

INTERNATIONAL KARATE CONNECTION ASSOCIATION NEWS



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THREE OLD KENPO WARRIORS

Story on Page

THE X-1 IS NOW HISTORY

Since the beginning of the Marital Arts, there has never been another Tournament like it. If you were there, you know. If you weren't, let us fill you in.

To begin with, there wasn't just a Tournament; we conducted a Seminar as well. The goals we set for our Seminars are the same as for the classes we run for our regular, in-house, students. The first priority is for our people to learn. We intend for

them to sweat. We hope they will have fun. And we know they will be enriched by the Karate Connection Brotherhood. It's the same wherever we go. The Brotherhood precedes us, the feeling is already there when we arrive. I can't tell you how many times we've heard things like, "I've been in the Martial Arts for um-teen years and I've never seen anything like this before." And before you can say Hajama, they're a part of it. Brotherhood is an important element but it doesn't carry the day alone. Our instructors are what make these Seminars work. We've said it before and we'll say it again, we are blessed with some of the finest teaching talent available anywhere. Because we are primarily a teaching by video entity, we use these Seminars to make sure everyone is up to speed, at the belt level they hold. It's a clearing-house for misinformation, misconceptions and misdirected focus and energies, which helps insure standardization. This is only possible because everybody, within the system, is doing essentially everything, exactly the same. You can ask any of the instructors the same question and get the same answer, every time, which certainly eliminates a lot of confusion and it gets the job done quickly.

One of the highlights of the Seminar was the session Vic had with the Black Belts. He took them to a new level of blending techniques and introduced them to knife fighting as taught him by Mr. Parker some years ago. They're still talking about it.

SALUTE!

TO THE MOST COURAGEOUS COMPETITORS ON EARTH

All those who competed in the Special Events of this tournament are to be as highly commended as possible. They put it on the line for all to see and didn't have the faintest idea what they were letting themselves in for. There was no history or background to rely upon. They are the true vanguard of the Art. When you enter the standard, traditional competitive events of a Karate Tournament you know pretty much what to expect. If you yourself haven't done it, your friends or instructors have, which can at least somewhat prepare you for it. But this - the Master Form - Continuous Freestyle - Team Competition and the Three Events that make up the Black Belt Triathlon - they are something else. No one could prepare you for that because no one had ever done them in public before, with the possible exception of Continuous Freestyle but we even brought a new element to the judging on that one.

As far as these new events are concerned, everything from the process of judging to the activities themselves is new and unheard of. It takes Chutzpah (a Yiddish word meaning BALLS) and that's exactly what the competitors of the IKCA Championships had. The judges had to feel a little intimidated as well, knowing that success or failure might be riding on their shoulders. Of course there was one thing that no one had to worry about and that was POLITICS. There were none. Why, simply because all of the winners were IKCA people. Everyone was pulling for each other. Naturally, you wanted to win but if you couldn't, you knew your brother would.

The Master Form was the first event on the agenda. If you have read the last few Newsletters you know that the judging duties were delegated to teams of three, or four, if you include the Official Timekeeper Judge. Judge Number One watched only the upper part of the body looking for such things as blocks, checks and hand and arm strikes, as well as their locations and the speed and power of their delivery. Judge Number Two observed only the lower part of the body, looking for proper stances,

stance changes, foot maneuvers, cock and re-cock of the kicks, as well as their targets and their speed and power. Judge Number Three was the Overall judge, looking for missed moves, wrong angles and most of all hesitations. I'm sure almost to a person, the competitors had practiced the Master Form to the point where they felt there was no way they could possibly find themselves in a state of confusion during their performance and have to stop to reorient themselves. But it happened, more than once. And I'll wager we will never see it to that extent again. Knowing what they know now, the Master Form will become so ingrained in them, they'll be able to do it in their sleep and that's probably one of the best things that could ever happen to a practitioner.

From a spectators point of view the Master Form competition was very special. I spoke to several audience members who were not Martial Artists. They said it wasn't long before they were easily able to discern between a brilliant, mediocre or a not so good performance. Because all of the competitors were doing exactly the same set of movements and because it began with those doing it only through the Purple Belt level, then through Green Belt and finally on to the Black Belt level, the non-Karate part of the audience was able to follow the movement and quickly learn what to look for. They were blown away the first time they saw it done through Black. They couldn't believe anyone could physically sustain themselves to that degree and at the pace which some of the competitors set for themselves.

In observing the competition, at the time, and through subsequent examination of the video; I can say without exception that the winners were the best, on that day, that there was. Because there was no Politics involved and because of the judging concept working as well as it did. The judging was the best it could have been and proved itself a total success the entire day. I didn't hear one complaint during or after the events. I have personally never been to another tournament I could say that about. In fact the feelings about judging are what kept me from participating in or even attending a tournament for the past twenty years, with the exception of one of Ed Parkers International Championships about twelve years ago. Having been asked to attend by a group of friends, I did, just to pay my respects and to see everyone. As I recall, after seeing all my old compatriots I left before the finals, for lack of interest. In my personal opinion Politics has crippled or killed any semblance of Sportsmanship there might have been in Karate Competition. If you can't trust the judging, what can you trust? All anyone asks, is a fair evaluation. If it's honest, even a mediocre to poor judgment beats a bias one, every time. The other problem that exists is the subjective nature of judging forma. In the Creative Forms Event I found all of the competitors truly outstanding and deserving of a first place medallion. It genuinely hurt that only one could have that distinction. I've said it before and will repeat it here. That sort of judging is far too subjective. We have no solution for that problem, except to keep it out of the IKCA Championships altogether. In the future we will leave that kind of competition for the traditional Tournaments. If you feel you really must compete in Creative Forms there are an abundance of traditional tournaments you can attend. But please don't complain when Politics rears its ugly head. You know the rules of the game.

After the Master Form came the Continuous Freestyle Fighting. As you know by now, we have felt for quite some time that freestyle fighting should be continuous, instead of breaking the action every time a point is scored. So we set about enlisting the help of people who had been personally involved as judges in that sort of competition.

During a judges meeting the day before the Tournament, when the rules were being explained and refined, a suggestion came from one of the soon-to-be-judges. He suggested having the "side judges" switch sides to observe the other contestant for the second round. I can't remember who suggested it but we would like to say **thanks again!** It was an innovation that those who have been previously involved said, really balanced the judging much better than it had been in the past.

The center judge keeps a running score for both fighters while the side judges concentrate on only one contestant, scoring only his or her points. The score is then compared to the center judge's and combined. It was amazing how close the center judge was to the side judges. It was a method of checks and balances that worked beautifully. It helped insure that the best competitor, in each match, came out the winner, not the one who was wearing the right school or system patch. We wish to say **THANK YOU** once again the judges for their unselfish efforts in making this a landmark event.

The fighting event was successful beyond our expectations and we sincerely hope that those involved in the judging take this small innovation and carry it forth into future Tournaments. It can only make things run smoother and better. It won't eliminate the politics but it will help those intent upon doing it right, to be able to do so.

As for the IKCA, we are happy to have satisfied ourselves with the knowledge that Continuous Freestyle is the best way to handle the event but unfortunately, the time consumed cut us short on the Special Unique Events we had planned, which was the motivating force for the IKCA Championships in the first place. Freestyle can be found at every tournament, almost every weekend of the year. It's traditional. The IKCA's interest lies in something much more **High-tech.**

By the time the Black Belt Triathlon events were run we had sacrificed many of those signed up, to time. They had to leave in order to catch air transportation that couldn't be changed. The primary reason they came the distances they did was for those events, not to freestyle. That's something they could do any local tournament. The Triathlon is made up of events they can do **nowhere** except at an IKCA assemblage. We apologize to them for not foreseeing the amount of time expended on the fighting event.

That's why we named it the X-1. It was indeed experimental. We are in the process of carefully analyzing what took place and how each element was received by the competitors and spectators alike. We will be giving each segment a close look to see if it can be improved upon. If it can't then we will consider eliminating it. We already know that some of what we did this time will have to be pared down or outright dropped because there was just too much on the agenda to fit into the available time. At one point we had considered expanding the Seminar /Tournament into a two day affair. Unfortunately, experience has proven that economics prohibit that possibility and because there are only so many hours in one day, we are going to have to utilize them as best we can.

THE BLACK BELT TRIATHALON

Knowing that we were going to be showing things that had never been seen before, we invited a lot of our old Kenpo compatriots, some of whom we had not seen in years. We naturally wanted to get their take on our innovations. I think one of the most gratifying things I've heard in these past forty years that I've spent in the Art, was when Mr. Steve Mohammed (formerly Steve Sanders) who is the founder of the BKF and someone for whom I have the greatest respect in the world, came up to me and said, "Chuck, it's so good to see Kenpo again." That may not sound like much but I know what he meant and it made the day. Thank you Steve!

By the time the Triathlon events started, near 10:00 PM, the crowd had thinned considerably and as I mentioned earlier, so had the competitors. There were only eight competitors left in the competition. But even that amount was enough to make it an exciting series of events.

The Grabber

We began with Running the Escape Technique Line. Of the three events it is the least complex so it makes for a great starter. There are three attackers standing behind you. Each will apply two holds or locks. The line mixes itself up and the attackers are free to mix up their assigned moves. When you are grabbed or have a lock put on you it's hard to do any technique except the one designed for it. The most important element is that of responsiveness. Reaction time is judged first, then accuracy, speed and power. There were very few hesitations and in most cases the target shooting was right on. There were a few flubs here and there but that was expected. The scores were close all around. By and large, all of the contestants responded well to this event.

The Circle of Humiliation

The next element of the Triathlon is everyone's nemesis, the SEMI-CIRCLE. Imagine having five men spread out in front of you, from just inside your peripheral vision on your left to the same on your right; two at forty five degree angles and one directly to the front. Now imagine that they will attack with either a left or right hand punch. Any one of the five can come at any time and you have no way of knowing which it will be, until he makes his move. To further complicate things, you must do a **recognized, named** Karate Connection technique on each without repeating any of them, with the exception of doing them on the other side. Meaning, if you do the Bolo technique to your left for a right hand attack, you can repeat it to your right for a left hand attack. What you can **not** do is to repeat it on another attacker shooting a right punch. We all have our favorite moves and combinations, techniques that just come automatically. Would they work on the street if we were to repeat them? Of course they would. That's not the point. This competition was conceived to force the practitioner to use as much as possible so as to build their arsenal and be able to use it spontaneously.

If you do repeat a technique you loose five tenths of a point. But the worse case scenario is to **blow a technique altogether**. Meaning, you might do a wonderful series of

blows that would take out King Kong but if it isn't a recognized, named, Karate Connection technique you lose a whole point, **ten tenths**. How about that for pressure!

Did any of the competitors blow a technique? Yes. Will they next time? Probably. How about the time after that? Probably not. Everyone agrees, this is undoubtedly the most difficult thing they have ever done as far as karate Competition is concerned. We saw some fantastic techniques and we saw some blown techniques and this included everyone in the competition. Most were talking to themselves and shaking their heads when they left the semi-circle, **but they were there**, and that's the most important thing that can be said. They pioneered this kind of competition. They are eight of the most courageous men I've ever known. They put it on the line and came away winners no matter how they finished.

Why do we call him a Dummy?

Who else would just stand there and allow eight men to strike them as hard and as fast as they can, thirty seven times each? No one except the IKCA Ultra Man and that's why we call him a dummy.

The last of the Triathlon is the most fun and a real high note to end on. The only blow forgiven is the bolo punch, found in the technique named for it, Bolo. Otherwise you must hit, on target, with power, all the rest of the strikes and kicks of the nine Green Belt Techniques. All thirty seven of them. And I've got to tell you, the dummy really took a beating that night. Some of the competitors hit him as hard as I've ever seen him get hit. It was amazing; I guess the adrenaline really kicked in.

If a shot goes off target, you get a deduction. If it hits but does so lightly, you get a deduction. Remember, speed and power-do you no good at all if you don't hit the target. This is the most realistic event there is. The spectators, whether they were Karate trained or not all felt that seeing the competitors strike the dummy was one of the most impressive things they had seen all day. They said, they could really appreciate the blows that didn't land when they saw the ones that did. When the dummy is hit properly by a trained person, you can not only see it and hear it, you can almost feel it. The blows take on a physical quality that seems to reverberate throughout the room.

When you see an IKCA competitor react instantaneously to an attack, with a series of blows that would stop or perhaps even cripple an opponent, it's one thing. You can see the whipping backfist to the temple. You witness the kicks snapping at the groin. You observe the bone breaking forearm to the middle of the face. You see the blows but it's hard to believe them, because they come so fast. You can appreciate what they represent but it lacks impact. But when you see them done on the dummy at the same speed and you get a sense of the power behind them it's quite a different perspective. It really opened some eyes.

The Winner

The winner of the Triathlon was seventeen year old Ronnie Rodriguez 1st Dan, Kenpo who gets to attend our class occasionally with his Instructor Armando Deloa 4th Dan, Kenpo. They do it when they can. Ronnie is as talented as he is devoted.

He was the leader after the first leg, Running the Line. He and Leonard Mushtuk 2nd Dan, Kenpo from Alberta, Canada, tied in the Semi-Circle event, which preserved

Ronnie's lead. Striking the dummy was the clincher. Ronnie had only two deductions in the event, making it impossible for anyone to catch him. Leonard finished second. Third was John Gehres 1st Dan, Kenpo of from Main Street Martial Arts, Napa, Ca. You did a great job, Guys! Watch out for next year, they'll be gunning for you.

THE SUM TOTAL OF THE X-1

I don't know if it happens after other Tournaments, I really doubt it but for the past two weeks the phone has been ringing incessantly with complementary calls concerning the events of March 7th. It was a tremendous amount of work for everyone involved and we wish, once again, to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH!! It couldn't have been done without you.

As I said early in this article, we made mistakes, mostly in the planning stage which manifested themselves in the execution phase but that's how you learn. The next will be without those errors. But that aside, everyone had a fantastic time.

The competition was tough, as were the competitors. The judging was well conceived, fair throughout and greatly appreciated by those being judged. The judges were happy to have a system of judging that made sense and didn't drive them crazy. The place where it was held was eminently suitable, as well as convenient, and the treatment by their management helpful and courteous. All in all, a great time was had and we are looking forward to doing it again next year.

About the Cover Photo

Standing between Vic and I is the most outstanding Kenpo fighter of all time, the founder of the Black Karate Federation (BKF), Mr. Steve Muhammad. Steve began studying with me around 1963 when Mr. Parker and I had our dojo on Crenshaw Blvd. in Los Angeles. Steve was, as you might expect, one of the most talented students I have ever had the pleasure of teaching and being associated with.

The IKCA Championships was like "old home week", we got to see so many of our old friends and compatriots. That, in itself, justified having it. As I told Vic, "If it's going to be this much fun each year, we're going to have to start calling it a Festival" Mr. Muhammad traveled all the way from Atlanta, Georgia to be with us. Thanks again, Steve!





PROMOTIONS



We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your promotion. We know what kind of dedication and perseverance it requires to earn rank in the Martial Arts and we wish to pay our sincerest respects to you for having shown what it takes to appear on this list.

Chris Lowe	Nassau, Bahamas	Orange
Peter Maury	Nassau, Bahamas	Purple
Riley Wolf	New Hope, AL, USA	Yellow
Jonathon Farmer	New Hope, AL, USA	Orange
Becky Pettit	New Hope, AL, USA	Orange
Jonathon Pettit	New Hope, AL, USA	Orange
Brian Casey	New Hope, AL, USA	Orange
Tyler Casey	New Hope, AL, USA	Purple
Ray Wallace	New Hope, AL, USA	Purple
Karen Mudge	South Australia	Purple
Gregory D. Gaver	Wyomissing, PA, USA	Orange
Robert Claunch	Houston, TX, USA	Green
Brett W. Davis	Wyomissing, PA, USA	Orange
Zach Decardenas	Houston, TX, USA	Yellow
Stormi Knight	Azle, TX, USA	Orange
Cory L Minatani	Moses Lake, WA, USA	Orange
Dr. Karen Ewing Nova	Nova Scotia, Canada	Blue
Jeff Beck	Cedar City, UT, USA	1st Degree Black Belt
Val Holms	Helena, MT, USA	Green
Jake Garland	Deland, FL, USA	Brown
John Leftly	Deland, FL, USA	Brown
Rick Smith	Deland, FL, USA	Green
Andy Hartman	Deland, FL, USA	Green
Doug Marsh	Deland, FL, USA	Blue
K.C. Estes	Sioux Falls, SD, USA	Orange
John R. Wisniewski, Jr.	Brooksville, FL, USA	Yellow
Erik Arthur	Torrance, CA, USA	Green
Sandy Austin	Amite, LA, USA	Orange
Angela D. Austin	Amite, LA, USA	Orange
Ashley D. Austin	Amite, LA, USA	Orange
Curtis Dunaway	Amite, LA, USA	Orange
Josh Knox	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Purple

Mark Christensen	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Purple
Mary Liebe	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Yellow
Brenda Allen	Manitowoc, WI, USA	Yellow
Guillermo Reyes	Antilles Islands	Purple
Richard Leidel	Antilles Islands	Purple
Andrew Riviera	Antilles Islands	Orange
Bryan Isenie	Antilles Islands	Orange
David Anasajasti	Antilles Islands	Orange
Steve Dew	Winstead, CT, USA	Orange
Steve Dew	Winstead, CT, USA	Purple
David Huntsinger	Cypress, CA, USA	Yellow
Aaron Van Woert	Moses Lake, WA, USA	Orange
Chris Behrens	Port Lucie, FL, USA	Orange
Timothy Hughes	Port Lucie, FL, USA	Orange
Jeffery T. Alt	Plaza, KS, USA	Orange
Shawn McLaughlin	Springdale, AR, USA	Blue
Charles I. Diehl	Louisville, KY, USA	Blue
Allen Hibbs	Helena, MT, USA	Purple
Michelle Carkeek	Helena, MT, USA	Purple
Michelle Carkeek	Helena, MT, USA	Blue
Joe Smith	Helena, MT, USA	Blue
Joshua Montemayor	Helena, MT, USA	Blue
Nate Hall	Helena, MT, USA	Blue
Richard P. Wallis	Helena, MT, USA	Purple
Richard P. Wallis	Helena, MT, USA	Blue
Lisa M. Wallis	Helena, MT, USA	Purple
Lisa M. Wallis	Helena, MT, USA	Blue
Cindy Sparrow	Helena, MT, USA	Green
Sean Radney	Skaneateles, NY, USA	Yellow
Carrie M. Godwin	Buena Park, CA, USA	Green
Tres Garcia	Premont, TX, USA	Purple
Brandt Jorgenson	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Martin Slavenwhife	Canada	Purple
Robert I. Duppler	South Elgin, IL, USA	Purple
Jessica Tucker	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Donald Areas, Jr.	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
David Tucker	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Maja Jeramaz	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Chloe Meltzer	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Johnny Douma	Napa, CA, USA	Purple
Chloe Meltzer	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Maja Jeramaz	Napa, CA, USA	Orange

Jay Wood	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Grant Wood	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Tom Griffith	Austin TX, USA	Purple
Terri Hinds	Tampa, FL, USA	Blue
Jeremy Brennan	Garden Grove, CA, USA	Purple
Sung Han Kim	Santa Clarita, CA, USA	Brown
Rodney Weible		Orange
Larry Mar	Hawthorne, CA, USA	1st Degree Black Belt
John Gonzalez	Falfurrias, TX, USA	Green
Ysidro Gonzales	Falfurrias, TX, USA	Green
Terry Syler	Falfurrias, TX, USA	Blue
Marc Cadriel	Falfurrias, TX, USA	Brown
Jason Schacherl	Falfurrias, TX, USA	Brown
Brenda King	Richmond, CA, USA	Brown
Tim Burns	Bellflower, CA, USA	Purple
Kristina Moreno	Bellflower, CA, USA	Purple
Perry Baschab	Debary, FL, USA	Brown
Stephanie Hoovler	Debary, FL, USA	Purple
Goethe Dominic Borke	South Australia	Orange
Steve Papas	South Australia	Orange
Adriann Sumner	South Australia	Orange
Paul Marschall	South Australia	Purple
John Larragoitiy	Los Banos, CA, USA	Green
James R. Blankenship	Minneapolis, MN, USA	Purple
Ronald Whipple	Lancaster, CA, USA	Orange
Tony Ragsdale	Grand Prairie, TX, USA	Blue
Sung Han Kim	Santa Clarita, CA, USA	4th Degree Black Belt
John Morgan	Riverside, CA, USA	Orange
Jason Ramey	Stockton, TX, USA	Purple
Tony Johnson	Sioux Falls, SD, USA	Blue
Lance Meltzer	Napa, CA, USA	Purple
Darlene Meltzer	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Roberto Trujillo	Calistoga, CA, USA	Orange
Alice Meltzer	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Ethan Meltzer	Napa, CA, USA	Yellow
Jean-Paul Zimmermann	Napa, CA, USA	Orange
Dhira T. Yesufu	Anaheim, CA, USA	1st Degree Black Belt
Anthony Hockley	South Australia	Brown
Joshua Wallis	Helena, MT, USA	Purple
Joshua Wallis	Helena, MT, USA	Blue
Erick Strubb	Helena, MT, USA	Blue
Erick Strubb	Helena, MT, USA	Green

Ernie Gallegos
Frank A. Dicker
Ron Marcarelli
Evan Prichard
Devon W. Duffey
Chris Davidson
Jimmy Vuong
Pauline Vuong
Richard Boles
Mike Moss
Johnny Dettmer
Darrell Browning
Marty Ryan
Joseph Manluco
Ken Whalen
Erik Arthur
Donald Areas, Sr.
Alex Loyola
Ryan Brennan

Bellflower, CA, USA
San Jose, CA, USA
Debary, FL, USA
Mukilteo, WA, USA
Everett, WA, USA
Everett, WA, USA
South Australia
South Australia
Cleveland, TN, USA
Bakersfield, CA, USA
Deland, FL, USA
Deland, FL, USA
Rockville, MD, USA
Vallejo, CA, USA
Queensbury, NY, USA
Torrance, CA, USA
Napa, CA, USA
Napa, CA, USA
Napa, CA, USA

Blue
Green
4th Degree Black Belt
Purple
Yellow
Green
Orange
Orange
Purple
Brown
Blue
Blue
Brown
Orange
Orange
Brown
Orange
Green
Green

