



NEWSLETTER # 33

4th QUARTER 2002

"COMMITMENT"

What's the difference between a White Belt and a Black Belt? You guessed it, **COMMITMENT!** Just about anyone who wants it badly enough can get their Black Belt, given the proper degree of commitment.

Attaining a Black Belt today is not what it once was; even the perception of the significance of the Belt is different. When I began studying with Ed Parker in February of 1959 Mr. Parker was the only Black Belt holder in Kenpo in the United States, and he was so many light-years ahead of the next closest person to him it was difficult to imagine. It seemed, in essence, that he knew everything and we knew nothing. He could do everything and we could do nothing. Remember, none of us had ever seen, even the slightest demonstration, of anything related to Karate on television or in the movies. That was still to come. So, in the absence of any other Black Belts, I simply thought that to get a Black Belt you would probably have to go to where Ed Parker had gotten his. Frankly, in the very early days it never dawned on me that I was even capable or would ever be deserving of a Black Belt. There were three Brown Belts in the school when I started, so I reasoned that with enough hard work and dedication I too, in time, could become a Brown Belt. How long would it take? I didn't know, but at that point I had fallen so in love with the Art I was willing to do whatever it took.

Then Rich Montgomery was promoted to Black Belt. The first member of our school to be so honored. What a revelation that was. Suddenly we all realized that the door had opened. Whereas Ed Parker seemed to have descended from some mysterious place past the great beyond, Rich Montgomery was a human being; someone we knew and we had witnessed him being promoted to Brown Belt and then to Black. At that moment we realized, if it happened for Rich, it could happen for any one of us. We also knew that if we had to be as good as Rich, it was going to be a while.

If you have read "The Journey" you know how much several of those people had to sacrifice in order to learn the Art and get their Black Belts. Some actually had to fly from some distance to study with Mr. Parker. Some couldn't afford lessons and turned to being the janitor/caretaker of the Studio to pay for their schooling. Back toward the beginning getting a Black Belt was at least a four-year process and there were a lot of people who traveled many, many miles just to get to the Studio.

My own drive to study at the Pasadena Studio was about a forty-six mile round trip, all on city streets, which was a joke compared to some of my classmates. A few were lucky and

could almost walk but most of us traveled whatever distance we had to, in order to attend classes taught by Mr. Parker.

When you compare the length of time it took in those early days to get to Black Belt to the average time today you might wonder how it became possible to do it in so much less time than in the past. The answer is not as complex as you might imagine. We have had over four decades to refine our teaching techniques and organize the material. In the beginning it was taught in a very random manner. Mr. Parker taught it the way he learned it in Hawaii. He never questioned what he was learning or how he was learning it and neither did we, not at that time. That also came later. We witnessed Mr. Parker change his approach to teaching over the years and we have witnessed his students, who have gone on to become Instructors, change their approach in the years since. As time has passed things have become more high-tech and streamlined. As everything else in the world has progressed, so has Kenpo. It would have been a crime if our Art had been frozen in time and just stood still. Unfortunately, for some it has, but for others it has progressed with the times.

So today you get the better of two worlds. You get to learn an Art that has its roots in the antiquity of the Orient and the technology of the modern western world. You can learn more in less time than ever before. Before video, you would have needed to travel the world to get what will now come to you.

But what has NOT changed is COMMITMENT! It still takes what it takes, and you have to commit to giving it, or surely you won't make the grade.

An element of commitment you might not have thought about is: how much of your income are you willing to obligate? It does cost money to learn this Art, unless you have the great fortune of having a family member or close friend who is willing to teach you out of the goodness of his or her heart. If that's the case you are indeed blessed but most of us aren't, so let's look at the monetary considerations. In the average commercial Karate School the monthly fee is around \$80.00 to \$120.00. There are also further expenses such as paying for testing and promotions ranging from \$50.00 per belt to \$1,000.00 (or more in some schools) for your Black Belt. Then there are uniforms and fighting gear to purchase. It may not be as great an investment as many other sports or types of entertainment, but it does add up.

Let's figure just for the sake of comparison that it takes the same amount of time to get your Black Belt from a commercial Karate School as it does through Video. Let's also put that time at two years, which is a little tight at a commercial Karate School. They like to stretch it out, but it can be done. Let's also split the cost down the middle between the \$80 and \$120 and call it an even hundred dollars per month. During that two-year period you will have \$2,400.00 invested just in attending the school. Let's also say that they charge the same for testing that we do for the lower belts and the same that we do for Black Belt. It would be unusual for a commercial school to charge only a hundred dollars for Black Belt, as we do, but you might get lucky. Uniforms and other gear will cost you just about the same with us as them so we won't even put that into the mix. So, the only real difference will be in the cost of the lessons.

The tapes will cost you \$199.95 for Orange Belt through Black Belt if you buy them all at the same time, \$39.95 more if you spread it out. With each test you take with us you will receive a private lesson. You won't get that at any commercial Karate School. If you want a private lesson you're going to pay for it dearly. So as far as cash outlay is concerned the only real variation is the difference between \$199.95 and \$2,400.00, which is \$2204.05 *if* it takes the same amount of time. If it takes longer you will pay no more through the video program because you are taking it at your own pace and you already own the videos, however in a commercial

school you will continue paying the monthly fee. So it will end up costing you *at least* \$2204.05 more than through video and depending upon how long it actually takes, it could be a lot more.

What are the benefits in learning at a commercial school compared to doing it by video? If you go to a commercial Karate School you have the advantage of others to train with. They are built-in as part of the package. They are what you will judge yourself against and compare yourself to. There will be, among them, those who learn quickly and those who struggle and you will be there to see the difference. At home, alone, you will have no one to compare yourself to, unless you can find yourself a training partner, and we will try to help you in finding one, but it's a big country and people can travel only so far. Along with people comes the *encouragement* you give one another, which is definitely a plus. I know, because we dispense it liberally here in our group and always have. Another plus is that your instructor will be there to answer your questions whenever you have them. Oh, wait a second; he might not always be available, at least in the early part of your training which is when you need him most. Unfortunately, most Head Instructors don't actually teach beginners. They have a junior Instructor do that duty, until he gets bored with it and hands it over to an even more junior Instructor. That's always been a problem with that aspect of teaching full time and unfortunately, at the beginning level is where the student needs the most experienced Instructor the school has to offer, instead of the blind trying to lead the blind.

Aside from that and the difference in cost, a commercial school is a great place to learn the Art, but what if there is no Kenpo School in your vicinity, or you don't have the time to take regular classes, or you really can't afford it but you have your heart set on learning? What are the advantages and the disadvantages to learning it from Video?

A disadvantage with Video is that you don't have the support of a group as just mentioned. You will however have our support in the form of the return lessons on video when you take each test. And instead of some Purple Belt, with possibly a year of experience, you'll be getting your lesson from a Tenth Degree Black Belt with *almost* forty years of experience or when you are a Black Belt yourself and testing for degrees, your lesson will come from a Tenth Degree Black Belt with *over forty years* of experience. We do all of the testing ourselves because that's what we do, and we'll keep doing it until we no longer can. When that happens we will turn it over to the senior-most people in the organization. You will never have some Purple Belt teaching you or trying to correct you.

Another of the advantages that we have become aware of over the years is that when the students get it from video and learn how to take the tests they truly become *self-correcting*, and in doing so they also become self-reliant. Some of our best Instructors are the very people who have learned through the Video Program. Because they had to rely upon themselves to learn the material, they were gaining the insight of an instructor at the same time that they were the student. First, you have to totally understand the material, and then you have to teach it to your body. Of course you still have the advantage of having us oversee the process and guide you throughout the course of your study. We won't let you get far off track before we pull you back. Remember, less than half of what you learn will come from the tapes; the rest of it comes from your personal contact with us.

So how does all of this impact COMMITMENT? No matter how you decide to learn the Art you are going to have to take a positive mental attitude and convince yourself that you are going to do this, and then you have to GET STARTED!

That's the first commitment you have to make, getting started, even if it's only to sit down and watch the Orange Belt tape. Then getting up off your dead you-know-what to give it a

try. After a couple of times you'll discover it isn't as hard as you thought it would be. It's pretty straightforward stuff and the more you do it the easier it gets. Then, in time, you'll want to know if you have really gotten it or not, so that's where one of the biggest commitments of all comes in. Actually standing up in front of a camera and taking the test. Just remember, we have seen it all and nothing you can do will surprise us. And I can't remember the last time we went out and hunted down a student to shoot him because he turned in a bad test. The worst thing that can possibly happen is that you'll have to take it over, and if that happens don't worry about it, you aren't the first and you won't be the last. A lot of our students have to retake tests and your retest won't even cost you anything.

The advantages and disadvantages, between learning in a school and learning at home, are probably about equal, just different, but the one thing that remains consistent is that you will have to COMMIT yourself to it. And the greater the commitment the more likely you are to succeed. And remember, no one says that you have to commit to the whole enchilada right off the bat. Take it in small steps. To begin with, commit just to watching a tape. You know you've wanted to anyway, so just do it. Then just take it a step at a time until you're there. What was it the man said? "The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step."

There can be a lot of rough spots on your journey through life, but the part of it that takes you from White Belt to Black Belt can be a great and rewarding period. And once you're there it makes the rest of your journey a lot more relaxed and enjoyable.

See you there!

YOUR BLACK BELT WITH DEGREES IS HERE!



Back in the days before colored belts we had what we called tips. They were brown stripes on the white belt and black stripes on the brown belt. When you got to Black Belt the stripes were red as were the bars. In those days we were responsible for adding the tips to our own belt. You couldn't buy them finished professionally. They just weren't available. And it's still that way for Black Belt. People have to run out and track down their own fabric for the degrees and then try to find someone capable of sewing them on. And hope they do it right.

That's finally changed, now you can purchase your belt with the degrees already professionally sewn on, and the price is right. The belts and the fabric for the degrees are of the highest quality. And finally there is standardization.

The price of a First Degree Black Belt is \$29.95. From 1st Degree up simply add \$5.00 per Degree. Add \$7.90 for shipping and handling or combine it with something else and pay less S&H. – You can use the order form on page 22 – just write it in. Prices subject to change.

THERE ARE NOW TWO 10TH DEGREE GRANDMASTERS IN THE KARATE CONNECTION

On November 13th 1999 Vic LeRoux and I took the official IKCA tests for 9th and 10th Degree Black Belt, respectively. In accordance with the IKCA Bylaws, we were promoted to those degrees. On November 13th 2002 Vic LeRoux took and passed the test for his 10th degree. The actual promotion ceremony took place on the 15th of December 2002. It was attended by a select group of family and friends.

It was at this gathering that a symbol, representing the Senior Grand Master of our system was unveiled. Borrowing from the only source I have had experience with, I will use the United States Marine Corps, to make an analogy. The top ranked officer of the USMC holds the title of Commandant and when riding in his official automobile a flag with his rank is flown from a mounting on the front fender designating his presence. If the Commandant is not in the vehicle the flag is still mounted but encased in a special covering. That flag with his rank is a symbol that is his for the duration of his term as Commandant of the Marine Corps. When he leaves that post his successor inherits it.

For our purposes, whoever is senior among 10th Degree Black Belts is automatically referred to as The *Senior* Grand Master. It was thought that there should be some sort of physical recognition for the senior-most Black Belt of the system, so a symbol was created.

From a personal standpoint, I have never been much for pomp and circumstance but I do feel that a little protocol never hurt any organization so I will gladly acquiesce in this case. As a symbol of Senior Grand Master of the Karate Connection and the IKCA, a belt was created with the colors of the belt and rank reversed. In other words, instead of a Black Belt with two five-inch red bars, designating 10th Degree, an opposite belt was created. It is a red belt with two Black bars, symbolizing Senior Grand Master.

In the spirit of the brotherhood of our organization it has been decided that this belt should become eternal. I will proudly wear it as the symbol of the first Senior Grand Master of the Karate Connection until I am no longer able to carry out the duties of that position. At that time the belt will be passed to the next senior-most Grand Master. He will wear it until he is no longer able to carry out his duties and then it will be passed to his successor.

When the belt was purchased there was a second belt acquired at the same time. That belt will be used to alter the size of the original. We realize that each successor to the title will probably be of a different girth and the belt will need to be sized to that individual, but in essence it will remain the same belt. The person wearing this belt is only a temporary bearer of the title; the belt itself is to be eternal or at least as eternal as the fibers it is made of, will stand the rigors of time. This belt was not created as workout attire. It is to be kept in a protective vessel between the times it is worn for formal events such as Promotions, Seminars or Tournaments. Therefore, hopefully, it will endure through innumerable future generations.

It was also decided to start a tradition on that day. As this belt passes from one Senior Grand Master to the next, the first time it is worn in an official capacity, the first knot will be tied by the retiring Senior Grand Master, or if that is not possible by the next Senior Black Belt in

attendance. In this case it was Mr. LeRoux who tied the first knot of the Senior Grand Masters belt and it was I who tied the first knot in Mr. LeRoux's Tenth Degree belt.

Upon the eventual retirement of this symbol, hopefully in a millennium or so, it can be put on display in a place where future generations of Karate Connection Kenpoists can enjoy it. Wouldn't it be fantastic to be able to come back in a couple of centuries and see who is wearing that belt and to see what the people of Kenpo are doing at that time? I have a feeling they will be doing things like those being done today in the movies with the help of special effects and trick photography. Only they won't be using the effects or tricks, they'll just be doing it.

Many who attended described the ceremony involving Mr. LeRoux's Tenth Degree as "inspirational" and the enthusiasm for the "perpetual belt" was unanimous. There were several presentations made in commemoration of his promotion. For those who couldn't be there, here are some photos of this momentous occasion.



Vic and Margie before the promotion ceremony... still wearing his old beat-up belt.



Howard Singer and Chuck going over some last minute details of the ceremony.



Chuck holding the Senior Grand Master Belt and explaining its significance to the attendees.



Chuck donning the belt for the first time, but not tying the knot.



Vic, as the next Senior Black Belt in attendance, ties the first knot of the Senior Grand Master's Belt.



Chuck ties the ceremonial final knot in Vic's 9th Degree Belt, with Mr. Singer standing by with the 10th Degree Belt.



With Chuck presenting and Vic receiving, they hold this position while Chuck administers the 10th Degree Grand Master Oath.



With the Oath and bowing to each other complete, Vic accepts his new belt, rank and title.



Chuck ties the first knot in Vic's new belt.



"All good things come to those who wait."

Congratulations to Grand Master Vic LeRoux on a job well done!

Watch the Karate Connection website for a page devoted to this Judan Ceremony with more pictures and a little extra something we know you'll enjoy.



WHERE WILL YOU BE APRIL 12, 2003?

WE'LL BE IN LOUISIANA!

(Last reminder)

There will be only one more Newsletter before we meet in Amite for the eleventh time, for our annual IKCA Seminar there. But you'll probably be getting that Newsletter just about the time we will be there. So this is really the only reminder you'll be getting between now and then. And now is the time you should be making your travel and accommodation plans and reservations.

Let us say here, to set the record straight, that we go there with the intention of having a lot of fun and have never been disappointed. But the real reason we go there is to meet you and work with you, hands on. Learning by video is how most of our students learn the Art and it has proven itself over and over again. But it's nice when we get to spend time with our students and see what they are doing firsthand. Video is great in so many ways but we will admit that it is more time-consuming than doing it in person. That's why these weekends are so important to so many.

Not only do we get to work over what you are learning from the video program and make sure you are doing everything you are supposed to be doing, but we get to go the extra mile as well. We get to take you places you don't get to go through video. In the beginning, our Seminars consisted of just the material you were learning on video, making certain that you were up to par with everything, but over time with the number of students that keep coming to every Seminar; we have had to come up with a new agenda. Because the video program works so well and we have most of our students where they should be, we have begun to spend only a small amount of time doing what we did in the past at the Seminars. We still do it, but much less of it and everyone is really enjoying the transition.

Now, we review the material for your belt level, spending no more than an hour on it, and then break up into individual elements of interest. At that time you are invited to go to whatever group that sparks your

interest and stay there for as long or as short a period that you want. Any belt level may go to whatever group they wish. If you are interested in Freestyle Fighting we have someone there that specializes in that element of the Art. If you wish to practice the spontaneous drills with people other than those you usually do it with there will be a group doing just that. Mr. LeRoux usually teaches a session on how to go about creating the blending, borrowing and combining you'll need for your video tests in the future. When he has completed that he'll do a question and answer session where you can ask all of those questions that may have seemed too complex to be answered on tape.

I try to do something different each year. In 2002 at Amite and Long Beach I taught the Staff Set. For the coming year, I have something else that's very special in mind. I won't reveal it here but I intend for you to leave with more than you imagined you would.

The date of the Seminar in Amite this year is Saturday April 12th. We always arrive on the Thursday before so we can spend some time with our friends there and whoever else that manages to be there that early. We know it isn't easy for a lot of people to get time off their jobs but if you can be there it's another night of Kenpo family fun.

Friday night is the big fun night because that's when we have the party in which Mayor Goldsby's brother Miles puts out that fabulous Bar-B-Que at the pool house. It's also where we hold the Triathlon Tournament for those who wish to compete. It's a lot more informal than the Tournament we hold in Long Beach but the judging is the same and so are the awards. It's always great competition and great comradeship. Then comes Saturday and the Seminar at the Fireman's Hall which is described above. After the Seminar we all go our separate ways for a few hours of rest and relaxation and then meet up at the Main Street Seafood Restaurant for the really fantastic seafood buffet they are famous for. Everything from boiled shrimp and crawfish to catfish cooked three different ways plus all kinds of side dishes that are too numerous to mention. I think some folks come to the Amite Seminar every year as much for the food as for the Kenpo.

After the feast we all pile aboard the bus and head for the French Quarter in New Orleans. People seem to break up into groups and go their

own way once we get there but we keep running into each other all night long, all along Bourbon Street. At a predetermined time we meet back at the bus for the ride back to Amite. It's a great night and if you've never been there you owe it to yourself to do it at least once. And if you have been there I know you're looking forward to doing it again.

The whole idea behind our being there is to teach and see our students' progress as much as possible in a short amount of time. The most outstanding aspect of this gathering is that there is usually a number of high-ranking Black Belts present and they always give freely of themselves and their time to anyone and everyone. If you ever had any questions concerning Kenpo this is the place to have them answered.

Up until last year there was only one Motel in town, which is the Colonial up on the Interstate. Its okay and the prices are very good. Here is their information: **COLONIAL INN** Amite exit 47, I-55 and Hwy 16 (504) 748-3202 (504) 748-3203

Now there's a newly built **COMFORT INN** in town. Several of our people stayed there last June and spoke very highly about it. Here are some prices from 2002, they may be the same this year but you should call and check with them:

Room with a King size bed - \$54.00

2 Queen-size, \$59.40 for two people, \$6.00 per extra person.

Family room, 1 King - 2 Queens with 3 TV's - \$95.00.

Triple Suite - 3 Queens -\$78.00

King Suite, 1 King-size Bed - \$70.00.

Call (985) 748-5550

**REMEMBER -- THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST REMINDER BEFORE
APRIL 12, 2003**

IF YOU NEED FURTHER INFORMATION CALL

MR. LEROUX DIRECT at: (714) 229 - 0372

If you are planning to fly we will send you a map that will take you from New Orleans International Airport to Amite, about seventy miles north. If you are planning to drive you will have to get to Amite using your own maps but we will supply further maps and navigational information from Downtown Amite to Mayor Goldsby's house, where the Friday night Tournament, Barbecue and party will take place and to the Fireman's Hall where the Seminar will be held on Saturday.

Seminar Fee the same as last year - \$70.00 per person.

Our experience over the past ten years has proven that if you need to rent a car when you get to New Orleans, it's not a good idea to wait until you arrive to do it. For the best price, do it on-line or through your travel agent. If you go to an Auto Rental Agency without a reservation you will pay about double. We learned that the hard way.

We hope to see you there!

THE FREESTYLE VIDEOS ARE COMING DOWN!

As of this Newsletter, the video series on Freestyle Fighting is about as close to being finished as it can be. Just to keep you up to date on its progress, let us tell you, only one more segment has to be taped and edited. Then comes all of the technical stuff for having it reproduced. After that they're ready to go!





FOR MEMBERS ONLY

If you have been with the Karate Connection for any length of time and have taken the tests required for promotion, you know how it works. You also know by now what we mean when we tell people that only about forty percent of what they will be getting from us comes from the original Video Training Tapes and the other sixty comes from their Video Connection with us. You know because you have been there. If you have advanced to the level of Blue Belt you also know that you received a forty five minute Bonus Video containing things not necessarily on the original series. You received it free of charge because we felt you needed it in order to progress as we planned for you to. It's a part of your training regimen.

Now we have another Bonus Video for you but this one is not of a teaching nature it has more entertainment and historical value than instructional. Therefore we will be asking that you reimburse the cost of having it made and sent to you.

We have been collecting old 8mm film footage and early video for many, many years, a lot of which has been freely donated by friends and IKCA family members. Frankly, some of it is amateurish and not of good technical quality, you know, shaky, not always in focus and in bits and pieces. Other parts are actually excellent and from a variety of sources. Almost all of it is third or fourth generation, meaning it has been copied over and over, which degenerates the quality with each copy, and even though much of it is just scraps, pieced together, it's still fun to watch and of great historical significance.

We have a lot of footage of Ed Parker's legendary trip to Chile. There are shots from the footage shown at Mr. Parker's Tribute at the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles in 1988. There are silent 8mm home movie shots of our Crenshaw Studio with some really bad freestyle, going back to before the first Championships held in Long Beach in 1964, which really got freestyle moving in the right direction.

There are some very early demonstrations also taken from 8mm home movies. There is also professional footage of Ed Parker being interviewed about his relationship with Elvis along with rare footage of him on various TV shows and movies in which he appeared.

When home video recorders and cameras were introduced back in the early sixties, Ed Parker and I acquired one of the first models to hit the market. We shot a ton of material with that outfit, a Sony CV2000. Unfortunately, the tape, which was on one-hour reels in those days, was so expensive we could only afford a few of them. Therefore, just about everything we shot was taped over and erased as a result. It was just too expensive to be able to keep anything for posterity. Little did we know that if we had, we would have owned a treasure.

We did manage to keep one tape in its entirety and there are segments of it on this video. It is black and white of course, and there is a very ethereal quality about it because we couldn't transfer the tape directly from one unit to another. Due to the original recorder being so old, it wasn't compatible with any of today's equipment. So, in order to get anything at all we had to play it on its own monitor and then video that with a modern camcorder. What you will see is Ed Parker teaching a self defense technique to a young lady, whose name has been long forgotten, plus you will see Ed Parker interview Steve Muhammad (Sanders) and Carlos Bunda, the winner of the Lightweight Black Belt Championship at the first International Championships in 1964 and a match between them. The ghostlike images only add to the antiquity of it.

We don't feel we have the right to sell this footage because we don't think it would be ethical to make money from what a lot of people have given us as gifts over the years. On the other hand, we wish to fulfill the many requests for this historic footage. It's part of your heritage as Kenpo practitioners. The problem is that in order to do so we will have to be reimbursed for the cassette, the box it comes in, the shrink wrap its encased in, plus the Dubbing Master to have it reproduced, along with the fees the Fulfillment Service charges for shipping, handling, packaging, labeling, and finally for postage. All of which totals \$12.35.

THERE ARE A FEW *CONDITIONS* TO GETTING THIS VIDEO

1. You must be a member in good standing.
2. You must be a Black Belt to be eligible to get it right away.
3. If you are below the rank of Black Belt you can only get it with your next video test.
4. By requesting this video you are entering into a contract with the IKCA, to keep it as a personal gift. You are promising not to make any copies or to lend or give away the original. Remember, this is a gift from your Association. You are only reimbursing the Association for the medium it's recorded on, and getting it to you. It was *given* to us and is being *given* to you.

Please send me a copy of the **HISTORICAL KENPO FOOTAGE.**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

ST

ZIP

PHONE

I agree to keep this tape as a personal gift and not to make copies and not to sell, lend or give the original away.

SIGNATURE

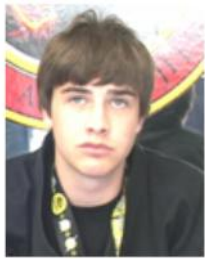
MEMBERSHIP #

EXP. DATE:



TOURNAMENT FREESTYLE

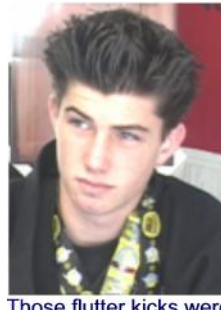
Bob Barnett (profiled in the last Newsletter) took his two sons to the Disney Wide World of Sports Martial Arts Festival last October in Orlando, FL and they did very well indeed. Seventeen year old Robby (below left) took Second Place in Continuous Freestyle and his fifteen year old brother Chris, (right) placed third in Continuous and fourth in Point Freestyle. This was Chris' first tournament and he was the youngest competitor in his class.



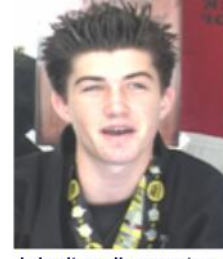
The first match was a joke-I was up 2-0 and had the guy on his back twice when I got penalized for kinda knocking his helmet up with a kick.



I guess I went a little hard in my first Continuous Match because afterwards I threw up the omelet I had earlier, so the rest of the night I had to fight on an empty stomach, and was kinda sick.



Those flutter kicks were hard to work with. I beat the first guy because he dead-legged after a couple of kicks, but the last guy was evidently better and I couldn't get past it.



I don't really counter, I just go after them and when I do most of them don't know what to do and I make a lot of points that way.

When asked about their matches, Robbie said that the first match was easy because his opponent was so obviously trained for sport that he hadn't the faintest idea how to actually defend himself. He felt he would easily have won the fight but ended up losing the match because he lifted his opponent's helmet off his head with a high roundhouse kick and drew a serious penalty for it. Robbie was quick to add that volunteer judges handled the judging for the point-freestyle and it was feeble at best, while the continuous freestyle matches were judged by high-ranking Black Belts and was far more competent. The matches between the first point match and last continuous match were just about getting points and not very memorable but the last match was the one to behold. His opponent was the only contestant in the tournament who was bigger than Robbie, and heavier at about six-five and around two hundred and fifty pounds. That's a mighty big kid and Robbie said it wasn't a one-sided match at all; he just couldn't put him away.

Robbie says he likes to use his height and reach advantage and that it usually serves him very well, but in this case his opponent had the height and reach advantage plus a weight advantage. This is something Robbie isn't accustomed to and it's going to be tough for either he or Chris to develop strategies for this sort of fighting because they are the tallest in their group and there isn't anyone on the horizon locally that can give them that kind of practice.

Robbie said that one of the reasons he lost his last match against his much larger opponent was because the guy kicked his left thigh four times, Muay Thai style, actually temporarily destroying it as his supporting leg, which left him unable to do what he does best, high kicking. Robbie said he after the guy caught him a couple of times he retaliated with a spinning back kick to the front of the guy's thigh but was given a deduction by the judges because straight kicks to the legs were not allowed, a rule that wasn't explained very well at the

outset. You could only attack the legs from the side, and contact was allowed from the side. Good luck with these rules. They said they were trying something new. It will be interesting to see how long this tournament is allowed to continue. Robbie said he was limping for two days after returning home.

I asked Chris what percentage of his fight is his hands and what percentage his feet. His answer was that it's about eighty percent hands, but says that he gets a lot of his points with his feet. He says, it's his hands that allow him to keep his opponent so busy they forget about his feet and that's when he gets them. He said it was the other way around in the Continuous Fighting. When his opponents were hopping around on one leg trying to score with kicks he just kept the hands coming and they couldn't block them all and it looked like a one-sided fight to the judges. "The first guy I fought kept working my shins and when I got home they were all black and blue and cut up. My immediate question was where were your shin guards? Almost in unison, Bob and the boys said, "They didn't allow them." Bob said they had them on and they were told to take them off, shin guards weren't allowed. This sounds like a giant step backwards to me. I can't believe anyone in this day and age would run a tournament, especially where kids are involved, that didn't include all of the protective equipment necessary to give them adequate protection, and shin guards are a given.

Chris commented on how his first opponent was using a "flutter kick". I've never heard of a flutter kick, so I asked them to demonstrate. The move is all too familiar, only the name is different. All it is is hopping on one leg with the other cocked and pretty much constantly in motion, kicking to varying heights without putting the kicking leg down, that way it's both offensive and defensive. Robbie said he got a few solid points against the flutter kick by angling to his opponent's open side and starting the kick then sliding with it to get close enough to the target.



Take a look at the background and see where Robbie is starting this kick. Then notice how he slides on one leg toward his opponent, closing ground as he cocks the kick. Even if his opponent backed up, Robbie would still have had the distance to reach him. This is really a smooth move. It appears that you are too far away to be effective, but turns out differently in the end.

Look for the Barnett brothers toward the end of the Kenpo Freestyle Fighting Video Series coming out next month. They and their dad Bob contributed a very exciting segment to the series. These kids are the stuff Champions are made of. Keep an eye on them.



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.

Corey Gilbert	McDonough, GA, USA	Brown Belt
Julian R. Ward	St. Michael, Barbados	Purple Belt
Julian R. Ward	St. Michael, Barbados	Blue Belt
Julian R. Ward	St. Michael, Barbados	Green Belt
Julian R. Ward	St. Michael, Barbados	Brown Belt
Julian R. Ward	St. Michael, Barbados	1st Degree Black Belt
Michael Clifford	Bellflower, CA, USA	Purple Belt
Angel Magana	Bellflower, CA, USA	Brown Belt
Ricky Hurtado	Bellflower, CA, USA	Brown Belt
Anthony Hurtado	Bellflower, CA, USA	Blue Belt
Joey Kuni	Bellflower, CA, USA	Yellow Belt
Ryan Modie	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Yellow Belt
Ashlie Redd	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Yellow Belt
Mike Sisk	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Purple Belt
Matt White	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Blue Belt
Brian Walrod	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Blue Belt
Dennis Totman	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Blue Belt
John Mynatt	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Green Belt
Mike White	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Brown Belt
Erin Stenberg	Irvine, CA, USA	1st Degree Black Belt
Alexa Heter	Lompoc, CA, USA	Junior Black Belt
Cameron Burson	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Yellow Belt
Tina Walden	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Orange Belt
William Jeffrey Wilson	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Orange Belt
Dennis Jones	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Orange Belt
Holly Jackson	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Green Belt
Victoria Jackson	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Green Belt
Dennis Weir	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Green Belt
Anthony Weir	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Green Belt
Daniel Kincade	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Green Belt
Joe Pittman	Pisgah, AL, USA	Orange Belt
Hannah Pittman	Pisgah, AL, USA	Orange Belt
Kevin Johnson	Pisgah, AL, USA	Orange Belt
Corey Johnson	Pisgah, AL, USA	Yellow Belt

Shauna Albritton	Pisgah, AL, USA	Purple Belt
Daniel Welch	Pisgah, AL, USA	Purple Belt
Zach Warr	Pisgah, AL, USA	Orange Belt
Keri Jo Albritton	Pisgah, AL, USA	Blue Belt
Austin Harrison	Pisgah, AL, USA	Purple Belt
Robbie Bailey	Pisgah, AL, USA	Purple Belt
Brenae Bradford	Pisgah, AL, USA	Orange Belt
Jonas Olsen Dall	Denmark	Purple Belt
Michael Lavbek	Denmark	Orange Belt
Alan Pedersen	Denmark	Orange Belt
Jonathan Paul Gore	Tuscaloosa, AL, USA	Purple Belt
Larry Tucker	Tuscaloosa, AL, USA	Purple Belt
Peter Spech	Lake Villa, IL, USA	Orange Belt
Thomas L. Driver	Silverdale, WA, USA	Blue Belt
Cathy Alley	Franklin, NC, USA	Yellow Belt
Sherri Conway	Franklin, NC, USA	Yellow Belt
Chris Conway	Franklin, NC, USA	Yellow Belt
Daniel Campbell	Franklin, NC, USA	Yellow Belt
Isaac Broussard	Franklin, NC, USA	Yellow Belt
Cesily Lantz	Franklin, NC, USA	Yellow Belt
Miranda Conway	Franklin, NC, USA	Yellow Belt
Austin Reitmeier	Franklin, NC, USA	Yellow Belt
Brandon Moore	Franklin, NC, USA	Orange Belt
Brandon Moore	Franklin, NC, USA	Purple Belt
Jarrett Alley	Franklin, NC, USA	Purple Belt
Marty Josey	Durham, NC, USA	Green Belt
Kevin O'Hara	Australia	Green Belt
Paul Aloisi	Australia	Yellow Belt
Andrew Trezise	Australia	Yellow Belt
Amie Phillips	Australia	Yellow Belt
Neil Guenther	Milwaukee, WI, USA	Purple Belt
Paul Drankiewicz	Milwaukee, WI, USA	Blue Belt
Jeffrey A. Hallett	Milpitas, CA, USA	Orange Belt
R. Craig Hudson	San Jose, CA, USA	Purple Belt
Raymond May	Manitowic, WI, USA	1 st Degree Black Belt
Chris Rush	Manitowic, WI, USA	1 st Degree Black Belt
Justin P. Poole	Tuscaloosa, AL, USA	Orange Belt
Gregory W. Payne	Rockville, MD, USA	Brown Belt
Randy Rakestraw	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Blue Belt
Mike Walden	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Blue Belt
Joy Newby	Spring Hill, TN, USA	Blue Belt
Mateo Romero	Midland, TX, USA	Orange Belt
Raul Romero	Midland, TX, USA	Orange Belt
Laura Thornton	Midland, TX, USA	Orange Belt

Patrick Weatherred	Midland, TX, USA	Orange Belt
Arian Morett	Midland, TX, USA	Orange Belt
Eddie Cline	Midland, TX, USA	Orange Belt
Ryan Shanks	Midland, TX, USA	Yellow Belt
Savannah Cain	Midland, TX, USA	Yellow Belt
Tyleigh Taylor	Midland, TX, USA	Yellow Belt
Emily Taylor	Midland, TX, USA	Yellow Belt
Weston Taylor	Midland, TX, USA	Yellow Belt
Colton Cline	Midland, TX, USA	Yellow Belt
Rance Fryar	Midland, TX, USA	Yellow Belt
Jordan Weatherred	Midland, TX, USA	Yellow Belt
Brandon Everett	Corpus Christi, TX, USA	Orange Belt
Ricky Pro	Corpus Christi, TX, USA	Orange Belt
May Lin Meisenheimer	Corpus Christi, TX, USA	Orange Belt
David Martinez	Corpus Christi, TX, USA	Purple Belt
Jerry Caceres	Corpus Christi, TX, USA	Purple Belt
Jarett Ramirez	Corpus Christi, TX, USA	Orange Belt
Bart Krimmel	Corpus Christi, TX, USA	Orange Belt
Lauren Ritter	Corpus Christi, TX, USA	Orange Belt
Mark Munoz	Corpus Christi, TX, USA	Yellow Belt
Michelle Revels	Corpus Christi, TX, USA	Yellow Belt
Jose D. Segovia	Oak Hill, VA, USA	2 nd Degree Black Belt
Paul Hutterer	Manotowic, WI, USA	1 st Degree Black Belt
Jerry Bull	Vallejo, CA, USA	3 rd Degree Black Belt
John Mynatt	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Brown Belt
Brian Walrod	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Green Belt
Gino Gebelin	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Yellow Belt
Chris Dunlap	Pittsburg, KS, USA	Yellow Belt
Andrew Leckey	Napa, CA, USA	Purple Belt
Nicholas Cavanaugh	Napa, CA, USA	Green Belt
Iain Silverthorne	Napa, CA, USA	Purple Belt
Monica Pasquini	Napa, CA, USA	Brown Belt
Cooper Jarnagin	Pisgah, AL, USA	Purple Belt
Nick Maynor	Pisgah, AL, USA	Yellow Belt
Jim L. Buhisan	San Jose, CA, USA	7 th Degree Black Belt
Ken Lewis	Coudersport, PA, USA	5 th Degree Black Belt
Anthony Glorioso	Torrance, CA, USA	3 rd Degree Black Belt
Gregory R. Satterfield	Torrance, CA, USA	5 th Degree Black Belt
Vic LeRoux	Seal Beach, CA, USA	10 th Degree Black Belt
James DeLuna	Vallejo, CA, USA	Brown Belt
Meagan Bruns	Lompoc, CA, USA	Brown Belt
Rick Bottini	Lincoln, CA, USA	Orange Belt
Robert M. Bartkowski	Oak Forest, IL, USA	Orange Belt
Al Moore	Tifton, GA, USA	Orange Belt

Christian Christiansen
Jay Kilgore
Matthew A. Lopez
Orlando Guerra
Lisa Hinojosa
Lambert Cheung
Jeremiah Jones
Juan Ortiz
Carlos Pacheco
Ramsey Luke
Taylor Panico
Michael Clifford
Anthony Hurtado
William Moses
Cesar Hinojosa
Mike Salladay
Damarys Perez

Denmark
Edna, TX, USA
Falfurrias, TX, USA
Falfurrias, TX, USA
Falfurrias, TX, USA
Calabasas, CA, USA
Pittsburg, KS, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA
Bellflower, CA, USA

Orange Belt
Orange Belt
Purple Belt
Purple Belt
Purple Belt
Brown Belt
Purple Belt
Blue Belt
Purple Belt
Purple Belt
Purple Belt
Yellow Belt
Green Belt
Purple Belt
Yellow Belt
Orange Belt
Orange Belt

