



# Wado International Karate-Do Federation

## DOJO CONNECTION

July 2009

### Academy of Classical Karate-Do, Plano, Texas

#### Brody Burns

I am sure most of you are aware we have a competition team that represents our dojo in state and national level tournaments. Our competition team is named WIKF Texas, because we represent the Texas branch of WIKF. WIKF Texas has an extremely good reputation for training high quality, skilled and respectful athletes. People from across the state and nation have asked about training with our Team. I am very proud of our team. February of this year in Chicago, members of WIKF Texas traveled to the USA Karate Team Trials and tried out for the USA Team. **Tom Scott** qualified for the first seat in his weight class and **Maxine Lisot** qualified as the second seat in her weight class. Both of them traveled to Las Vegas to compete in the US Open and North American Cup representing the USA in competition. Tom Scott won the gold medal in the North American Cup for the USA.

The USA Karate Team traveled to Curacao for the Pan American Karate Championships. This tournament is very well supported by South American countries and is one of the most challenging competitions in the world. This was the best the USA Team has done in over a decade winning 4 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze. The USA Team won the overall medal count.

**Tom Scott** was on the USA Team competing at the Championships. This is his first year as an adult (18+) competitor and although he has competed in the Jr. Pan American Championships, it is a much different level of competition as an adult. He fought competitors from Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela and Columbia. On the third day of competition he earned a BRONZE medal in the Open

weight class. We are very proud of Tom Scott, not just for his bronze medal, but for his attitude and growth through the competition. Tom Scott was disappointed at various times through the competition, but he refocused, recharged and kept going. He showed the courage and dedication we would expect him to have as a WIKF Black Belt.

**Dale Gatchalian** was also in Curacao working toward advancement. Dale Gatchalian is one of the top ranked Referees in the state and one of only a few Pan American level officials in the country. The testing process for officials at the international level is very difficult and he was able to successfully advance to the next level of Pan American Official. Dale was asked to demonstrate Wado kata for the referee committee and made a great impression on several World level officials, including Norma Foster (Wado kai) from Canada.

Earlier this year, **Vincent Garcia** was asked by Sensei Free and I to test for his Sandan (3<sup>rd</sup> degree Black Belt). He completed his testing process with us and was advanced to the next level of testing, which is to be tested by a high ranking member of the WIKF, usually Suzuki Sensei himself. Vincent scheduled a trip to Curacao, but the training was unexpectedly cancelled. Vincent was forced to use his ticket or lose the money he had invested. Suzuki Sensei was unavailable in the timeframe we were working with, but Sensei Jon Wicks (7<sup>th</sup> degree) was teaching a course in Sweden and Suzuki Sensei told him to go to Sweden train and test. Vincent Garcia flew to Sweden May 30st weekend and went through over 18 hours of training and then tested for his 3<sup>rd</sup> dan. We are very pleased he passed his test and represented the Academy of Classical Karate and WIKF USA very well. The final stage of the test is called a Demonstration, where Vincent Garcia will have a public test and the entire dojo is invited to attend and watch him show his Sandan level skills.

The date on the demonstration will be announced shortly.

### Summer Camps

We will be hosting some great camps this year. Matthew Matson and Tom Scott have some really fun activities planned to develop your karate skills, develop friendships with your karate teammates and to just enjoy the summer. Fliers and information are posted at the dojo. Please feel free to invite your friends because they don't need to be members of the dojo to attend.

### **USA-NKF National Championships in Fort Lauderdale, FL.**

WIKF Texas Competition Team will be competing at the 2009 NKF National Championships in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The tournament is July 16- July 19 at the convention center. Our team has been preparing for Nationals since January 1, 2009 with our first competition team meeting. We are excited! We will be taking 30 athletes with parents and Boosters our entire group should be over 75 people. Managing this Team is no small feat and we will be relying heavily on our Booster Club travel team and Coaches. Dale Gatchalian is our Team Manager and will be coordinating our plans in preparations, but one we arrive he will be busy being a Referee. Tom Scott and Maxine Listo have been named Team Captains and will help keep the Team pumped up and ready to compete. Vincent Garcia, Lisa Free and Matthew Matson will be our Coaches on the floor coordinating the Team, coaching the team ringside and running practices. If any WIKF USA students are going to be at Nationals and need a coach ringside, just let us know we will be happy to help. Tom, Maxine, Lindsey Kufel, Cara Colton will be trying out for the USA Team while Bekka Feith, Mark Honrales and Rick Honrales will all be trying out for the Junior USA Team. The USA Jr. Team will be traveling to El Salvador for the Pan American Championships and then to Morocco for the Jr. World Championships.

### *Calls to Service*

We have had several WIKF Texas members sign up for the military in the past few months.

**Mr. Sean Patrick** (Blue Belt)- joined the Air Force. He has successfully completed Boot Camp and is now in training in Mississippi.

**Shodan Rusty Acheson** – joined the Navy and shipped off for training in May. He has written to the

dojo once and I know he is doing well in Boot Camp. His wife, mother and sister are still training hard at the dojo.

**Mr. Alex Smith** (Brown Belt) – joined the Navy as well. He will ship off to Boot Camp in August, so we will get to keep him around a little longer.

**Tim Harbison** (Green Belt)– is answering a slightly different call and is going on a church mission for two years. He leaves the dojo this month.

Although I will miss all of these students and I wish I had more time to train with them, I respect their decision and desire to serve. Please wish them luck and let them know you will miss them. We have Rusty Acheson's and Mr. Patrick's addresses if anyone would like to write them, please see the front office.

### IN THE NEWS

**Arturo Girona** has relocated to Guatemala where he has taken a job working for the US Treasury Department.

**Captain Devlin Spradlin**, USMC is currently serving a tour in Afghanistan. He will be there for several more months. Meanwhile his wife Sarah is expecting their second child.

**Michael Cimino-Hurt** is recovering from hip replacement surgery. He is doing well and recovering quickly.

### AAU NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Four members of the Newnan Karate Center, Newnan, Georgia travel to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to compete in the AAU National Championships. Those members who made the trip included **Andrea Knoll**, **Trevor Wright**, **Joey Lytten**, and **Chaz Brown**. Andrea was unable to compete due to a torn ligament in her knee. Trevor ran a nice kata but had to compete in the brown belt division with 27 competitors even though he is only a blue belt (4<sup>th</sup> Kyu). Joey earned a gold medal in kata and a bronze medal in the novice 17 year old division. Chaz earned a gold medal in the beginner 16 year old division for kata and then moved up a division for kumite where he earned the silver medal in the novice 16 year old division.



**CHAZ BROWN**

### **FEELING LUCKY**

**Tom Kosslow**

This past weekend a family friend asked if he could bring his two children by my dojo to see a class. I told him it would be ok but he arrived after I completed the class. So instead of watching I invited them onto the mat to see what they could do. Both of his children, ages 10 and 9, are brown belts in a local tae kwon do school. They joined that school before they knew I had a dojo. In truth they could do practically nothing. They got their brown belts in less than a year from an instructor who is 27 years old and claims a 5<sup>th</sup> degree black belt master. I really wasn't surprised.

These days I think this is rather typical of the karate that you find out there in most places. There is an overall dullness of appearance that is also largely phony. We have instructors with no scientific knowledge, no artistic knowledge, and no spiritual sense at all. That is bad enough all by itself until you realize that they produce students who are technically inferior who learn and practice weak and useless technique, are emotionally hollow, esthetically meaningless, and spiritually empty.

Kahil Gibran in his book *The Wanderer* wrote:

*“Upon a day Beauty and Ugliness met on the shore of a sea. And they said to one another, “let us bathe in the sea.” Then they disrobed and swam in the waters. And after a while ugliness came back to shore and garmented himself with the garments of*

*Beauty and walked his way. And Beauty too came out of the sea, and she found not her raiment, and she was too shy to be naked, therefore she dressed herself with the raiment of Ugliness and Beauty walked her way. And to this very day men and women mistake the one for the other. Yet some there are who have beheld the face of Beauty and they know her notwithstanding her garments. And some there be who know the face of Ugliness, and the cloth conceals him not from their eyes.”*

The same is true of the karate “masters” of today. There are a lot of people who call themselves master but are not. Go to any major city phone book and you will find them listed. But there are really only ever a handful of true masters and those of us lucky enough to have seen Suzuki Sensei are not fooled by the ones who are not, no matter how many students they have, or what they call themselves.

### **UTAH CHAMPIONSHIP NKF QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT**



**Utah Championships Staff**

**Doug Jepperson**

I told every student from three years to 60 years in my dojo, I do not care if you win or lose, just that you try your best. I know how scary it is to walk out on the mat alone with everyone watching. What you do not know is that everyone is nervous, everyone gets cotton in their mouth. If they tell you otherwise they are even more scared than you. It is not the fear of losing or the fear of injury that makes you nervous, it is respect. You just do not want to look bad or silly. So try your best, I have confidence in you.

Now what others do:

Some are completely focused in medals, medals and kids that win. Often times we discovered their kids were entered in divisions beneath their

level of experience. Kids I have seen for two or three years were entered in 3<sup>rd</sup> students with less than one year of training<sup>2</sup>. We noticed a very relevant statement of a teacher's values when one of the students was performing kata, and the head judge, who was his instructor, yelled at him for not doing it correctly while they were both still in the ring. I have always believed in tough love when you are coaching your own students, but to publically berate a student in the ring after a poor performance could make that student quit karate forever. And I have not even mentioned this is completely inappropriate as a referee. The difficult part of this type of behavior is that it makes our job more difficult when we tell our students, and parents we are more interested in building good people, we do not value first place more than last place we value effort. I say those words, then parents of kids who have only trained six months compete against kids that have trained for two or three years.

But now I can cite Istvan Balyi, the man who invented the LTAD program, he says that focusing too early on competition can ruin an athlete for life. It is better to teach them to enjoy training, than to seek first place medals. And I also remember what John Wooden, (the greatest college basketball coach in the world), said to his athletes, I never mention winning, only stepping out there and giving your best effort. And in all the years he was at UCLA, Lew Alcindor-Karrem Abdul Jabbar, Bill Walton, and many others confirm, that Coach Wooden never said we got to win this one. He did chastise them for not giving their best effort, but never for losing. And he never celebrated a win, but he always celebrated effort.

Some of my more positive comments:

The medic was only called out once during the entire tournament and that was just to check a small kid to make certain he was feeling good enough to compete. Not one contact call in the black belts. We are proud of this. I have been working with my guys to win on athleticism. We received a great deal of notice in the local papers. And this tournament is a nice segue into our summer camp held in conjunction with the US Olympic training squad in Park City.

As a note of interest:

We had Tom Scott, Maxine Lisot of the National Team, Michael Ward, and a few others that have received national recognition within the USANKF. All of them said it was a competitive tournament and enjoyed the day. Joe Talerico who represented the USANKF in the 1990's and won numerous medals

for the USA competed, Nikki Ikeda helped with the tournament as well. Darrin Free and the crew from Texas made the tournament possible, Darrin kept all the rings filled and running efficiently. Fariba Madani is simply outstanding as a referee and the help she provided was invaluable to our new referees in Utah.



**Mike Ward(L) and Jon Groot**

### **NEW WIKF USA DOJO**

By vote of the USA Board of Directors **Max Scruggs Karate Center** located in Nashville, Tennessee has been accepted as a probationary member dojo. Scott Meek has been assigned by Board Chairman, Brody Burns, as the Board member responsible for assisting our newest dojo during the probation period. Sensei Scruggs has been training in Wado for many years and has a substantial size dojo with quite a few black belts.

*"I used to live around the corner from the center but over a year ago, moved about 25 minutes away. The commute stinks and especially with gas prices nowadays, I have many excuses to give up classes or look for a closer center, but I will never consider changing centers. I'm as loyal to sensei Scruggs as he is to ALL his students. The dojo is a place for learning, disciplining, bonding, developing leadership skills, building confidence and character as well as being an excellent physical education and self-defense program. I would recommend his center to any adult or child no matter what your circumstance...he'll find a way to make it work for you!"* Quote from a current student

