



Gentry Martial Arts announcements

Oct 2002 Part III

Battle of the Stars Tournament Results:

Congrats to all who participated in the Bedford Tournament. Although the turn-out was light, GMA did its part and brought home the school trophy as a result. Overall, GMA students placed in forms 14 times, sparring 14 times, and in breaking 11 times. Here are the individual results—our apologies if we missed anybody—please let us know of any mistakes for our records.

Jerika Scott	3 rd in sparring	Jayse Willhardt	3 rd forms, 3 rd sparring, 2 nd breaking
Sammi Scott	3 rd in forms	Catie Willhardt	1 st forms, 2 nd sparring
Cory Pierce	3 rd in forms, 2 nd in sparring	Zac VanDeman	2 nd forms
Dylan Ostrum	3 rd in sparring, 2 nd in breaking	Sebastian Pierson	2 nd sparring, 3 rd breaking
Marissa Jones	1 st in forms, 1 st in breaking	Tyler Martens	2 nd forms, 1 st breaking
Jessie Jones	3 rd in sparring	Taylor Green	3 rd forms, 2 nd breaking
Daniel Jones	3 rd in forms, 2 nd in sparring	Kase Biesiada	1 st forms, 1 st sparring, 1 st breaking
Shelby Moler	2 nd forms, 3 rd breaking	Katie Roe	1 st forms, 3 rd sparring, 3 rd breaking
Makyla Nenedjian	3 rd forms, 3 rd sparring	Kathy Husmann	2 nd forms, 2 nd sparring
Christina Riffel	1 st forms, 1 st sparring, 1 st breaking	Mr. David Yoshida	1 st forms, 2 nd weapons, 3 rd breaking

Upcoming events:

Halloween Festivities:

Martinsville--Costume class and festivities. *****Please note schedule change** to accommodate “trick or treat hours.” Both intermediate and advanced TKD classes will be combined at 5:30. Students can wear their costumes to class that evening, but keep in mind mobility and possibly sweating when choosing your attire. TKD black belt club will meet on Tues with the Hapkido black belt club. From 6:30-8:30 we will have a Halloween party/Movie night with a costume contest, treats, cheesy fall games, and we will watch Monsters Inc.

Spencer--students can dress up in costume for class on Fri, Nov 1st.

- Nov 2. USHF Fall seminar at IU from 10-5. \$30 for USHF members, 50 for nonmembers. Look for flyers....scheduled presenters included Bill West and Patrick Kelly.
- Nov 8. USHF testing at Martinsville school, presently scheduled for 8:15
- Nov 9. Project Action Kick-a-thon from 10-12. We have a few students on Project Action scholarship, and we need to continue to support the charity. Information and pledge sheets are being distributed in classes. All GMA students are encouraged to participate. Help from parents and others is also appreciated, as there will be a lot of administrative work associated with the event, such as counting kicks, record keeping, etc. PLEASE make sure all money collected is to Project Action, not GMA.
- Nov 16. Dragons testing at the Spencer school starting at 10:00 am.
- Nov 17. TKD forms seminar at DPU from 1-5. Learn additional forms from the WTF, including the upper rank forms like Koryo and Keumgang, and the differences between the newer forms and our older, more traditional forms. From 1-5. The seminar is free to DPU students and black belt club members. Cost for all others students is \$20.00.

Don't Wait Till the Last Minute on Your Christmas Shopping

As always, Christmas time brings lots of special purchases. There are practical choices such as equipment and shoes, but also more novelty items such as belt racks and stuffed “little dragons”. Please be advised that a lot of the suppliers become out of stock closer to Christmas, especially on the seasonal specialty items. Please get your orders in early to avoid any disappointments. The Martinsville school has the “Christmas corner” established in its pro shop. The others schools may receive order forms with all of our packages available.



Velcro Belts, Forms Specialists and other water-down musings

As most of you have noticed, GMA pays good money to belong to the National Association of Professional Martial Artists. Some traditionalists believe this group to be a bunch of sell outs only interested in profits, some believe they are the leaders in raising the bar of professionalism in the industry. I think they are a little of both. They definitely have some great programs and curriculum ideas, but recently, a couple of “innovations” in the industry, backed by NAPMA, illustrates just how far many American martial arts schools have fallen.

GM Choi tells us that when we tie our belts, the first loop around signifies our body and the second loop signifies our mind. The knot is the spirit tying the mind and body together. GM Choi laments that many people in Korea today use a shorter belt that only wraps around once. He attributed the shorter belt to a cost cutting measure. If that is the case, I am not sure which is more absurd—that great an effort to save that little money or doing so at the expense of losing the philosophy and tradition that lies within the belt tying process. But now, thanks to capitalism in America, tying the belt is no longer an issue. That is because now they offer Velcro belts. No more little dragons tripping on their belts, no more students having to turn around to fix them every 10 seconds. I can see why instructors might find the offer tantalizing...at least those instructors who have no idea about the tradition or don't care about them. Needless to say, our students (and parents) will continue to struggle with those knots.

We were excited to hear that NAPMA was coming up with a “forms specialist” program. The idea was to improve the ways students learn forms. I was eager to implement some of their ideas. Then I got the outline. Their solution—teach less forms. Less forms means more time focusing on each one. Their suggestion: having students learn 8-10 forms before black belt is way too hard to teach (note, our green belts know 9!!!), better for them only to learn 3 or 4 really well (our white belts know 3!!!)—less time and effort for you, and they will have better forms (at least the few they know). They were quick to point out that it doesn't mean we should forget the other forms that we currently teach. Why? Because that is what a form specialist does—learn all the forms. Mind you, these are the forms they should have been learning in the first place, before we watered down the system. Of course, since we no longer teach those forms in regular classes, we can now hold seminars and sell videotapes with the additional forms to make additional revenue off of highly motivated “forms specialists.”

Sadly, this is a trend in the martial arts. While service is up, quality of content is down. Water down the curriculum and spread it out...that way you can charge more for the same amount. It makes sense in other businesses, but not in the martial arts. I hope we at GMA never inadvertently go down that route. We will continue to offer more, not less. We are happy to announce our first black belt club event, a forms seminar. The only difference is our “forms specialists” will be learning the WTF forms that are above and beyond our TTCA requirements. But seeing our yellow belts already know more forms than some black belts—I guess that makes just about all of us “specialists” already. I wonder if GM Choi would call us that? --BLS