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# Tomodachi News

## Tomodachi Activities and Events

*Hans Vogt*

### Camp Tomodachi

As every year, an illustrious list of sensei have found the way to Florida to impart their extensive Judo knowledge on judoka during Camp Tomodachi.

Camp starts Saturday, July 24 and ends with a banquet on Wednesday, July 28. At the banquet certifications and promotions will be announced.

Don't miss this event!

### Call for Tournament Officials

Many of you – players and parents – have been to our tournaments, and many of you have helped out on many occasions.

One very important aspect to make a tournament run smoothly, are Tournament Officials. This is the official description for the people manning the scoring tables. On every table four or more people are needed: Match timer, Osaekomi (Hold-down) timer, Scorer, and a Recorder. The Recorder organizes the match sequence, lines up the competitors, and record the results. That is the minimum staffing for each table.

In practice however, the Recorder has a lot to do, and really needs an assistant to hunt down missing competitors, give out and retrieve the blue and white belts. Additionally, a Table Captain is necessary to keep Coaches and competitors at bay and off the back of

the Recorder, and to resolve disputes and errors. For national or international tournaments back-up timers are required.

Needless to say, the club needs help on the tables. The more people are helping out, the less time we all have to spent working the tournament. If enough people chip in, the tournament officials might even get a break.

Tomodachi would like to train groups of tournament officials, who will work as a team at the tournaments. These teams then know each other, are used to work with each other, and can help each other out.

Referees are grateful when their mat runs smoothly. They really appreciate to have an experienced table crew. They gladly help

Tomodachi is in the process to train table workers according to the program provided by the USJA. To make the training less complex in the beginning, the training has been divided into separate tasks. For the Dragon's challenge our tournament officials will only need to know one role.

Mindy Buehman has taken the leadership on this project. She has made up handouts for the helpers to study and keep. In classes at both locations, Boca and Boynton, she has started to set up scoring tables for Tournament Officials Training.

If you want to offer your help, please contact one of the Sensei at class or write an email to the contact address for this Newsletter.

Remember, it is **your** club!

## Tournament Results

*Hans Vogt*

Tomodachi has developed an “Away Team” of active competitors who travel to local, regional and national events.

### World Masters Championships July 1 to 4, 2004

Three Tomodachi warriors went to Vienna, Austria to represent Tomodachi at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Masters Championships. This tournament fielded over a thousand competitors from all corners of the world. Still, Team Tomodachi got away with impressive results.

Scott Huitt and his wife Cira competed in Kime No Kata, and got a third place in the Couples division.

Scott and Hans Vogt landed a 12<sup>th</sup> place in Kime No Kata in a field of 26 competing teams and improved their result from last years competition in Tokyo. They also competed in Koshiki No Kata, and ended up with a 6<sup>th</sup> place out of 10 teams; this also is a huge improvement from Tokyo. If the trend holds, they should end up in the top range next year.

All that training in the advanced class paid off! Congratulations, especially to Scott and Cira for the Bronze medal.

### USJA Junior Nationals 7/9-11/2004

Jacob Victor went to the Junior Nationals in Chicago. Although he didn't place this year he is richer in experience. For details, see Jake's interview by Ashley Levitz in the text box below.

## News from the Board of Directors

*Hans Vogt*

Meetings of the Tomodachi Board of Directors are normally held on the second Saturday of any month in the Community Center in Boca Raton after regular class.

Board meetings are open to all Tomodachi members and their families. Active members and especially parents and older teenagers are encouraged to participate in these meetings, find out what is happening with the club, and get involved. Remember, it's **your** club!

### Board meeting on July 17, 2004

On July 17, 2004 the most recent monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held. Due to other events, the meeting could not be held on the regular scheduled day, Saturday July 10, in the community Center in Boca Raton. The following is a summary of the major discussion points and decisions.

### Mats for Congress Middle School

As you may know, when all mat were laid out, we were 4 of the smaller mats

## Jake's Interview

*Ashley Levitz*

**Jacob Victor, 13, is the only one from Tomodachi Judo Club to go to the Junior Nationals this year in Chicago. Although he didn't bring back a medal, we all are very proud of him for his effort.**

### 1. How many people were in your division?

Jake: 13

### 2. How many matches did you win?

Jake: I didn't win any.

### 3. How many did you lose?

Jake: I lost 2 matches, and because at the tournament they were using double elimination, I was done after losing the 2nd match.

### 4. How did you win in the matches? How did you lose?

Jake: I lost my first match by a Harai Goshi ( Ippon ). In the second match, we both had a Waza-ari and a Koka, but at the last moment, he swept my feet right out from under me. I have to admit, it was a very beautiful throw.

### 5. What place did you get?

Jake: I did not place at this tournament, but hope to next year.

### 6. Would you ever go back again?

Jake: Yes. I'm planning on going back next year with a little more experience and bring home a nice big trophy.

**By Ashley**

short of having a complete rectangle of mats.

Boynton Beach Councilman Bob Ensler, a valued Tomodachi club member, offered to organize 4 more

mats for the Tomodachi Boynton location with the help of the city – and in time for Camp Tomodachi. Come to camp and see the result!

### **USJA Junior National Championships**

As decided in a previous meeting, Tomodachi will host the 2005 USJA Junior Nationals. The original plan was to stage the tournament in the FAU Sports Center.

Disney, where Tomodachi will be in charge of the Judo part of the Diney Martial Arts Festival, is very interested to get more large Judo events. One option would be that Tomodachi hosts 11 the Juniors not in Palm Beach County, but in the Disney World of Sports.

Advantages: - Disney is organizing everything from setup to supplies and surrounding organization. Tomodachi would just have to run the tournament.

Drawback: Disney keeps most of the revenue from the tournament. Depending on the size of the cut, it may be better to keep the tournament – and the work connected with it – in the club and in Palm Beach County.

Other decision factors are, whether the tournament in Orlando would be attractive enough for competitors to stop in central Florida, when two major events are in the following weekends in Broward County - the Junior Olympics and the Youth Internationals.

The next possibility to host the USJA Juniors in Florida would arise in 2009.

Mike Szejter will talk to Disney and get the details and options.

### **Car Pool for Tomodachi Members**

Tomodachi holds classes in two locations: the Boca Raton Community Center and Congress Middle School in Boynton Beach. A few members, and some of the Sensei visit both locations

## *Coming Events*

Tomodachi encourages players to attend other events outside the club and supports those going to tournaments hosted by other clubs. If you are interested to go to tournaments, please enter your name in the sign-up lists available at class and speak to coaches and other players to organize travel and hotel sharing arrangements.

### **8//14 to 8/20/2004 Judo at the Olympic Games in Athens**

Most of us will not go to Athens. Coverage of the Games will be provided on National TV, but Judo will probably be shortchanged again. If you have an interest in following Judo events at the Olympics, the schedule and results can be viewed on the NBC website at <http://www.nbcolympics.com/results/1549020/detail.html>

### **8/28/2004 Dragons Challenge in Boca Raton**

The Dragons Challenge is normally the last Tomodachi Tournament in the year. IN the past years – this is the 8<sup>th</sup> time the Dragons come to Boca - the tournament had a sizeable draw from the Judo community.

**\*\*\* If you want to compete in a tournament, speak to your coach first! \*\*\***

regularly, but most of the regular members go exclusively to one of the locations only, and meet their fellow Judoka only on special occasions like the family day in April, or at tournaments. One argument is the “long” distance between the two sites. It takes all of 20 minutes to drive from one city to the other barring I95 traffic jams. Given, not all parents want to drive that distance twice a week in addition to the regular schedule in their own city.

Would a car pool be an option? Some parents could rotate the task of taking a group of children to the other location. This would make it easier on the individual parents, and bring the members of the club closer together.

And, of course, if you are signed up in one location you are free to go to the other and get four classes a week for the price of two.

If anybody has an interest in a car pool for Tomodachi students, please drop an

email to the contact address of this Newsletter, or just talk to the Sensei.

## Letters to the Editor

*Hans Vogt*

Dear members, parents and friends of Tomodachi:

With this Newsletter we are trying to keep you informed on current events, board meetings and decisions, club activities, and successes of our players in tournaments.

All readers are invited to contribute to this Newsletter. Please contact me at <mailto:havog2001@yahoo.com>.