

North America



Wado International Karate-Do Federation DOJO CONNECTION

AUGUST 2006

Tom Scott Earns a Spot on the USA National Team!

Brody Burns

2006 has been an amazing year for Tom Scott of the Academy of Classical Karate-do in Plano, TX, and it is only halfway over! After attending the USA National Karate-do Federation (USA-NKF) National Championships and Team Trials in Fort Lauderdale, FL, Mr. Scott fought his way to the top of the 16-17 Junior PKF Team Trials Division finishing 1st and guaranteeing him a spot on the USA Junior National Team to compete in the Pan-American Karate Federation (PKF) Youth Championships in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles on September 21-23. He also earned a Silver medal in the 16 year old Advanced Open Kumite at the USA-NKF National Championships. Two weeks prior to the USA-NKF Nationals, Mr. Scott also competed in the AAU National Championships in Miami, FL. He fought his way through the field of fighters to land a spot in the night finals. After a great fight, he won his finals match and **National Champion** in the 16 year old Advanced Kumite. He also won a Bronze medal in 16-18 year old Shobu Ippon Kumite and competed in 16-18 year old WKF Kumite, 16 year old Advanced Kata, and competed for the first time in the Men's Advanced Open Mandatory Kata (16 & Up to Adults). The day after winning his Gold medal, Mr. Scott participated in the AAU Team Trials, which included a kata and kumite assessment and physical fitness assessment of core strength, push-ups, vertical jump, agility,

and endurance. Within the next few weeks, he should hear back if he is on the team to go to Hannover, Germany for the WKC Junior World Championships and World Cup for Children on October 18-22.



TOM SCOTT

While racking up the medals, Mr. Scott also managed to catch the eyes of 4-time WKF World Champion Christophe Pinna, 3-time WKF World Champion Elisa Au, WKF World Champion George Kotaka, WKF Bronze Medallist John Fonseca, USA Team Coaches Hideharu Igaki and Tommy Hood, AAU Coaches Linda Donner and Mark Pinner, Referees, Athletes, and Spectators. What makes these results even more astounding is the fact that these 2 tournaments were the first time that Mr. Scott had competed in Kumite this year due to a broken arm from his Shodan Exam! Congratulations to Mr. Scott on a great year to date, and best of luck in the competitions to come!

WIKF Texas Brings Home the Medals!

At the past AAU National Championships held in Miami, FL on June 28 – July 1, the 20 competitor team of WIKF Texas led by Head Coach Sensei Brody Burns brought back a stunning 12 Gold Medals/National Champions, 6 Silver Medals, and 8 Bronze Medals. Competitors included:

Aaron Clark (6 year old Male Beginner – **Gold** in Kumite),

Meagan Clark (7 Year Old Female Beginner – **Gold** in Kumite; after recovering from a broken leg!),

Paul Honrales (7 year old Male Beginner – **Gold** in Kumite),

Monty Smith (10 year old Male Beginner – Bronze in Kumite),

Rick Honrales (10 year old Male Novice – Bronze in Kumite),

Rebekka Feith (12 year old Female Intermediate – Silver in Kumite),

Mark Honrales (12 year old Male Intermediate – **Gold** in Kumite),

Dakota Smith (13 year old Male Beginner – **Gold** in Kumite),

Stephen Norviel (14 year old Male Intermediate – Bronze in Kumite),

Nancy Norviel (16 year old Female Intermediate – Bronze in Kumite),

Tom Scott (16 year old Male Advanced – **Gold** in Kumite, Bronze in Shobu Ippon Kumite),

Michael Perez (17 year old Male Intermediate – **Gold** in Kumite, Silver in Kata),

Maxine Lisot (18 year old Female Intermediate – **Gold** in Kata, **Gold** in Kumite),

Cara Colton (19-34 year old Female Novice – Silver in Kata, Silver in Kumite),

Cameron Sells (19-34 year old Male Novice – **Gold** in Kumite, Bronze in Kata),

Lindsey Kufel (19-34 year old Female Intermediate – Silver in Kumite),

Sean Patrick (19-34 year old Male Intermediate – Silver in Kumite, Bronze in Kata),

Matt Matson (19-34 year old Male Advanced),

Vince Garcia (19-34 year old Male Advanced – Bronze in WKF Kumite),

Cancion Shepherd (55+ year old Female Novice – **Gold** in Kata, **Gold** in Kumite J



Great job WIKF Texas!



While at AAU Nationals, the team participated in Kumite clinics with World Champions Christophe Pinna from France and Elisa Au. Mark Honrales had the opportunity to do drills with Sensei Pinna, Paul Honrales practiced with Sensei Au, and Tom Scott was used by Sensei Au as uke for the seminar.

Sensei Burns renewed his Technical Coach license, Mr. Scott upgraded his license to Technical Coach, Mr. Matson earned his Coaching license for the first time, and Dale Gatchalian upgraded his Official license to a "J."

Vince Garcia sustained a fractured orbital injury during his WKF Kumite match, but is recovering well and anticipates to be sparring again in August without the need of surgery.

1st Annual Ichiban Karate Club "14er" Climb – Mike Bevins

I would like to thank all who came to the WIKF Karate Camp in the Rockies of Colorado in June. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing and working out with everyone there. I hope everyone had a great time and positive experience training with Sensei Jon Wicks as I did! Again, thank you very much!

I will be holding my first annual mountain climb on the weekend of September 9th. I hope to do

this every year as a dojo until I conquer all 50+ "14ers" in Colorado. I guess I better get busy! Anyway, we will start very early on the trail so we can reach the top when both the full moon is going down and the sun is coming up. I am told it is a very enlightening experience. The climb ("Longs Peak") will take about 4+ hours to reach at over 14,000 feet from the base of the trail. We will have an experienced climber with us to lead the way for this moderate one day climb. So if anyone is interested in going with us, feel free to contact me at:
303-875-0959

Canada's Ocean Playground- Nova Scotia Kevin Jones

This summer has been rather exciting as Sensei Joey Shano has been trying to get his shoulder back in shape after surgery via his karate dojo classes. Of late we have been training in the water, blocking water balloons and playing catch with eggs. All in all, the summer classes have been extremely successful as we have had our busiest summer month ever. We have enrolled 21 new adult members this summer during a time that usually sees a reduction in student attendance.

We have decided to hold our summer camp around the 3rd week of August. This will be a weekend of early classes, beach training, and social excitement.

Boynton Beach, Florida Dojo Tom Kosslow

During my visit to Florida in July to attend the AAU Nationals I was also able to pay a visit to Sensei Anton Phillips Dojo in Boynton Beach, Florida. Since it was over the 4th of July holiday we did not have a large number of students in attendance but that was expected.

I taught a kids class for Sensei Phillips which I thoroughly enjoyed. The kids were well disciplined and respectful. We had some fun doing some games and drills related to their practice.

I was also able to work with Sensei Phillips and a few of his adult students on the Renraku Waza required for all Black Belt grades.



L-R: Bruce Carlough, Anton Phillips, Tom Kosslow
Sorry but I don't know the names of the children in
the picture.

The Cottage at Cedar Key **Doug Jepperson**

The sun crept through the room holding soft bits of dust or whatever that stuff is that is only visible during those poetic moments of sunbeams and quiet rooms. Outside I could hear the lap of waves rolling onto the shore, not surf as this was the Gulf. This day was like a day when you were a kid, creeping by indolently, indifferent to its occupants, which was fine with me. Suzuki Sensei was in his half of the bungalow doing whatever it is great karate masters do when they are on vacation and not teaching. And I was lying on the couch analyzing the sun beam.

Finally Sensei came out, ignored me, and went to the deck where he carefully folded a white towel over the edge of the railing. He stood up and stretched into the sun absorbing the warmth. He stretched in every direction, not like he was preparing for exercise, more like a cat waking up. Then he began punching, softly one, and two, left then right. Over and over again. I started counting then I got bored and decide my time was better spent making coffee. When I got back he was still punching, faster now, "bap, bap, bap, bap." About the time I thought he was finished he switched to the right stance, then the same thing over again, slowly at first and then building speed. Standing there on the deck of a vacation condo some stranger rented to us, in his

bathing suit, Tatsuo Suzuki was punching at the Gulf of Mexico.

So I sat on the couch watching the surf, watching Sensei and wondering to myself if this was his secret? We were alone on an island, in the Gulf of Mexico off of the coast of Florida, called Cedar Key. It was an island from which you could walk back to the mainland; we were only one bridge off shore, but an island never the less.

It was a serendipitous sort of vacation, we had just finished a big training in Newnan, Georgia, Sensei Tom Kosslow had arranged. The training was great a very large group made up of folks from all over the USA. Tom had a lot of Georgia people, Jerry Williams brought down his Tennessee crew, Butch Balingit had a big group from Florida, and there were some from Arizona and our group from Utah. We filled up the gym in the school where Tom was the principal. Sensei Suzuki was the main teacher, running us through our paces, correcting, encouraging and yelling. I had five or six young men hoping to earn their black belt working out in front of the great master. After the practice the idea was that everyone would go to this island for some days in the sun relaxing. Sensei Butch had paid for the resort condos and had everything set up. After several days of hard training and Dan Grading everyone was tired and looked forward to relaxation. But Sensei and I alone on the island? This was the result of a series of odd circumstances. My students got lost driving from Georgia to Florida, one group misunderstood the dates, and another group encountered a family crisis. The result was Sensei and I alone.

Each day was the same, we would get up, he on the deck practicing and I making coffee for me and tea for him. I did not interrupt as this was clearly an individual pursuit. I did not even need to ask. He did this alone. He apparently did this every day of his life, and I was just there to observe. I asked one day if he practiced every day like this and he said, "Of course." But in the same way someone would respond if you asked, "Do you brush your teeth everyday?"

One night during our walk to the pier for dinner he explained to me his ideas of training and what Wado was to him. During dinner Sensei asked for a sheet of paper and a pen. The only thing we could find was a yellowed sort of butcher paper, the stuff you wrap fish in when you but it fresh. And our

fabulous instrument of writing was what the great Shodo Masters use...a plastic BIC pen. Sensei then began writing while he outlined his philosophy of training as this:

“KEIZOKU WA CHIKARA NARI”

His explanation to me was this:

KEIZOKU means “to do something continuously”, in our case to train and practice.

CHIKARA means, “Power”

WA and NARI do not mean much in English...maybe corresponds to “IS”

So it means... most important is to practice. It’s simple but also difficult as you all know. Or more easily understood and these are my words now,” Practice makes perfect.”

Not beautiful calligraphy, but I have saved this drawing made with a BIC pen, and once in a while before class I press out the wrinkles and look at Suzuki Sensei’s words.

RECENT PROMOTIONS

Academy of Classical Karate-Do, Plano, Texas:

Caralinda Colton...5th Kyu
Maureen Wright...7th Kyu
Jason Mandell...5th Kyu
Colista Acheson...5th Kyu
Stephen Norviel...4th Kyu
Bryce Seton-Rogers...3rd Kyu

NEW WIKF MEMBERS

Vanatta’s Institute of Karate, White House, Tennessee:

Todd Dorris
Dylan Pederson
Josh Palmer
Nicole Conquest
Marks Conquest
Chuck Bunch

LESSONS ON LIFE

Tom Kosslow

There was once a man who had five sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly so he sent them each, in turn, to go look at a

pear tree that was in a distant land. The first son was sent in winter, the second son in spring, the third in summer, and the fourth in the fall.

The first son, who went in winter, returned and reported that the tree was ugly, bent and twisted.

When the second son who went in the spring returned he reported that the tree was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son went in summer and said that the tree was full of blossoms and smelled really sweet and looked beautiful.

Finally the fourth son who went in the fall disagreed with his brothers. He said that the tree was ripe and drooping with fruit. It was full of life and fulfillment.

The father then explained to his sons that they were all correct because they had each seen only one season in the life of the tree. He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season. The essence of who someone is and the pleasure, joy, and love that comes from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons have been viewed.

I was thinking that I first met Sensei about twenty-five years ago. He was about my age give or take a few years. He was in awesome shape. He taught four nights in two Dojo in Tennessee The amazing thing was that he did everything he asked us to do...push-ups, sit-ups etc....without even flinching. After the first class I did not think I was going to survive the other three. To this day I don’t ever remember being so sore all over. I honestly don’t think I could do that today.

I have seen Suzuki Sensei in several seasons of his life and he amazes me today as much as he did back when I first met him. I did not see him in the earlier seasons of his life, but I can only imagine.

I saw Otsuka Sensei at the end of his life. I was a young man then and was sure I had never seen anyone move faster. Again, I can only wonder about what he must have been like when he was younger. I once commented to Suzuki Sensei that I thought his backfist was really fast. He said, “Think so? Should have seen Otsuka Sensei’s backfist!”

When you younger generation of karate-ka see some of us old guys please remember that you are seeing us in the latter seasons of our life and don’t be too harsh on us. We weren’t always old.