



## Hui-O-Judo Beltsville and College Park Judo Club Shufu Judo Yudanshakai



# Ken Tamai Memorial Judo Championships Post Event Summary



Sanctioned by: United States Judo Federation      Sanction number: 14-03-03  
Club host/director: Hui-O-Judo Beltsville- host club; Kevin Tamai – event co-director  
College Park Judo Club, Kurt Tamai – event co-driector  
Date: Saturday, 15 March 2014  
Location: DeMatha Catholic High School, 4318 Madison St, Hyattsville, Maryland  
Event hours: 830 am to 530pm

Congratulations to all of the judoka who were able to attend and participated in the Tenth Annual Ken Tamai Memorial Judo Championships on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville Maryland. It is a beautiful venue that held four competition areas. This annual tournament is to honor the memory of Sensei Kenneth Bunji Tamai, head sensei of Hui-O-Judo in Beltsville. Sensei Tamai will always be fondly remembered for his Hawaiian shirts, his cigar and his laugh. He began judo in 1942 in Honolulu Hawaii and helped the early formation and continued development of Shufu Judo Yudanshakai. He was a sensei, a coach, a friend, a mentor, an advisor and so much more. He taught the basic techniques and had his judoka build a solid judo foundation which they could develop upon. He taught us to love the sport of judo for all of the wonderful aspects it provides, especially the development of each person's character. He devoted his life to the growth of judo, especially Shufu Yudanshakai. He was an administrative chairman, tracking all promotions, event records and all administrative tasks to help the Yudanshakai develop. He departed this life back in Honolulu as a Rokudan in June of 2004, leaving the legacy of his wife, whom he met at judo, and his six children to carry on the judo traditions. Growing up they all practiced and competed in judo competitions. They run both Hui-O Judo in Beltsville and College Park Judo Club. They organize and run most of the regional tournaments, promotions and clinics for Shufu Yudanshakai. Four of his 16 grandchildren are now competing in judo tournaments.

Special recognition was presented in two awards. The Ken Tamai Memorial Award, for the continuing service in the development of quality judo techniques and judo character while following the teachings of Jigoro Kano was present to Tad Nalls from Washington Judo Club. The James Gosnell Inspirational Award for continuing to inspire judoka to pass along the true benefits of judo through their daily life was given to Peggy Whilden of Hui-O Judo Beltsville.

The tournament was attended by 200 judoka from 35 different clubs in the regional area covering

Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania. Clubs represented were Ainaw, Aldan, Arlington, Baltimore Judo, Budokan, Bushikai, Charlottesville, Chester County Judo, College Park, Dale City Judo, DC Judo, DC Recreation, DC Veterans Administration Medical Center Adaptive Judo Program, Fairview Judokai, Harrisburg Judokai, Hui-O Beltsville, Jason Morris Judo Center, Judo Movement, Lancaster, Legros Sports, Maryland Judo Team, Pure Performance, Rankin, RUAMA, Seigneury, Southern Maryland Jujitsu, Sport, United States Naval Academy Judo, USA Stars East, Villa Nova Judo, Wall2 Wall Martial Arts, Washington,

The morning started with Kata competition. There were teams competing in a variety of different katas including novice Nage No Kata, advanced Nage No kata, Advanced Kime No Kata and Advanced Ju No Kata. Top novice honors were given to Charles “Chip” Jost and Harvey Guary from the DC Veterans Administration Medical Center Adaptive Judo Program(DCVAMCAJP). The top Nage No Kata Advanced honors went to Mark Smith and Laurel Faust from Hui-O Judo Beltsville. The top Kime No Kata honors went to Lou Fattizzo and Bill Brownlowe from Aldan Judo. The top Ju No Kata Advanced honor went to Michelle Veloso and Wayne Stone from College Park Judo.

Diane Jackson, the Shufu Yudanshakai Kata Development Chairperson stated “ I am very happy to see so many different katas being competed in. Shufu Yudanshakai has hosted a number of clinics on the different kata that have been well attended. We are happy to see kata competition growing in the area. Shufu encourages all judoka to learn the katas and compete in them. It enhances their overall judo experience and refines their judo techniques. As judges, we provide feedback to all of our teams to help them continually improve their performance and constantly improve. Shufu Yudanshakai offers kata competition at all of its events.”

Following the kata competition, the morning continued with Junior competition. Judoka as young as 5 years old began competing for a chance to win a first place gold trophy. Competition was excellent. The Outstanding Junior Team was College Park Judo from College Park Maryland and the Outstanding Junior Judoka was Jacob Tamai from College Park Judo.

As juniors began to wind down senior competition began with Men’s Masters and women’s divisions. There was competition in both the men’s novice and the men’s advanced divisions . The Outstanding Senior Team was USA Stars East. The Outstanding Senior Judoka was Kmirzimurod Kholov from Jason Morris Judo Center.

Ed King, the Athletic Director for DeMatha High School stated “It is really wonderful having the Tamai event here at DeMatha. The Tamai brothers are not only alumni but are wrestling legends. I am very impressed with the feeling of family that judo people have. It is amazing to watch an event. It is very well organized and run. Mr Tamai must be very honored. DeMatha supports all of the positive aspects that judo provides to its players. We enjoy having judo events here.”

Parnel Legros from Legros Sports in Brooklyn NY stated “ I will always come down to support this event. It is the best run and best organized event. Ken Tamai was always very good to me. He was very giving with his time to help me and my students. I will always honor his memory.”

Chuck Wall from Wall2Wall Martial Arts in Fredericksburg, VA stated “I want to congratulate you and all of your volunteers for a great day yesterday. The entire event was first class and I want to let you know that I received a lot great comments from the parents This is always one of the best run events. Kevin and Kurt run a well organized and efficient event. We are grateful to them to run so many local events for our judoka. Thank you so much, I hope that some day I am able to match your success.”

Sensei Kevin Tamai, the tournament director stated “On behalf of the Tamai family, I would like to thank all of the participants who came to honor the memory of my father. It is a great tribute to him that so many people have traveled to come here. He would have been very pleased to see the quality judo techniques that were performed today. He would have been even more proud of the great judo spirit and character that so many judoka displayed. I would like to thank all of the parents for bringing their children to this event, thank all of the judoka who participated today, and to thank all of the amazing volunteers who make this event possible. Thank you to all of the referees, technical officials and all of the support staff. I would also like to thank DeMatha High school for providing us such a wonderful venue.”

We invite you to join us again next year in March for the 2015 Ken Tamai Memorial Judo Championships at DeMatha Catholic High School.