



GMA Newsletter

March 08

GMA Celebrates some Major Promotions

Congrats to our newest and largest crop of blue belts in BJJ: David Yoshida, Jeremiah Deckard, Dan Wiggins, and Josh Britt. Professor Caique himself awarded the belts during his recent seminar here at GMA. Even more impressive was Professor Caique awarding our BJJ instructor, Tim Sledd, the high honor of brown belt. BJJ belts work differently than other styles, and these belts are closer approximations to black belt or degree of black in other martial arts.

Also congrats to our latest round of Lil Dragon graduates. Chris Grider, Jacob Grider, AJ Botorff, and Jayden Dent all showed awesome perseverance for their age and are now ready to tackle even bigger challenges in TKD.

Upcoming Events:

March 7	TTCA Testing (no TKD class)
March 8	TKD black belt class 9:00-10:30
March 8	TKD black belt prep class 10:30-12:30
March 8 th	HKD black belt class 1:30-3:30
March 15 th	Demo team practice and performance 9:00-11:30
March 15 th	FAST adult 1:00-4:30
March 15 th	TKD movie night 6:30-9:00
March 28 th	HKD USHF Testing 7:00-8:00
March 29 th	TKD black belt prep 9:00-10:00
March 29 th	Stickfighting 10:00-12:30
March 29	FAST kids class 1:30-4:00
April 5 th	USHF spring seminar, ISU
April 12 th	BB prep class (TBA)
April 12 th	Demo team practice (TBA)
April 18 th	TTCA black belt testing
April 19 th	TTCA TKD tournament
April 19 th	EGO BJJ tournament

Demo Team News

- With the exception of March 7 (testing), demo team will have Friday evening practices from 6:30-7:00, leading up to the TTCA tournament.
- We have a demo show for the Boys and Girls club fitness fair on Sat March 15th. The show will be at the high school at 11:00, and we will have practice beforehand at GMA. Not only does this support an important community event, but it is a great opportunity to prepare for our show at tournament, so we hope to have everyone there.

Tournament News and Notes

- We strongly recommend you reserving your rooms for the TKD tournament as soon as possible.
- TTCA tournament applications are now available and will be due the first of April.
- Please plan ahead for any purchases for the tournament like new uniforms and patches to avoid any last minute out of stock issues. Keep in mind sparring gear must be plain white for the tournament (does not apply to headgear). Parents, don't forget to show team support with your T's also. Lastly, we will have a new "Team Gentry" shirt for tournament available later this month.



Parent Committee Announcement

People who are interested in cookie dough (perhaps run out) can order more between now and mid-march. Proceeds will still go to the parents committee, but we are doing a “fundraiser”.

Congrats to DPU for a Strong Showing at IU

The DPU TKD team competed against 3 other college teams at an invitational tournament at IU, including IU and Purdue. Highlights include sweeping womens intermediate sparring and winning 2 of the 6 sparring divisions in which we had competitors. Special congrats to the following medalists.

Cambia Green 1st forms
Steffan Freed 1st forms, 3rd sparring
Rob Snyder 3rd sparring
Meghan Kohne 1st sparring

Mary Weston 3rd forms, 3rd sparring
Chris Lamble 1st sparring
Erica Griffin 2nd forms, 2nd sparring

Birthdays:

Logan Scott	3-6	Keaton Eisenhut	3-20	Shelby Moler	3-25
Zach Hamilton	3-9	Erica Honaker	3-20	Johnny Benton	3-28
Mya Freed	3-14	Ty Wall	3-20	Marc Shotts	3-30
James Cummings	3-15	Gryffyn Wren	3-23	Shae Brouse	3-30

Training Anniversaries

Mr. Devin Arthur (TKD 4 years)	Grant Wolfla (TKD 3 years)	Mike Dodge (BJJ 2 years)
Darian Crites (TKD 3 years)	Nathan Payne (TKD 2 years)	Ethan Pelley (LD 1 yr)
Shelby Crites (TKD, LD 3 years)	Alli Pounders (LD, TKD 2 years)	Garrett Pelley (LD 1 yr)
Mike Dodge (HKD 3 years)	Jacob Grider (TKD, LD 2 years)	Breanna Fowler (TKD 1 yr)
Sean Lamar (TKD 3 years)	Chris Grider (TKD, LD 2 years)	

TKD Buddy/Movie nights

It has been a while since we have done a movie night, so we have another round scheduled this month. Students are encouraged to bring a friend who might be interested in classes. We will do a little martial arts, somedodgeball, and learn something from the movie. TKD students can only sign up for one night to allow everyone a chance, and space is limited at each showing. We do need everyone and their buddies to sign up so we can make sure of numbers.

Quotes of the Week this month will be on responsibility

If Bobby Knight was a Martial Arts Master

I grew up an IU basketball fan. In high school many a night of Latin homework was done at halftime and the 2 hour drive from Southern IN to and from games on a school night. I still enjoy making it to a couple of games a year, our class schedule being the only thing keeping me from attending many more. (Purdue games on Tues nights are particularly painful). Of course, that meant I also grew up a Bobby Knight fan. I scratched my head as I watched his detractors build in their frequency and veracity of attacks. Many of these debates were renewed last month with his sudden retirement. I listened to the sports talk pundits give their two cents worth. I have never minded his antics much, mainly because he reminded me a bit of some of my martial arts teachers! I believe my martial arts angle provides a unique perspective on his situation, and by example, many others that people might come across in life.



In a nutshell, if Bob Knight had become a martial arts master instead of basketball coach, I don't know if his same antics would be considered anything unusual—at least, back in the day. I have witnessed GM Choi administer “discipline” in some unusual ways...that would probably get him reported to an agency now. GM Choi has since mellowed (and jokes about not getting sued), but the person who was given the treatment is now an awesome master, and he will be the first to tell you he needed it. I know of one martial arts master who is militant about being punctual. A friend and teacher of mine under this master actually gets horsewhipped for every minute he is late. My friends simply accepts it as part of the arrangement, and I would concur it is a small price to pay to be in that elite of martial arts company. In both martial arts parallels, the people involved will simply say, it was worth it.

One of most frequently heard criticisms of Knight is the way he handles his players. “Why would anyone want to play for him and get humiliated when they can go play for someone else who treats him with more dignity and respect.” The simple answer is to learn. If you truly value the knowledge from one of the best minds in the game, then you will be willing to go through a lot of get it. There have been many cases where I have had a choice of gaining in the martial arts but at a high personal cost. The question you have to ask is if the knowledge/experience is worth it in the long run. Sadly, it seems fewer and fewer people are willing to accept the cost of such knowledge, in martial arts and in college basketball. Maybe some of the trials are designed to see how much you want it.

A related criticism of Knight was the constant number of transfers and dropouts. I have no problem with that. I don't blame the players—they thought they could handle it but found out they couldn't. At least they had the courage to try. But I also don't have a problem with a coach demanding more than many are willing to give. To be sure, I know our retention would be better and we would keep more students if we lowered our expectations and passed everyone at tests. I had a parent make the comment to me just recently that “I don't think many parents are used to someone demanding a lot out of their children like you do.” I won't apologize for that. It should be noted that those who stayed with Knight had a high success rate in basketball and in graduation. Black belts with sloppy technique at less demanding schools are like the basketball programs where people might stay four years but still can't read once they finish school, if they even graduate.

And here lies one of the contradictions about Knight. Despite the harsh treatment and the frequent drop outs, if you ask about the players who stuck it out, you will hear about a coach who is intensely loyal, genuinely caring, and emotionally invested in his players. Similarly, I know of many martial arts masters who simply don't have time for you if you aren't serious...but if you are willing to “eat bitter” and show your dedication to them, you will find they are in turn some of the most loyal and giving individuals you can imagine. While I realize I might be a taskmaster at times myself, I hope I also convey how the bonds of the teacher/student relationship are equally demanding of me.

I listened to one talk show host wonder how much success could Knight have had if he had only been nicer and less difficult and controversial. While I realize it is this radio personality's job to stimulate hypothetical thought, the martial arts side in me found this to be an absolutely stupid question. Why? Because you don't get to question the master. He produces results and has proven himself. You don't get to select which parts are good and which parts are bad and only take the good. How do you know which is which? If Knight was nicer, how do you know he would have even had the same results? You, as a person on the sideline, don't have the authority or knowledge to question the methodology. You have to accept the whole...and if the whole is acceptable, then it is worth it. Similarly, growing up the martial arts, there have certainly been times when I didn't understand why certain things are done, only to realize much later the brilliance in the methodology. You have to have faith in the process and be willing to invest yourself in someone who knows more than you.

Some of our newer parents might now be panicked that I just wrote that my teaching role model is Bob Knight. While I will admit we can both be labeled as demanding and disciplinarians, he is not my hero or inspiration, but I can still respect him. And as I just returned from a collegiate TKD meet, I can also say that we both hate giving up a single point to Purdue!!! --BLS