USABA Men’s Judo Team bows in at IBSA World Championship in France

USABA

The United States Association of Blind Athletes

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UPDATE:
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Martial Arts Life, Business & Tournament News Quarterly

FALL 2006

Elite competitors photos by John Nguyen

also inside this issue of clawmarks

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UNIVERSAL HARMONY DAY 2006: MARTIAL ARTISTS FIGHT TO UNITE THE HUMAN RACE
by Faryn Sand

"If ever there was a man serious about the future of mankind, and particularly our children, that man is Sensei John." — Bill Beutel, late ABC News great

It's going to span the globe.
And it's going to have heart.

It's going to be the biggest coordinated event taking place in martial arts history! On September 11th, 2006, through worldwide media coverage, see the world unite as one strong and intense global community for Universal Harmony Day 2006. Martial artists from around the world will help transform a day of mourning into a day of humanity! This vast, apolitical endeavor will unite the world at large, and will dedicate itself to everyone in every country who suffers on a daily basis. Because of philanthropic efforts of martial artists everywhere, Universal Harmony Day 2006 will reach the entire world. It will focus on protecting and enhancing the lives of society’s children, as well as senior citizens and any fellow human being who seeks respite from grief. Together, individuals across the globe will concentrate the consistent human desire to impact society into one unforgettable, historic day. We invite and strongly encourage you to take part in this unprecedented event.

In 1997, Sensei John P. Mirrione, Jr.—owner of New York City’s Harmony By Karate school and Good Will Ambassador to the World Black Belt organization—created, organized, and facilitated the first Universal Harmony Day, which took place in New York City and involved such high-profile participants as the late ABC news icon Bill Beutel, hockey great Luc Robitaille, radio host Elliot Segal, and legendary artist Peter Max. Aiming to heighten awareness and collect money to fight child abuse, it was one of the most large-scale and publicized martial arts events geared toward philanthropy ever to take place. Like the original event, Universal Harmony Day 2006 will unite all willing human beings in their efforts of philanthropy, genuine kindness, and utter humanity. This time, however, it will be bigger.

On September 11, 2006, World Black Belt (founding members include Bob Wall, Chuck Norris, Don "The Dragon" Wilson and 50 of the world’s greatest martial artists) and Sensei John Mirrione will sponsor Universal Harmony Day with worldwide media coverage devoted to the philanthropic activities of martial arts schools throughout the world! Many media and martial arts icons are already preparing to participate. Special events will take place in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, and Toronto, as well as several other major cities to be announced, but no matter where you live, if you are doing something to help others in the spirit of Universal Harmony, we want to know about it! We will therefore be accepting letters, emails, photographs, and videos, which will be posted on WorldBlackBelt.com for worldwide access. So join us as we institute a revolutionary tradition that will redefine this decade, and will recreate the next century! It is a project that will commence now and grow indefinitely; one day in the near future, every martial artist in the world will participate in this celebration of humanity, forever transforming a day of human tragedy into a day of human grace—a positive worldwide experience reminding us of generosity, gratitude, and a fundamental human connection.

What will define the state of humanity in ten years from now? In twenty? This might seem an impossible question, but in fact the answer is rudimentary: The future of the human condition depends on your actions now. True action, after all, is timeless, for it has the incredible ability to transcend the synthetic and illusionary divides between “past”, “present”, and “future”. That is, with enough passion, intensity, and drive, on Universal Harmony Day 2006—and on this day every year thereafter—your actions will possess the power to reshape the past and, unquestionably, to redefine the future. “Traveler, there is no path; paths are made by walking” (Antonio Machado). For every step you venture today, there is a footprint that materializes halfway into the next generation—because each single moment, without exception, is the beginning of a potentially new future.

That is what we will show the world on Universal Harmony Day 2006, when martial arts schools and individuals everywhere will have the opportunity to share their acts of good will, generosity, and love, and to show that not only has their training given them physical strength, but also strength of spirit. Witness some of the biggest names and biggest hearts in the martial arts take the world by storm; become a part of Universal Harmony Day 2006 and help give birth to a tradition that will outlive us all. Join the fight to unite!

It's The Event We've All Been Training For.

Please send all messages and inquiries to universalharmonoday@worldblackbelt.com.
Myles Porter (Toledo, Ohio) turned heads at his international competition debut by finishing 5th in the 100kg division at the International Blind Sports Association World Judo Championships in Brommat, France. Porter cruised through his first two matches winning by pin in 1:34 against Markus Uppmann of Germany and then beating Arif Aslanov of Azerbaijan by forcing Aslanov to submit from an arm bar in 1:25.

In the semi-finals Porter faced his toughest competitor yet, Antonio Silva of Brazil, the 2004 Athens Paralympic Gold medalist. Silva threw Porter with a Harai Goshi for ippon (instant win) which put the American into the bronze medal match against William Morgan of Canada. There, Porter fell behind early and Morgan threw Porter for ippon placing him fifth overall.

Scott Jones (Little Rock, Ark.) also had a solid tournament by placing 7th overall in the 81kg division. Jones first defeated Diego Poli from Italy by two wazari (large points) to one koka (small point). Next Jones faced Claud Fernandez of Argentina who he pinned with 1:50 remaining in the 5:00 match. Jones then lost his third match to Cyril Jonard of France by ippon which sent him into the repachage (losers bracket) where he beat Tae In Jang of Korea with a beautiful throw of o uchi gari for ippon, an instant win just 10 seconds into the contest. In Jones’ fifth match, he faced Karim Sardarov of Azerbaijan who beat him by ippon placing him 7th.

The 5th and 7th place finishes by Porter and Jones qualified one spot each in the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games in their respective weight categories for the United States.

Other U.S. athletes on the U.S Association of Blind Athletes National Judo Team sponsored by Tiger Claw, who did not advance either past the first round or through the repachage include Scott Moore (Englewood, Colo.), Jordan Mouton (Houston, TX), Lori Pierce (Arvada, Colo.) and Andre Watson (Upper Darby, Penn.).
**HanKook Sword**
The HanKook Sword is a traditional Korean weapon reminiscent of a Japanese Katana. The aluminum blade has a graceful curve, a single unsharpened edge and a single fuller. The handle and scabbard are constructed of natural wood. Traditionally, this sword has no guard, only a metal fitting, which matches with the throat and end cap of the scabbard. Adorned with a traditional Korean ball and mystic knot tassel, the HanKook Sword comes with a custom-fit nylon carrying case.

- **Blade Length:** 32"
- **Overall Length:** 43½"
- **Weight:** 1.2 lb.

**Rebreakable Boards**
Tiger Claw has completely redesigned our rebreakable boards with the help of World Champion Breaking Legend Dr. Dan Netherland. Features extra-wide handles and protective foam padding on both sides.

- **20-31K Extra Strong** (Black 10" x 17" x ½")
- **20-31R Strong** (Red 9" x 16½" x ½")
- **20-31U Average** (Blue 9" x 16½" x ¼")

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**Create your own patch!**

**Embroider a gear bag!**

**Tiger Claw** offers the most options and the highest quality in custom martial arts outfitting. Call today to start creating your new school image!
Meet The Masters
How they started, what they do in their spare time, what they're reading

As a bit of a preview of what to expect at this July’s Ultimate Martial Arts Weekend triple-bill extravaganza of the Long Beach Internationals, Black Belt Magazine’s Festival of Martial Arts and the Action on Film Festival we present this survey of some of the top people in American martial arts. At the 2005 Black Belt Martial Arts Festival we tracked down several of the masters in attendance and asked them three simple questions: What got you started in martial arts?; What hobbies do you have outside of martial arts?; What was the last good martial arts book you read? [or movie, or magazine]. We only regret that we do not have more room to print all the great stories that were generously shared with us.

Michael Matsuda
Martial Arts History Museum
Los Angeles, CA
MartialArtsMuseum.com
I started learning judo in elementary school at the Japanese community center in Sun Valley, CA. Studied martial arts for 38 years.
I do directing, producing, photography, graphic design. I’ve written three books. I’ve acted in movies. I never sleep.

George Alexander
Yamazato Videos—Reliance, TN
Yamazato-Videos.com
My dad was in the Army air corps and he brought back combat Judo, and I started training in that at 14. I entered the Marine Corps and was exposed to much more martial arts through that.
Everything I do is martial arts related...
I learned how to do all the directing and editing and graphics myself.

My own DVD... Oyama Karate
[Available from Tiger Claw]

Russell McCartney
Ishi Yama Ryu (Stone-Mountain School)
Seattle, WA
Guinness Book World Record for target cutting - 1181 targets - no misses - 85 minutes
IshiYamaRyu.com
I studied in college
Bicycling, mountain climbing, swimming, anything outdoors
The New translation of Musashi’s Book of Five Rings
[Available from Tiger Claw]

Yong Sung Lee
Founder of Hapkudo
Washington D.C.
Hapmudo.net
I started studying Hapkido when I was six. I was a skinny kid and my parents were worried about my health

Soccer, karaoke, good food, my family
The Art of Peace by O-Sensei (Morihei Ueshiba)
I related to his idea of happiness in daily life.

Gary Lee
Living Legends Martial Arts Celebrity Roast
born in Honolulu, HI, now in Sugarland, TX
I chased a volleyball over a hill in Hawaii and I saw 300 blackbelts on the beach doing kata and I was hooked. I was six years old. Martial arts changed my life.
I’m also a professional bass fisherman. I have 20 titles to my name.
The Book of Five Rings
I reread it recently after I received a plaque calling me Gary ‘Musashi’ Lee

Shannon Lee
Bruce Lee Foundation—Los Angeles, CA
BruceLeeFoundation.com
It was a big part of growing up obviously, but I didn’t really study much after my father passed, but got into it seriously again when entering adulthood.
I sing and I write. I sang on an indie record, Medicine’s album The Mechanical Forces of Love in 2003.

The Straight Lead by Teri Tom
[Available from Tiger Claw]

John Pellegrini
Founder Combat Hapkido
ICHF.com
I started in Judo and Kung Fu as a teenager, but was exposed to the combative styles when I joined the military at 18. I’ve been studying for 40 years.
I have my family. I like to cook.
The Tao of Jeet Kune Do by Bruce Lee has to be my all time favorite and it has had a tremendous influence on my own training

Mark Shuey
Canemaster—Reno, NV
“We make the one self defense weapon that if you carry people feel sorry for you”
CaneMasters.com
I was a weight lifter... I went around to five different dojos, and I picked the Chuck Norris Tang Soo Do. I went mainly for exercise. To become more flexible.

Hiking, coin collecting, snow skiing
Zen in the Martial Arts by Joe Hyams.

Meet the Masters is the host of Tiger Claw’s Hapkido videos
Fred Schoeler from Disney Sports Attractions
Disney's Martial Arts Festival
October 27 - 29, 2006 at Disney's Wide World of Sports®,
Lake Buena Vista, FL
DisneySports.com

Our goal—when we opened our gates in 1997—was simple; we wanted Walt Disney World to be the premier destination for sports in the United States. We hit our one millionth athlete this past June... a volleyball player from Kentucky.

The passion of the people that are involved in sports is unique. In sports, you never know what the end is going to be. In competition the true drama unfolds on the playing field. I think that is the exciting part of sports in general. I have the opportunity to talk to the athletes and the parents that come to our facility and they really appreciate our sense of quality that we provide for them; the organization to try to make sporting events at an amateur level unique. I wish that as a child when I was playing sports that I could have played on surfaces like we have at Disney's Wide World of Sports. They are immaculate! I don’t know how the grounds crew does it, but they absolutely do a great job of keeping everything beautifully green and manicured. It is amazing to see a child perform on those surfaces, when they know a professional athlete that they admired their whole life played on the same field a month ago.

I saw the Tiger Claw Elite Championship as an opportunity to do two things. I think it provides the opportunity for the athletes that we already have competing at Disney's Wide World of Sports in our Disney Martial Arts Festival to compete with the best martial arts athletes from around the United States. To really elevate their perspective of how they could achieve their dreams in the future. You know a picture is worth a thousand words. So they will be able to see this top notch competition and they will be performing and competing maybe an hour from that time in the same facility. So I saw that as one opportunity. The second opportunity I saw is now we have the ability to reach out to new athletes. So that they and their parents can come down and experience what others have experienced already.

I hope that the martial arts community stays in the martial arts event business for the right reason. I hope they provide a focus to the athletes and to the spectators, to the coaches... and embrace the events and the people that come to the events like we do at Walt Disney World they are our guests. I hope that happens in the future. I hope that the ones that are doing this are successful and continue to grow in the future; because, it is a wonderful discipline, it is great for kids, it is something you can embrace for a lifetime it is important.

Dave Sklar
Kick International Florida State Championship
September 15-16 in Boca Raton Florida
KickUSA.com

In 1994, we founded an organization called KICK/USA—Kids in Competition Karate, to give children a place to apply all the skills they were learning in martial arts schools. So we founded a complete circuit of tournaments devoted just to putting youth in the spotlight. We will host 31 events in the state of Florida next year. We are the little league of the martial arts. Like little league baseball, you compete near your house in separate circuits right in their neighborhoods, so it eliminates a lot of the expense and time commitments for everybody. Now we are in the state of Maryland, with six events next year, and we are also in Canada... Kick Canada with seven events next year. All leading to the Disney Martial Arts Festival.

Our mission statement is to promote the positive benefits of the martial arts to children. The most gratifying thing that we do is when we take a student who finishes in 20th place, in last place and we make them feel like they were the first place student... and that kid has a smile on his face, knowing that he didn’t win... that to me is gratifying.

My vision of the martial arts for the future is that it’s in every school and kids are introduced to it like other sports. In particular we want to give the opportunity for each student to have a way to test their skills in a safe, fair, motivating environment. I want a way for every child to be exposed to the martial arts just like they are with Tae Kwon Do in Korea in the school system. We need to offer those benefits to the kids as well. I want to see a national little league-like circuit for kids that leads up to a national championship.
Tiger Claw Elite Championship Fund

Help send athletes to Disney World® for the Tiger Claw Elite Championships! The Tiger Claw Foundation is collecting funds to cover travel expenses for deserving qualified athletes to the finals at Disney World®. Donators of $50 or more will receive a special edition Tiger Claw Foundation/Tiger Claw Elite t-shirt.

For more information visit
TigerClawElite.com
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Disney's
Martial Arts Festival

October 27-29, 2006

Disney's Martial Arts Festival combines the positive atmosphere of competition with magic of the Walt Disney World® Resort. Martial artists of all disciplines will enjoy the best competition from around the world.

Disciplines include:
Karate • Tae Kwon Do • Judo • Chinese Martial Arts • Grappling and much more.

Tiger Claw and Disney's Wide World of Sports® Are Looking for the Best of the Best.

Qualifier tournaments will take place across the U.S. for eligibility in the 2006 Tiger Claw Elite National Championship, part of Disney's Martial Festival 2006 at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex.

The Tiger Claw Elite National Championship is a Black Belt Only Open Competition

Tiger Claw National Qualifier Tournaments
Long Beach Internationals,
Long Beach, CA - July 28-30
US Capitol Classics China Open,
Washington, DC - August 11-13
KA Open / LA Sheriff's Cup,
Los Angeles, CA - September 9
Kick/USA State Championship,
Titusville, FL - September 15-16

Visit disneyworldsports.com/martialarts for easy access to online registration, tournament information and travel packages, or call 1-866-706-2900 or info@tournament.info.
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welcomes any reader contributions of articles, photos and letters that may
be of interest to the martial arts community. Mail them to: Tiger Claw,
5613 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN, 37918 or email to tn@tigerclaw.com
Visit the TigerClaw.com Events page for complete tournament information
For the past six months, I had the opportunity to represent Tiger Claw in Colorado. The Colorado Karate Association was formed 20 years ago. It has a membership school base of nearly 50 martial arts schools. Colorado presently commands about 500 notable schools. The CKA has 10% memberships supporting the growth of the martial arts industry in the State. Back in 1985, the average amount of competitors reached 200-250 competitors per tournament. That number more than doubled by 1996-1997 to a CKA average high of 500-600 at CKA tournaments. The most recent tournament on May 29th (the Rage) hosted by CKA Board Vice President and owner of People’s Kenpo Karate, Chuck Cordova had a competitors attendance of nearly 750 participants.

Rand stated, “Terry has a great location in Grand Rapids and the school is bright, clean, and gives off that professional vibe that is common with all the more successful schools. He really didn’t need my help in that department. The biggest suggestion was to increase his merchandise branding, which is a proven method of helping create the first “National Elite Champions” ever crowning in the history of sports martial arts, giving competitive martial arts nationwide coverage.”

Driving towards Grand Rapids from Ann Arbor, Tiger Claw Marketing Consultant Rand Cardwell, was pondering how to help long-time client Terry Gay with his school’s marketing. Terry, the owner of Super T Karate, had requested that a Tiger Claw representative drop by his school in the event that we were ever in the area. Arriving a couple of hours prior to the first class gave them enough time to discuss Terry’s current marketing techniques and to present some ideas that help schools owners become more successful.

Tiger Claw’s Marketing Consultants are here to help you achieve the professional look you need for today’s competitive marketplace. Our TCMC consultants are always ready to visit or speak to school or store owners. They can use the knowledge they’ve gathered to make your business look more professional, increase enrollment, retain your student base, and increase profits.

To schedule a visit to your school or store, call 1-800-821-5090 and ask to speak with a TCMC Representative. It may be the best call you make!