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# Tomodachi News

## Tomodachi Activities and Events

### The Dragons Challenge Tournament *Roberta Proctor*

Before Frances, before Jeanne, there was . . . The Dragon’s Challenge, Tomodachi Judo Club’s “Friendly Little Judo Tournament,” which took place on Saturday, August 28, 2004 at Sugar Sand Park in Boca Raton. Even though it seems like a long time ago, especially after school closings, power outages, gas lines and supply runs, participants and parents surely recall that day’s smoothly-run tournament consisting of four full mat areas, over 90 competitors, and a great competitive experience for all.

Tournament set-up began Friday evening, when club members and their parents unloaded cases of soda and other concession supplies, laid down mats, set up scoring tables, tested stop watches, and attended a rules clinic, which was particularly helpful for those of us who were scoring or timing in our first tournament.

The next morning, weigh-ins and registration began bright and early, with Tomodachi parents assisting. The tournament ran smoothly.

Special acknowledgment goes to Joy who deftly ran not only the concession stand but also the raffle—Thank you, Joy.

We are all no doubt, buoyed by this year’s success, looking forward to next year’s Dragon’s Challenge!

## 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 September 14, 2004

On August 14, 2004 the most recent monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held. The following is a summary of the major discussion points and decisions.

### Disney Martial Arts Festival

The date for the Disney Martial Arts Festival is coming up fast. Most of the discussion at the meeting centered around this tournament where as in the previous year, Tomodachi is hosting the Judo events.

**Mats:** Disney has will be providing mats this time. They will be setting up three mat areas. Tomodachi will not be involved in this part.

**Schedule:** Registrations for pre-registered and walk-in competitors start on Friday, October 22 at 2pm and ends at 8pm. Volunteers need to pick up their credentials then. At 7pm referees, coaches and volunteers are holding their meetings. Also at 7pm, Kata competition starts on the main floor.



**Disney 2003 gold medal**

On Saturday, October 23, pre-registered competitors ONLY are allowed to weigh in from 8am to 9am. The Judo competition starts at 10am.

In the evening from 7pm to 11pm, Disney is holding the Grand Champions Performances Show, where all martial arts and many participating clubs and organizations show their stuff.

A critical point in the schedule is only Friday evening – registration, coaches and volunteer meetings and Kata competition at the same time. Experience shows that at that time also the most walk-in entries are showing up at registration. It is crucial that registration tables and weigh-in scales are staffed at that time.

Please help Tomodachi to make this Disney tournament a great Judo event. Helpers are needed for:

- Registration and Weigh-in

- Tournament Officials, table workers.

At class sign-up lists are available for the required tasks.

Also, if you haven't registered yet, please do so online at this lengthy address: <http://dwws.disney.go.com/wideworldofsports/sportingevents/sportingevent/sportingeventindex?id=SPORDMAF04Sportingevent> or just use your favorite search engine to look for the "Disney Martial Arts Festival".

We hope to see you there.

**New Tomodachi Branch?**

Bob Beserany, a long time member and teacher in the Boynton dojo of Tomodachi, moved recently to Fort

Pierce. He is working with local authorities to set up a Judo club and run it in the spirit of, or in fact become an affiliate of Tomodachi Judo Club. Unfortunately the recent spate of hurricanes delayed the proceedings. We all hope that Bob and his family made it through the storms without loss or damage.

**USA Judo Elections News**

USA Judo, the National Governing Body (NGB) for Judo in the USA, otherwise known as USJI, held elections for its officers, at the US Open in Las Vegas. The choice for president was between Jimmy Pedro, the only Judoka to win two medals at the Olympic Games for the USA, and incumbent Ron Tripp, who led USA Judo in the past years.

*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.

**10/23/2004 Disney Martial Arts Festival**  
This is the second year that Tomodachi is in charge of the Judo part of the Disney Martial Arts Festival. Since this is a Tomodachi event, not only competitors, but also helpers are needed for registration, weigh-in and running the scoring tables during the tournament. Please support your club and sign up for your volunteering contribution in the lists laid out at each class.

**11/ 13/2004 GE Judo Championships**  
Due to Hurricane Ivan and others, GE Judo rescheduled the tournament. If you had pre-registered for the original event, and cannot make the new date, GE Judo will refund your entry fee. The new pre-registration ended September 30. Tomodachi is supporting the GE Judo Championships in Lakeland, FL. Speak to a sensei if you would like to compete and need a ride or room.

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

The USJA - your organization - decided to use their votes to support Jimmy Pedro.

The FJI semi-annual meeting – where the FJI board was to decide Florida’s vote - was postponed due to this month stream of hurricanes to a date after the national elections. Apparently the FJI president and a minority on the executive board decided to support Ron Tripp, while it appears that the majority of the board and also the majority of affiliated clubs supported Jimmy Pedro.

The election results were, Jimmy Pedro lost against the incumbent, Ron Tripp.

### USA Judo Regional Training Center

USA Judo has partnered with USA Wrestling, USA Fencing, US Taekwondo Union, US Karate Do Federation and USA Boxing in a long-term arrangement with the City of North Miami and the Swerdlow Development Corporation to establish a major combative training center in the City of North Miami. In addition to financial compensation (\$1 million over ten years), each NGB will receive an allocation of 8000 square feet equipped to the NGB’s specification.

A multi purpose arena sized 40,000 square feet plus dedicated seating will provide adequate space for the set up of four tatamis meeting international size requirements plus scoring support. The equipment will be resident in the facility. The dedicated areas are not disrupted by other events in the multi purpose area.

The City of North Miami has paved the way for the utilization of facilities at the North Miami campus of Johnson-Wales University.

The complete article to this facility is available from Mike sensei.

## Judo Jokes

### YOU MIGHT BE A JUDO PLAYER IF...

1. You think sweating builds character.
2. You don't mind having more bruises than medals.
3. You think nothing worthwhile comes easily.... and you are ok with that.
4. You think teamwork means actually helping each other.
5. You think mixing it up is a way to have a good time.
6. You can get slammed on your back ...and laugh.
7. You think safety is as important as learning to apply pain.
8. You think learning to fall helps you learn to throw people.
9. You have more potential than you realize.



### Disney 2002 Gold Medal

10. You want to wrestle competitively ... but you are a girl.
11. You think traveling to tournaments is a vacation.
12. You can get thrown by a smaller player ... and you don't mind.

13. You think your family includes people that you are not even related to.
14. You think the slogan “no pain, no gain” hasn’t been overused yet.
15. You spend more time planning for a healthy diet then you do for a date...
16. ... because your date is practicing too.
17. You actually need calories!!
18. You take your child to practice because you are in the same class.
19. You can pivot on one bent leg while sweeping with the other ...but you can't dance.
20. Your wedding day is the same day as the Nationals ... so you're late to one event.
21. You remember your wedding anniversary as the day after the big tournament.
22. Your honeymoon was a trip to the Midwest Open in Joliet, Ill.
23. You think your spouse understands. (yeah, right!!)
24. You think "mutual welfare and benefit" means taking turns strangling each other to the point of unconsciousness.
25. People refuse to hug you, shake your hand, etc., because you never let go until they tap out or someone yells "Matte!"

## 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>T.

