



GMA NEWS July 08

Hoosier Open BJJ Tournament news and notes:

GMA students recently represented Team Caique at the Hoosier Open, one of the better tournaments in the Midwest. Those team members who medalled in their respective divisions include: Tyler Stocke (1st), Bryan Neal (1st), Lain Stocke (2nd), Justin Roberts (2nd), Cody Craig (2nd), Mr. Sledd (3rd), and Mike Hedrick (3rd).

Upcoming events/Holiday adjustments

July 4th	NO CLASS	
July 12 th	TKD BB prep class	10:00-12:00
July 12 th	HKD BB prep class	1:00-4:00
July 14-18	TKD daycamp	9:00-3:30
July 19 th	Jason Winkle Stickfighting seminar	1:00-4:00
July 19 th	Jason Winkle "MMA" style class and fight night-	6:00-8:30
July 21-25	HKD daycamp	9:00-3:30
July 25 th	TTCA testing and USHF testing	
July 26	Demo team	9:00—10:30
	TKD black belt class	10:30-12:00
	HKD black belt class	1:00-?
Aug 4-8	TKD day Camp	

* Times on the 26th may have to be adjusted. Watch the viewpoint for adjustments.

*****There are still a few spots left in the camps in July and Aug, but space is limited******
Earn points, get lots of intensive and advanced training, and rack up lots of classes for your next belt!

*Thanks to everyone
who voted us #1 in the
Reporter Times
Readers Choice
awards for the THIRD
year in a row.*

Demo team news

Demo team will start practicing in small groups on Friday evenings, starting Friday July 11th. Listen in class and watch for announcements as to which groups will be working which nights.

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Tom Alford	7-4	Zach Bauer	7-10	Josh Britt	7-22
Dana Elliot	7-5	Taylor Dodge	7-13	Mike Dodge	7-24
Payton Drake	7-7	Monika Marino	7-14	Cory Pierce	7-29
Timothy Thomas	7-8	Benjamin Marino	7-14	Sarah McGuire	7-31
Mr. David Yoshida	7-8	Hunter Caincross	7-15	Joe McNelis	7-31
Blake Nobles	7-9	Abigail Farmen	7-18		
Lain Stocke	7-9	Alexus Hopkins	7-21		

Training Anniversaries

Congrats to those who are celebrating a year or multiple years of training. We appreciate their hard work and friendship.

Jeremiah Deckard (HKD, 5 yrs)	Richie Long (TKD 3 yrs)	Dominic Tejera (LD 1 yr)
Thomas McGuire (TKD 5 yrs)	Trent McLain (TKD 3 yrs)	Ethan Minton (TKD 1 yr)
Bobby Brouse (TKD 3yrs)		

Quotes of the Week

Being halfway through the year, now is a time to check our goals, and also to think ahead about what comes after you accomplish them.



Look for us at our FAIR BOOTH, and don't forget that students can earn points for helping. Look for sign ups at the end of the month.

Gentry, the Eagles Have Landed

GMA students have been doing a lot of things lately that I was wanting to share with everyone who might not be aware. Honestly, I was wondering how I would tie them all together to make an article, when I read another article by martial arts writer Karen Eden. Providence gave me her metaphor just in time to share it as a backdrop for our students.

An eagle had broken its wing and was no longer able to fly. He would now live out the rest of his days at the wildlife center and travel as an educational tool. We all knew that, but the eagle just didn't get it. If you can, imagine an eagle on a leash—pulling the handler around the yard like a rag doll. The eagle wanted to fly, because that's just what eagles do. And absolutely nothing was going to stop him from trying to fly right out of there, each and every time he was brought out. The writer went on to list examples of martial arts students who are “broken” but continue to train. My thoughts went immediately to a story about one of master Whalen's students, who while in Korea took so long to put braces and wraps on, loosen up, etc, that the master they were visiting thought she should quit. (It is really bad when another eagle tells you to quit trying to fly!)

GMA has had our share of eagles making class rather routinely and quietly for some time now. Many have fought through injury and other obstacles to train, and I appreciate all those instances. Recently, I have seen our students deal with the flood and yet not be deterred from training...some coming straight from the FEMA lines to class. In some cases, that exceeded even my high expectations. But the focus of this article are the eagles that regularly come back to the nest—some who have to fly from great distances but are willing to sacrifice, because, well, they are eagles. Again, we have many eagles who do this on a regular basis, that despite record gas prices drive from Ellettsville and B-ton, Greencastle, Zionsville, Fishers, and the east, west, and south sides of Indy. Jana is a student from DePauw University who leaves to study abroad in Germany for a year. She drove from Fort Wayne for the month of June just to learn her yellow belt forms, so she would be able to practice while she was gone. Erica graduated DPU this spring, but because of injury wasn't able to stay on track to get her black belt. She leaves for grad school in New Zealand in Feb. She has traveled from Michigan to stay with the McGuires, working odd jobs in order to be able to finish the journey to black belt before she leaves. She follows in the footsteps of one of our first black belts, Mrs. Tracy Townsend, who more or less did the same thing. This coming Hapkido camp in July, I am excited to have former students from Nashville TN, and Houston TX return to the nest—taking vacation time to come train. It will be a great reunion.

Honestly, I have range of emotions when I think of GMA's role in this. Sometimes I am quite humbled to think that we have been able to share the martial arts adequately enough for them to want to go to these lengths. Sometimes my sinful pride says we must doing things well to be in such demand. But I think the reality is closer to this...it really doesn't have much to do with us, because eagles are born to soar. Martial arts eagles are to be on the training floor. We just happened to be where they decided to nest.

Another recent eagle was Miss Cambia Green. Cambia was running out of time to get her black belt before she graduated college and returned to California. She wanted to finish the task. We made arrangements for her to make up the extra work and classes she needed to finish her requirements. This required her to stay in Indiana for part of her breaks, help with lower ranks at DPU, and take extra classes at GMA-Martinsville in addition to her normal training in Greencastle. We had a chat about would be required, and I looked at her and asked, “You're willing to give up vacation and drive to extra classes every week?” I asked to receive confirmation. She thought I asked out of disbelief.

“I know, it sounds a little crazy,” she replied.

I don't think my face changed expression as I said, “No, it sounds like what a black belt would do!” It sounds like an eagle who only knows how to soar. Its not crazy, just what you would expect from a true black belt. Crazy like a fox? No. Crazy like an eagle? Maybe. To the rest of the world, it isn't normal. But black belts aren't “average people. I guess you have to be a fellow eagle to understand, because you simply can't imagine living any other way. It seems like recently GMA has become a bit of a sanctuary, because we have lots of eagles coming back to the nest. To GM Choi, they are still little birds, but there is no doubt they hatched as eagles. --BLS