



Wado International Karate-Do Federation

DOJO CONNECTION

September 2005

Hurricane Katrina

Everyone knows about the terrible destruction inflicted by Hurricane Katrina. What you may not know is that we have/had a WIKF Dojo that has been completely destroyed. Gene Evans, Sensei of that dojo, has been in touch with me and a few other WIKF Directors. Following is a report that Gene sent to me:

“I would like to tell you and the WIKF how thankful I am, that you and WIKF members are so willing to help me and my family. It’s a good feeling that we are thought of. I have karate students all over the U.S. At the current moment my house and dojo are covered with water and mud. I wish we could rebuild but it’s going to be 6 months before we can go see what’s left. We left with the clothes on our backs, important papers, credit cards, and our lives. I have been living from hotel to hotel since Sunday night. It’s hard but I think we are going to start a new life in another town in another city. So I don’t think I will rebuild in St. Bernard, but I will rebuild some where, but not for at least 1-2 years. I’m not sure how you’ll be able to help. I’m not sure where we are going to be for you to help. We are going to make it work. I know this because we are a member of the WIKF. Thanks again and God bless the WIKF.”

We don’t know how we can help either at this point but we certainly want to do what we can. In the mean time if you would like to make a donation to help out make checks payable to **WIKF** (note for Evans Fund) and send them to

Mr. Arturo Girona
11200 S.W. 70th Ave.
Miami, Florida
33156.

Arturo has set up a separate account to keep track of all donations. We will update everyone as things progress.

Other Dojo News

Zanshin Wado- Ryu Karate-Do Dojo

Sensei Michael Cimino-Hurt has announced that he has finished a book on Sensei Suzuki entitled, **Suzuki – The Fullness of a Life in Karate.** Plans right now call for us to publish a limited “World Cup” edition signed by Suzuki Sensei which will be for sale at the World Cup later this month.

New Members: WIKF USA welcomes these new members from the Zanshin Dojo:

DYLAN LADWIG
JOEL LADWIG

Newnan Karate Center:

CHRIS HOLCOMB earned Scoutings highest award. In August Chris was the recipient of the **EAGLE SCOUT** award from the Boy Scouts of America during an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony. Only about 3% of the boys who enter scouting ever gets their Eagle. That’s about the same ratio for karate students who earn their Black Belt. During the same month Chris was promoted to 8th Kyu Yellow Belt. We hope that was his first step on his way to his Black Belt.

Also earning belt promotion in August were Chris’s father, **DONALD HOLCOMB** who was promoted to **GO-KYU** and **ANDREA KNOLL** who was also promoted to **Go-KYU**. Congratulations to all three students.

USA WORLD CUP TEAM

Mike Bevins, Team Coach

With a very successful tournament season so far, the US team is looking for one more victory to occur. This will not be just a local tournament, state qualifier, or national championship, but something much more important and meaningful. A tournament

you can put in your memory book and something you can feel good or bad about for the rest of your career. Of course I am talking about the World Cup. This year looks to be on track as far as registration as one of the best (if not the best) in WIKF history. Even with the Visa problems restricting some countries from participating it has “historical greatness” written all over it.

It’s always exciting to see teams roll in one after another from different countries sizing each other up, mind games and old friends from around the world become “standoffish”. You know...the lukewarm nod, the feeling of staying with your group when walking and not shaking hands because for some reason you feel like its bad karma if you do. But as always, when the Cup is over, the stories, the friendships and the beer starts flowing at the ending party. I myself as a veteran competitor can’t wait to see and feel the energy as the first ring starts its business.

The US team is still in the process of preparing with intent on success. With a game plan and a daily log book it should lead the members to a physical and mental peak by the end of September. It would be a nice edition to have the World Cup sitting next to last years Pan-American Cup the guys worked so hard for. So...GO USA!

Team Pool:

Darrin Free
Lisa Free
Vincent Garcia
Andrea Knoll
Bryan Nixon
Matt Matson
David Logan
Tom Scott
Dale Gatchalian
Mike Bevins

How Much of Wado is Jujitsu?

Doug Jepperson

When I started karate no one mentioned jujitsu other than to say that it was an “old Japanese Martial Art.” I had a Japanese instructor, who taught in the Japanese tradition, as so I received no explanations of anything. Osaka Sensei did not believe in explaining history, theory, interpretation or even why we did anything. He believed that learning is best when obtained intuitively. Any explanation would cheat the student out of years of confusion, and perhaps shorten the road to enlightenment. So any insight I gained was had by cheating and asking

someone outside the dojo or worse by reading a book. Because of this I had no idea how jujitsu fit in with Wado or f or that matter what jujitsu was.

I do recall times when other instructors would come and teach in our dojo because Osaka Sensei was discretely famous. These instructors would say that Osaka Sensei moves as you should in Wado. When I questioned Osaka Sensei on what that meant he replied, “Oh, it is because I studied jujitsu.” From that I was suppose to understand how jujitsu fits in with Wado?

So we continued to train and follow Sensei’s lead with little or no explanations. Then a family from Brazil discovered that they could make money teaching jujitsu in America because Americans like anything that is new, even if it isn’t new. We just need somebody to say,” Wow, have you heard about this new stuff called jujitsu?”

“Oh, that is not new; jujitsu has been around for hundreds of years.”

“No, this is different, it’s Gracie Jujitsu,” and as Billy Pilgram used to say, “And so it goes.”

So all of a sudden everyone is keen for jujitsu and since we read somewhere that Wado began as jujitsu we all start asking where is the jujitsu in Wado? Gradually we start hearing about people who have been secretly studying jujitsu and “Now” they are willing to show us how jujitsu fits in with Wado, for \$500 a day.

So before I paid \$500 per day, I thought I would look up the meaning of jujitsu. Guess what? This term is grossly misused and misunderstood, at least in this country. Ju means flexibility or soft or circular. And Ju is used in conjunction with jutsu, which is technique. So it must have something to do with flexible techniques or yielding vs. resisting. Flexibility masters hardness or as the Borg from the TV series Star Trek say, “Resistance is futile.”

Jujitsu is included as a group of techniques and/or a philosophical approach to styles of fighting, in a number of the old Ryu or Martial Art schools. Most of the sword schools prior to the Meiji Restoration had submission techniques included in their curriculum. Jujitsu in Feudal times, prior to the Meiji, would be impractical as a stand alone art. Since the other guys carried swords, it was more practical to study a bladed weapon style that also had jujitsu for the eventuality of your opponent getting so exhausted he wanted to rest a moment. Then you could leap forward and apply your ultimate joint lock and defeat him.

The bottom line is that jujitsu is a very generic term to explain a style or philosophy of techniques to be employed. Donn Dreager suggests that the Japanese adopted from the Daoists, the idea that flexibility always beats rigidity.

The origins of Wado Ryu are found in Shinto Yoshin Ryu Jujitsu. As the legend is told, sometime prior to the American Civil War in Japan a young physician sets off on a journey to China to find some good Lo Mein. His name was Yoshitoji Akiyama. He settles in the Chinese coastal town of Tientsin and starts to practice medicine. During his stay in China he learns Chinese healing methods as well as Chinese fighting techniques, no doubt based upon Chinese Ch'uan Fa. Akiyama returns to Japan and retreats to the Tenmangu Monastery at Tsukushi where he devotes himself to meditation for 100 days. One snowy day Akiyama sits gazing at a willow tree. It suddenly occurs to him that the willow tree, unlike some other trees, doesn't have any broken branches despite the heavy snow. Sturdier trees with unyielding branches suffer much worse from the effects of nature. After this revelation he develops 303 techniques of his own which eventually evolve into Yoshin Ryu Jujitsu or Willow Heart Style. The yielding principles have since been perfected through the test of time in the Yoshin style of jujitsu.

During the feudal period of Japan they have a real dichotomy of goals going on...maintain the warrior culture and attitude but without being allowed to fight. So many schools began springing up all over Japan. These schools had to constantly come up with something new. Since duels were outlawed they could only advertise their new cool techniques and the advantage of training in their school with these new techniques. A man called Katsunosuke Matsuoka was a practitioner of Yoshin Ryu Jujitsu and apart from Yoshin Ryu he is also a student of several other styles of jujitsu. So to get his school a leg up on the competition he decides to merge some of the techniques and concepts of the other styles with Yoshin Ryu to make it more "combat effective." Now he could advertise a new style and he calls it Shindo Yoshin Ryu Jujitsu. Yoshin means new so it became the "New Willow Heart Style." In later years the first character 'shin' is changed from the meaning 'new' to "sacred" and so it becomes the "Sacred Willow Heart Style" These schools were an outgrowth of the warrior culture.

Jumping forward to the end of the 19th century our new hero is Hironori Otsuka who spent his youth learning Shindo Yoshin Ryu. Since he could speak

Japanese he could ask his instructor what the philosophy was behind the techniques. No doubt it was explained something along the lines of it's easier on your body to step out of the way of a punch than it is to vigorously block it. Hence the beginning of Wado.

If you think about the the concepts of Inashi, which include inasu (to divert), nagsu (to go around), and noru (to ride) all have to do with flexibility and softness overcoming hardness. So all of Wado is jujitsu. If we insist of the Western approach and quantify the jujitsu then the jujitsu type of techniques of Wado includes:

- ✓ Junzuki and kette Junzuki
- ✓ Gyakuzuki and Kette gyakuzuki,
- ✓ Junzuki-no-tsukomi, unique to Wado
- ✓ Gyakuzuki-no-tsukomi,
- ✓ Tobimikomizuki
- ✓ Nagashizuki.
- ✓ Kihon gummite...10 sets all having to do with yielding body shifting, Kotegiashi, and Nagawaza,
- ✓ Tanto Dori 10 sets all of which are jujitsu based.
- ✓ Sword defense, all of which are jujitsu based.
- ✓ And kata (but I am not smart enough to ascertain all the jujitsu in kata).

When you add it all up Wado is really a lot of jujitsu.

Will you ever arrive?

Karate training requires the very best you have. The path to real skill is not a path for people who are afraid to take risks and grow. You can't be faint-hearted. You have to be courageous and committed. Even if you are all of that what happens after you attain some skill? There is a story of a monk who was famous for having become enlightened. He was asked what life was like before he became enlightened and he replied," I chopped wood and carried water." Asked what his life was like after he became enlightened his response was," I chop wood and carry water."

Self empowerment is taking action. It is how you do things and the fact that you do it at all that changes everything. The process of becoming a skilled karate-ka is not a destination. Instead it is a journey that is never ending. You have to recognize that you will never arrive. The more you do it, the more proficient you become, the more you realize that there is always more to learn, more to be done.

