrew Topanian	1st.Rossdan Sambo
Dakota Cox	2nd.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 13-16 Under 120 lbs.**

Joao Vicente	1st.Mayo Quanchi
Nathan Alper	2nd.Portsmouth Judo
Matthew Burdick	3rd.New Britain Judo
Cole White	4th.JW Judo

**Age 13-16 Over 120 lbs.**

Dalton Ahern	1st.Shoreline Judo
Joao Vicente	2nd.Mayo Quanchi
William Honer	3rd.Shoreline Judo
Shaquille Hairston	4th.Valiant Judo
Andrew Topanian	5th.Rossdan Sambo
Alexander Doyle	6th.New Britain Judo

**Boys Green-Blue-Purple Divisions**

**Age 9-11 Under 65 lbs.**

John Deschers	1st.New London County Judo
Patrick Baum	2nd.Go Rin Dojo

Lucas Molak 3rd.Mayo Quanchi

**Age 9-12 Under 74 lbs.**

Greg Zaw 1st.JW Judo  
Ethan Oliver 2nd.New London County Judo  
Patrick Baum 3rd.Go Rin Dojo  
Jared Neal 4th.Kazoku Judo Dojo

**Age 11-12 Under 82 lbs.**

Max O'Connell 1st.Mayo Quanchi  
Austin Girouard 2nd.New Britain Judo

**Age 11-12 Under 88 lbs.**

Max O'Connell 1st.Mayo Quanchi  
Shayne Levesque 2nd.Valiant Judo  
Matt Landry 3rd.JW Judo

**Age 12-13 Under 92 lbs.**

Serge Bouyssou 1st.Mayo Quanchi  
Kyle Young 2nd.New London County Judo

**Age 11 Under 90 lbs.**

Armani Ellison 1st.Legro Sports  
Matt Landry 2nd.JW Judo  
Michael Botello 3rd.JW Judo

**Age 13-16 Under 100 lbs.**

Patrick Meara 1st.Taki Gawa  
Casey Dierman 2nd.New London County Judo

**Age 13-16 Under 110 lbs.**

Serge Bouyssou 1st.Mayo Quanchi  
Chris Botello 2nd.JW Judo  
Noah Medeiros 3rd.Taki Gawa

**Age 13-16 Under 129 lbs.**

Serge Bouyssou 1st.Mayo Quanchi  
Everett Desilets 2nd.Mayo Quanchi  
Ricondo Cole 3rd.Mayo Quanchi

Matthew Metcalf 4th.Kazoku Judo Dojo  
John Medeiros 5th.Taki Gawa

**Senior Men Novice Under 140 lbs.**

Tim Leggett 1st.Univ. New Hampshire  
Nicholas Bardaro 2nd.Tohoku  
Shaquille Hairston 3rd.Valiant Judo  
Taylor Maixner 4th.Norwich Judo Dojo

**Senior Men Under 153 lbs.**

Thiago Goncalves 1st.War Memorial Judo  
Patrick Meara 2nd.Taki Gawa  
John Russo 3rd.Hwangs  
Rhett DeVore Jr. 4th.Norwich Judo Dojo  
Sam Kendall 5th.Northeastern  
Shawn Powers 6th.Granite State Judo

**Senior Men Under 168 lbs.**

Brian Govin 1st.Northeastern  
Marc Nevwirth 2nd.Northeastern  
Adam Gaudreault 3rd.Univ. New Hampshire  
Dan Barrett 4th.Middletown Judo  
Blake Antrim 5th.New London County Judo

**Senior Men Under 178 lbs.**

David Nelson 1st.Middletown Judo  
J P Majcher 2nd.Univ. New Hampshire  
Scott MacDonald 3rd.Middletown Judo  
Damian Malon 4th.The Dojo  
Eric Bomquist 5th.Northeastern

**Senior Men Under 180 lbs.**

Tom Malinoski 1st.Valiant Judo  
Damian Malon 2nd.The Dojo

**Senior Men Light Heavyweight**

Dallas Brightman 1st.Tohoku  
Ray Kurman 2nd.The Dojo

**Senior Men Heavyweight**

Humphrey Swift	1st.War Memorial Judo
Jean Pierre	2nd.War Memorial Judo
Ray Kurman	3rd.The Dojo

**Senior Men Black Belt Under 145 lbs.**

Austin Cook	1st.Mayo Quanchi
Amani Tavares	2nd.Mayo Quanchi
AJ Torres	3rd.Valiant Judo
Ricondo Cole	4th.Mayo Quanchi
Casey Dierman	5th.New London County Judo
Everett Desilets	6th.Mayo Quanchi

**Senior Men Black Belt Light Heavyweight**

Karol Steczkowski	1st.Valiant Judo
Dallas Brightman	2nd.Tahoku
Ray Kurman	3rd.The Dojo

**Senior Men Black Belt Under 161 lbs.**

Austin Cook	1st.Mayo Quanchi
Valdir Cabral	2nd.Mayo Quanchi
Eric Moore	3rd.Kazoku Judo Dojo
Dan Rathbone	4th.Hwangs

**Senior Men Black Belt Under 178 lbs.**

Keenan Raymond	1st.Mayo Quanchi
Eric Moore	2nd.Kazoku Judo Dojo
Jake Freedman	3rd.Univ. New Hampshire
Valdir Cabral	4th.Mayo Quanchi

**Senior Men Black Belt Heavyweight**

Karol Steczkowski	1st.Valiant Judo
Yael Oken	2nd.Legro Sports
Jean Pierre	3rdWar Menorial Judo

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