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*American Amateur Karate
Federation (Est. 1961)*

*The sole governing body for
Traditional Karate in the
United States of America*

**AMERICAN AMATEUR
KARATE
FEDERATION**

AAKF NEWS

U.S. TEAM WINS FIVE SILVER AND ONE BRONZE AT 15TH ITKF PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

A large contingent of U.S. athletes, judges and coaches successfully participated at the XV Pan American Traditional Karate Championship held November 13 – 14, 2009 in Cuiaba, a city in the Mato Grosso province of Brazil. This Traditional Karate event was hosted by the Confederacao Brasileira Karate Tradicional (CBKT) and officially sanctioned by the International Traditional Karate Federation (ITKF).

Competition was spirited, with the host, Brazil, as expected, always well-coached and very competitive while teams from other countries, notably Argentina, Mexico, Venezuela and Canada, also proved to be formidable opponents.

Team USA just missed gold but proudly snared five Silver and one Bronze as follows:

- Soolmaz AbooAli (Mid-Atlantic) – Silver in Women’s Fuku-Go and Bronze in Women’s Kata
- Seth Rosendahl (Central) – Silver in Men’s Kumite
- Sasa Panic (South Atlantic) – Silver in Men’s Fuku-Go
- Cynthia Haakana & Rob Solonyinka (North Central) – Silver in Man/Woman En-Bu
- Brad Webb and Marcus Wenner (South West) – Silver in Man/Man En-Bu

Two notable athletes, Soolmaz AbooAli and Seth Rosendahl, competed just a little over a month ago at the prestigious 5th Traditional Karate World Cup in Poland, where both gave sterling performances. *(See related story below).*

Brad Webb, official representative of the U.S. and AAKF to the Pan American meetings did a magnificent job as Coach, watching out for each and everyone on the team AND, as an athlete, even took home a Silver medal with Marcus Wennes, his partner in Man/Man En-Bu.

Judges Mahmoud Tabassi (Mid-Atlantic), Alex Tong (Southwest), John Bell (South West), and Vince Nistico (Northwest), played an outstanding role in the tournament, getting the center judge assignments for most of the competition, a decision made by ITKF Technical Officials who recognized the highly developed technical expertise of the U.S. Judges.



STERLING PERFORMANCES FROM U.S. ATHLETES AT 5TH ITKF TRADITIONAL KARATE WORLD CUP

(U.S. Athletes Soolmaz AbooAlii (Mid-Atlantic) and Seth Rosendahl (Central) performed brilliantly at the 5th World Cup held in Stare Wies, Poland on October 10, 2009. Soolmaz won the Silver medal and Seth placed sixth in world class competition. Mr. Robert Fusaro, North Central Regional Director, served as one of the top ITKF Judges in this prestigious bi-annual Traditional Karate event.

This year's World Cup was held on October 10, which would have been Sensei Nishiyama's 81st birthday. It was also the occasion of the official dedication and opening of the beautiful Budo Center in Stara Wies, Poland.

About the World Cup:

The first ITKF World Cup was held in 2001 as an event different from the ITKF World Championship in that only 8 male and 8 female competitors are selected from a list of national and international champions. The World Cup System was designed by our late Founder and President Master Hidetaka Nishiyama and ITKF Technical officials to showcase the high technical levels and Budo spirit of Traditional Karate. Each athlete must compete in rounds of Kitei (compulsory form), Kumite and Kata. The World Cup is held every other year.

Official results and photos can be seen on the ITKF website.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

THE 49TH AAKF NATIONAL TRADITIONAL KARATE CHAMPIONSHIP IS SET FOR THE 2ND WEEK-END OF JUNE, 2010 IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, TO BE HOSTED BY THE AAKF NORTHWEST REGION.

THIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WILL DETERMINE THE U.S. TEAM THAT WILL PARTICIPATE AT THE ITKF XV INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL KARATE CHAMPIONSHIP TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 2010 IN BRAZIL.

SELECTIONS FOR THE U.S. TEAM WILL BE BASED ON THE WINNERS AT THE U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

BEGIN PREPARING NOW!

NISHIYAMA SENSEI'S ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

(Los Angeles) Family, friends and students of Master Hidetaka Nishiyama observed the one year anniversary of his passing on November 7 with a visit to his gravesite. Mrs. Yohko Nishiyama and daughters Nami and Amy were joined by friends, students and instructors from the Southern California area for a quiet moment and some heartfelt words of remembrance and gratitude for one who touched so many lives and gave so much to the world through his teachings.

AAKF REGIONAL SEMINARS PLANNED

In an effort to stimulate participation and to provide value to the clubs and members of the organization, the AAKF Board of Directors has requested to work with the Regional Directors to conduct a series of regional and cross-regional seminars in the coming months.

Please send us your region's information on upcoming seminars and events for the next AAKF News.

Western Region Seminar on December 6

Southern California members will host a Western Region seminar on Sunday, December 6, 2009 conducted by special guest instructor, South Atlantic Regional Director Toru Shimoji who trained for many years at the Los Angeles Central Dojo under Nishiyama Sensei.

A Dan Ranking examination is scheduled as part of the day's activities, followed by an informal meeting in which Toru will share his experience and expertise in running one of the more successful regions in the country.