



Sept 08 NEWS

Congratulations to our new Lil' Dragon graduates!

It takes a lot of hard work and perseverance for our little guys to graduate the entire program. Way to go Ethan Simpson, Sarah Honaker and Zach Hamilton

Upcoming events:

Sept 5 th	TTCA testing
Sept 6 th	HKD black belt exam 9:00 am
Sept 6 th	FAST Adult Basics 1:30-4:30
Sept 12 th	RAK's begin in remembrance of 9-11.
Sept 13 th	Demo Team 9:00-11:00
Sept 13 th	TKD black belt class: 11:00-12:00
Sept 13 th	Stickfighting 1:00-4:00
Sept 13 th	Summer Attendance Parts at Artesian Fun Center 6:00-9:00
Sept 19 th	USHF testing 7:00
Sept 27 th	KHF seminar at DPU 9:00-4:00, testing on Sun to follow
Oct 4 th	TTCA Tournament and black belt testing, Corydon IN
Oct 10 th	Fall foliage demo (tentative time/date—watch for confirmation)
Oct 12 th	Fall foliage parade
Oct 18 th	USHF Fall seminar. IU 10:00-5:00

****Demo team—Friday practices at 6:30 continue on Sept 13th.**

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Luke Wilson	9-2	Trance Behling	9-13	Jesse Stuard	9-22
Mr. Tim Sledd	9-06	Charlie Hopkins	9-17	Cora Berkebile	9-24
Daniel Wiggins	9-8	Caleb Allen	9-18	Alex Langely	9-24
Brian Baker	9-8	Alex Hamilton	9-19	Lyndia Hayes	9-25
Greg Hamilton	9-09	Trae Brouse	9-20	Andrew Baugh	9-25
Shawn Burkes	9-09	Brandi Ireland	9-20	Gabe Wilson	9-26
Dan Young	9-13	Braden Pruitt	9-21	Bryan Neal	9-28

Quotes of the week/ Mat Chat

As anyone who has been with us for over a year may recall, Sept is the month we do our Random Act of Kindness Campaign. As will be explained in class, this is a response to the President's call following the terrorist attacks of 9-11, and it is our way of showing a little patriotism, remembering the tragedy, and helping others at the same time.

Additionally, we always prep our students with a discussion about proper etiquette and attitude about the upcoming tournament.

Training Anniversaries

Special congrats for everyone who is celebrating a year or multiple years of training with us.

Shelby Moler (TKD, 7 yrs)	Erica Honaker (TKD 3 yr)	Lyndia Hayes (TKD 1 yr)
Noah Lambert-Adams (TKD, 5 yrs)	Travis Holman (TKD 3 yr)	Gryffyn Wren (TKD 1 yr)
Reese Elliot (TKD, 4 yrs)	Carl Underwood (TKD 3 yr)	Justin Roberts (TKD 1 yr)
Jake Waltz (TKD 4 yrs)	Mya Freed (LD, TKD 3 yr)	Phoenix Mullendore (TKD 1 yr)
Ryan Jerome (TKD 4 yrs)	Amy Law (HKD 3 yr)	Larry Hayes (HKD 1 yr)
Greg Hamilton (HKD, 3 yr)	Caleb Shotts (HKD 5 yrs)	Bryan Neal (BJJ 1 yr)
Jared Hamilton (HKD, 3 yr)	Miki White (HKD 2 yr)	
Adam Hamilton (HKD, 3 yr)	Joshua Britt (BJJ 2 yr)	



Tournament news and notes

- We strongly recommend you reserving your rooms for the TKD tournament as soon as possible—if you choose to go down early.
- TTCA tournament applications are now available and will be due Sept 20th.
- 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 more "Team Gentry" shirt for tournament available later this month.

Musings on Real Martial Arts Tournaments

As you can imagine, a lot of people have been bringing up in conversation or asking my opinion about the recent Olympic TKD events. For an event that featured three siblings on the same Olympic team in something like a hundred years, and being a focal point for major sponsors like telephone companies and credit cards, I would have thought it would have gotten a little more attention than just internet coverage. But that isn't what most people want to talk about. The conversations are about the negative images of out of control contestants and sulky losers. I have had these conversations with students and casual friends who are less informed about the sport. The opinion I offer is only as a fan, who loves the art, and has more than a casual interest in its health (I am hardly a player on the national or international scene.) But it is an opinion I think GMA students should appreciate.

Many have heard about the Cuban player kicking the referee in the head after being disqualified, and the "bench clearing" atmosphere that followed. This player has since been banned for life, but not before giving a bigger black eye to the sport and art than to the referee.

The second controversy involves the most decorated US TKD competitor, Steven Lopez, who hadn't lost since 2002. He received a controversial penalty that eventually kept him from fighting for another gold medal. When I read the text account of what happened and from my understanding of his fighting style, I said to myself "tough break, but I can see it happening." After watching the actual footage, I have to say my limited opinion is that it was a bad call. I am fortunate to have access to more knowledgeable people—including international referees—from online sources, and I am enjoying gaining better perspective. But I currently still think it was a bad call. Mr. Lopez, I thought to his credit, was very composed immediate after the match. But since then, members of the US delegation have publicly protested the decision in an embarrassing manner...disparaging the art they have dedicated their life to.

Now, I bring these points up against two different backdrops. The first is our upcoming fall tournament. The second is a brief encounter that I had relayed to me—albeit this is secondhand now—between one of our students and another local instructor. This instructor feels like we don't do "real martial arts" because our tournaments are closed. As an aside, Mr. Yoshida just returned from the world hanmadang, and the last time we went to Michigan for a BJJ tournament, Mr. Sledd fought someone from Columbia—the country, not the district, and our DPU students (small, DIII school) routinely compete against much larger Big Ten schools—all examples I wouldn't consider being "closed." But admittedly, we are very selective about the events we support and participate in, a fact I do not apologize for.

For starters, let's compare some of my favorite memories of these open, "real martial arts" tournaments that I have witnessed. Compare the opening of the TTCA finals with full color guard and the national anthems



to the opening of one tournament, where we watched a guy in sun glasses and a leisure track suit strut to the middle and proclaim “lets get it on!” Compare having every ring run by masters and every corner judge being black belts to other tournaments where I have seen parents and whoever else judge. I once saw a girl win green belt forms and then go sit down to judge in the black belt division! When Mr. Yoshida and Miss Dill were still colored belts, we went to watch one of the biggest “open” tournaments in the area—I was looking forward to just hanging out with them and enjoying the action. Apparently they were short on judges in the tai chi division and someone recognized me in the stands. I don’t even think I had my tai chi instructor certification yet, but out of respect for the people who asked, I went down to the floor and judged what was a very unorganized event. At that same tournament, we saw a young girl insist on wearing her orange colored contacts left over from Halloween to “intimidate” her opponent in the ring. Compare that to the sportsmanship that is expected—dare I say demanded—at our tournaments. I once threatened to disqualify one of my own GMA students from my ring for excessively celebrating after a victory, and that display is probably no greater than what you see at other tournaments between *points*.

There are many fine martial artists and human beings in just about every tournament, and I could easily be accused of making unfair generalizations. But for decades I have heard horror stories overly involved parents and even instructors getting into fights in the stands, competitors and coaches trying to intimidate judges, and similar attitudes at some of these other tournaments—from judo competitions to “open” tournaments to state TKD championships. In the same span at our events, I have only seen a few situations, like a match get heated or an upset parent, and these are generally dealt with swiftly. I know some of our own parents who might have had legitimate gripes, but I am proud of how they handled themselves. I encourage both students and parents to familiarize themselves with the expectations of behavior at the tournament to be found in the TTCA manual.

Allow me one more story as backdrop before I wrap this up. Dr. Tao is a great tai chi master, but is also a senior practitioner of “water style” or Liu He Ba Fa. After seeing an inferior demonstration of this style at a major martial arts gathering, rather than getting mad and beating his chest and saying, this is how you do it, I am told he announced in typical water form, “If this is Lui He Ba Fa, then I guess I don’t do that.” He subsequently changed the name of his practice to distance himself.

As I stated earlier, I am not going to apologize for being selective of the events our students attend, based not only on their safety but also their experience. It’s not like we run intramural tournaments where everyone gets a trophy so no one has their self-esteem hurt. But on the other hand, we do want a place where sportsmanship and martial values are modeled in all cases—in winning, losing and adversity. Unfortunately, the Olympics seem to have demonstrated that the emphasis on winning a medal in the sport has trumped the traditional values and culture of the art at even the highest levels. The most notable events from the TKD competition were examples of the complete lack of self control that we maintain the martial arts can give us.

I sincerely hope that I have indeed dramatically over generalized the situation. Because if the Olympics and some of the open tournaments I have seen are what constitutes “real martial arts”, then in the tradition of Dr. Tao, I am proud to say they might be right, we must not practice “real martial arts.” --BLS