



Wado International Karate-Do Federation

DOJO CONNECTION

October 2005

WORLD CUP 2005

The WIKF World Cup event was held in Plano, Texas. Teams began to arrive on September 27th and seminars took place on September 28 and 29. The training seminars were conducted by such notable instructors as Fukizawa Sensei (Chief Instructor of WIKF), Jon Wicks Sensei (Vice Chairman WIKF), and Toby Threadgill Sensei (Takamura ha Shindo Yoshin Ryu Jujitsu). Unfortunately Suzuki Sensei was unable to attend due to a medical condition that will temporarily keep him from traveling. I spoke to Sensei on the phone and he is in good spirits but as might be expected disappointed that he could not attend.

Competition began on October 1st with Junior and Cadet Levels. Also completed on the 1st were the kata divisions and the new Tanto Dori competition, as well as Team fighting. The USA Team took the **Bronze Medal** in team fighting. In addition to the Team Medal the USA had three individual medal winners.

TOM SCOTT of the USA is the new **WORLD CHAMPION** in the 14-16 year old Junior division. Tom is an outstanding competitor who continues to impress everyone who has seen him.

MIKE BEVINS, USA Team Coach, won the Gold Medal in the Veterans Open Division. Before competition began Mike informed me that this would be his last round as a competitor. What a great way to go out...as **WORLD CHAMPION**.

ANDREA KNOLL of the USA won the **Bronze Medal** in the Female Veterans Open Division. Andrea is a 5th Kyu who competed against Black Belts in her division and held her own.

There are some other things that came out of this World Cup event that are worth mentioning. The WIKFUSA is getting recognition from such groups as the AAU and the NKF. There appears to be the opportunity for some growth. Several new dojo may

soon be added to our ranks from Tennessee, New York, California, and Colorado. In addition the USA Board of Directors and the Canadian WIKF Directors have reached an agreement to join forces to strengthen WIKF in North America. The exact details still need to be worked out but everyone is very excited about the possibilities this merger will present for both countries. The Directors also met with representatives from the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico to help promote WIKF in the Pan American Region.

After the competition was completed there was a truly memorable party held at the Southfork Ranch (that of TV "Dallas" fame). It was wonderful to see people from so many different countries mix socially as they ate, drank and danced the night away. It really was as if we were all of one family.

Sensei's new book: **Suzuki The Fullness of a Life in Karate**, edited by Michael Cimino-Hurt, was introduced and immediately sold out. This was a special pre-publication edition. Future editions will eventually be available on our WIKFUSA web page.

Although it wasn't publicly announced several individuals were advanced in grade. **Alex Cimino-Hurt** was advanced to the rank of **2nd Dan** after passing an examination conducted by a board of examiners consisting of Sensei Fukazawa, Phillip Keer, Jon Wicks and Tom Kosslow. Suzuki Sensei also directed that the following individuals be advanced in grade:

Ken Corrigan to the rank of 7th Dan
Tom Kosslow to the rank of 7th Dan
Dan Wallis to the rank of 6th Dan
Doug Jepperson to the rank of 6th Dan.

There was almost universal agreement that this event was first class and the best WIKF has ever held. A special thanks goes out to **BRODY BURNS**

and all of the members of the **Academy of Classical Karate-Do** for an outstanding job.

FROM THE US COACH

Mike Bevins

The WIKF World Championships was a very memorable experience to say the least! From the opening ceremony to the final match there was nothing but excitement as a spectator and as an athlete. It was well planned and well executed thanks to Brody Burns and his dojo with only a few small glitches. The knife defense was added excitement and very fresh event for the World stage thanks to Suzuki Sensei.

The USA Team had trained very hard up to the day before the tournament and seemed to be ready but somewhat apprehensive of the World Championship level (uncharted territory) especially after seeing “the giants” from Norway and other countries (28 in total). In team competition, everyone started to get mentally tough and dug down deep as each opponent stepped up to the line. As individuals everyone got better with exciting performances from almost the whole team. Brian Nixon got sharper and better with every fight and fought brilliantly. “No Fear” David Logan took it to every opponent with an attitude of, “You’re in my way,” with great poise. Vince Garcia was sharp and surprised other opponents with his “0-90” speed. World Champion Tom Scott never stops improving and seems to dominate every time he steps in the ring. I’m glad I have retired from major competition now because he is almost 18 LOL. The whole US Team just downright performed above and beyond which made me very proud. The toughest part for me was trying to coach and compete at the same time going from ring to ring.

I spoke to Sensei after the Championships and he said he was very sad that he could not be there but was very proud that everything and everyone in WIKF got along so well and went so smoothly. He sounded in good spirits and he says he’s still training until his operation so he can stay strong. He never ceases to amaze me with his toughness. His doctor says he can go back to his regular routine after his recovery.

To sum it up again, I can’t say enough how proud I am of the sacrifices and performance of the Team. We’ve come a long way in a year and a half with winning the Pan American Cup along with other

medals, winning Bronze in the World Cup Team competition along with other medals which both are a first for the US, but we have a long way to go still! Thank you so very much TEAM USA!



Bronze Medal Winners; L-R
Mike Bevins , Brian Nixon, Vince Garcia, Darrin Free



USA Team: L-R
Andrea Knoll, David Logan, Mike Bevins, Brian Nixon, Tom Scott Vince Garcia Darrin Free, Not pictured Lisa Free

“We are not only instructor and student, we are a family, a special family. We must always help each other and train with each other. Today I’m very pleased at your coming here and training together. It is my wish to train continuously until the end of my life with you. God bless you.”-- Suzuki Sensei