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Tomodachi News

Tomodachi Activities and Events

The Disney Martial Arts Festival *Jacob Victor*

This month Tomodachi held its biggest tournament of the year. The Disney Martial Arts Festival Judo Competition. This tournament was held the 22nd to the 24th of October. The turnout for Tomodachi was great, we are very happy that people went up to compete. Whether it was your 1st or 50th tournament everyone did great.

Tomodachi dominated the kata competition getting tons of medals in 6 different katas. Jacob Victor and Ashley Levitz, gold medalist in the Nage-No-Kata competition say that "there was a great turnout for Kata" and enjoyed competing against the other great kata teams. Scott Huitt and Hans Vogt,

Now we can't forget about the Shiai competition, 13 year old, Karyna Martinez, a silver medalist had tons of fun and "cant wait to go back again next year". Garret Corbo, 15, a rapidly growing and very active member of Tomodachi, also did very well in both kata and shiai.

This tournament could not be possible without the help of the volunteers. We had many willing volunteers from Tomodachi that were a huge part in helping with this tournament. Kimberly Glover, a supportive judo mom and volunteer table worker is proud of her sons, Devin and Dustin, and was glad the tournament ran smoothly.

Thank you to everyone who was a part of the wonderful tournament and congratulation to all competitors. We appreciate all the hard work and effort everyone has contributed.



medalist in 3 different katas together did an amazing job. As well as Mindy, Michelle, Heather, Garret, and Amanda.

Hans Vogt

I would like to add some more notes and observations to the Disney Martial Arts Festival.

Not only Tomodachi players competed in the Kata part of the Event. Teams from Central Florida Judo and Jujitsu under sensei "Dancing Bear" Bill Andreas competed and placed well. In addition, a team of three players from Denton Judo Club in Texas made a good showing in multiple Kata disciplines. All in all, there were 22 Kata teams competing in eight Kata disciplines, a number comparable with other big national events.

Registration went smoothly with the



Team Tomodachi at the Sunshine State Games in Tallahassee (June 19, 2004)

help of all volunteers. Special thanks also to Juan Rodriguez from CFJJ. Juan improved a software application for tournament entries and pairing. Setting up pairing took less than one hour, and manual intervention was only necessary in a few cases. With the help of this program the tournament started on time.

Many thanks go to the tournament officials, judges and referees. They kept the tournament running smoothly. The

Judo event ended around 3 pm on Saturday, giving everybody a chance to freshen up and do some sightseeing before the Grand Show in the evening.

Tomodachi presented the new demonstration team under the lead of Scott sensei on the main stage. The Judo demo elicited Oh's and Ah's from the crowd, who are used to see the more ballet like performances of the other martial arts.

Demo Team Action →



Coming Events

11/ 13/2004 GE Judo Championships

Due to this years Hurricane season, 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.

12/02/2004 Ed Szejter Judo Clinic

Ed Szejter Sensei, 9th Dan, for many years a driving force behind Judo in the USA, former Executive Director of the United States Judo Association, and currently Goodwill Ambassador for the USJA, will give a Judo Clinic in our Dojo at Congress Middle School in Boynton Beach. The clinic is scheduled during regular class hours. Please honor such a high ranked Judoka with your presence.

12/18/2004 Candy Cane Classic

As every year, Tomodachi ends the year with the Candy Cane Classic in Boca Raton for all players, members, friends and families. Bring your Judogi for the annual group picture, and enjoy the offered treats and good company. The Candy Cane Classic is a "potluck" party. Lists will be laid out in class for signing up for food items to bring, so we don't all end up having the same dishes.

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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.

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

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 October 9, 2004

This most recent monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was mainly dealing with the Disney Martial Arts Festival.

The tournament went smoothly as planned and outlined in the previous newsletter. The contributions at the beginning of this newsletter give a summary of the tournament. Recounting the organizational details after the fact is deemed not necessary to the editor.

Florida Judo, Inc. News

Florida Judo, Inc. Board of directors implemented changes: The treasurer Henry Saavedra resigned from this position, the new treasurer is Ms. Campo of Miami. After many years of giving most of his free time to Florida

Judo since 1995, David Ellis was removed from his function as Registration Chairperson. New chairperson is Raul Cruz.

Rhadi Ferguson, a 2004 Olympian, who now lives in Florida, has been appointed Director of Operations.

The change in the board appointments opened a rift between the board and the membership. A meeting is planned on December 4 for all Florida Judo coaches to discuss the future of Judo, and pull all three organizations together.



Martial Arts Definitions

Aikido: A martial art, which allows you to defeat your enemy without hurting him. Unless of course, he does not know, how to ukemi in which case he has his wrist broken in about 20 places.

Tae kwon do: An unusual martial art that relies on its followers to have the flexibility of a professional ballet dancer.

Tai chi chuan: Another unusual art that promises ultimate power from moving very slowly for many years. The drawback is that by the time you develop the ultimate power you are close to death anyway.

Karate: "Empty hand" or "China hand." The primary purpose of this art is the destruction of wood and other natural

products. Karate people enjoy pain; this is shown by their habit of fighting with their fists on their hips.

Kung fu: A generic term for a majority of the Chinese martial arts. Many of these arts involve the emulation of animals. Many students of Pray Mantis spend years attempting to obtain the other 4 legs while students of Monkey Kung-fu tend to find themselves being carted off by men in white lab coats.

Judo: "Gentle way." A Japanese art where grown men roll around cuddling each other without apparently doing any damage.

Jujitsu: A lot like judo except that these boys like to inflict slightly more damage. They are often heard saying "You gotta a big mouth".



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>.

