



May 2018 GMA Newsletter

Congrats to our newest black belts: Mr. Dylan Hall, Mr. Nathan Hall, Mrs. Debbie Rahman, Mr. Wesley Yoshida, and Miss Kylie Yoshida (2nd)

Upcoming events:

May 5 th	Black belt class am class (at park) and leadership team 9:00-10:30 (at park) Annual Break a thon and school picnic, Pritchard Park (details below)
May 12 th	Black belt stripe testing 9:00-11:00
May 12 th	Demo team 11:00-12:30
May 14 th -18	Happy Mother's day--Mothers please join us for class this week.
May 16 th	Lil dragon testing (Beg 4:15-5:15, Int/Adv 5:15-6:30) NO No gi BJJ that evening
May 24 th	Schools out late night—after BBC till 11:30
May 26 th	Tentative date for spring cleaning at the school. TBA
May 28 th	Have a Happy Memorial Day—classes cancelled
May 31 st	BJJ open mat/tournament prep 1:00-2:00 ish
June 1 st	Hapkido testing 6:30
June 2 nd	HOOSIER OPEN BJJ tournament
June 4-5	BJJ day camp
June 6-8	Hapkido Day camp
June 18-22	TKD Day camp
June 22-24	GM William CC Chen Tai chi seminar- Bloomington

Congrats to our Seniors

As the school year wraps up, we want to take a moment to congratulate our seniors in both high school and college. (We assume they will finish the job!)

From DePauw: John Sherers

From High School: Keegan Spires, Marina Paul, Minda Ruba

Break-a-thon and annual school picnic

It is time for our annual school picnic and break-a-thon to benefit our scholarship program—which provides scholarships for students to become or stay involved in martial arts. Some of our own students benefit from this fund, so we need your continued support, plus it is great chance for our students to get a lot of breaking practice! The break-a-thon will begin at 12:00 (arrive at 11:30) with a picnic and fun and games to follow. This year we will be having it at Pritchard Park (4040 Blue Bluff Rd). Parents committee will provide the main dish. Please sign up according to belt rank to bring side dishes, desserts, etc. Students DO NOT need to wear doboks to the break-a-thon (egg toss appropriate clothing strongly encouraged).

Mother's day invitation

As usual, our students are welcome to invite their mom, grandmas, etc to class the week following Mothers day. We will plan classes to have you and your child interact and share the martial arts experience. While you are at it, feel free to try out any other class including our lunchtime hapkido and morning tai chi classes.

Sign up now for Day Camps/Summer camps

We are now taking sign ups for our GMA day camps. These are week long intensive training sessions from 9:00-3:30 each day. They are the equivalent of 30 classes and 3-5 points and cover a full belt rank's material in one very serious week. History and philosophy, how to write the black belt papers, and other knowledge not normally covered in class is also taught. And there is still time for some fun and games like martial arts



dodgepad. Discounts are available for multiple camps or multiple family members. Additionally, get the discounted rate for July camps if you pre-register by May 15th.

HKD day-camp: June 6-8. Lil dragon camp July 24-26. BJJ camp June 4-5.
TKD day-camp: June 18-22; July 9-13. Special Camp: Southeast Asian Weapons Camps June 12-13

Parents Committee Father's Day Pizza Fundraiser

The Parents committee is sponsoring a fundraiser. We will be making take and bake pizzas. Students can take orders from May 14th -June 8th. Pizzas MUST be picked up on June 16th at 2pm at Gentry. Payment must be made when orders are turned in. Parents committee helps with many of the fun activities at Gentry Martial Arts, like the Christmas and Halloween parties and Fun Day.

Tournament Results

Despite a lot of first time competitors, GMA showed well in the recent tournament, our 27 students took home 13 forms medals, 16 olympic style sparring medals, 14 point sparring medals. Congrats to the following podium finishes:

Isaac Workman	3 rd pt spar	1 st sparring	Lilly Workman	3 rd sparring	
Adrian Roehling	3 rd forms	3 rd sparring	Hope Gunn	2 nd sparring	
Dylan Hall	3 rd forms		Jack Higgins	1 st pt sparring	2 nd sparring
Jenna Berry	3 rd forms	1 st sparring	Nina Payne	3 rd pt sparring	
Ethan Dickerson	3 rd pt sparring	3 rd sparring	Holly Brown	2 nd forms	2 nd sparring
Launa Perryman	3 rd sparring		Donovan Sieg	3 rd forms,	2 nd pt sparring
Nate Wilson	2 nd forms		Finn Vandewalle	3 rd pt sparring,	3 rd sparring
Luke Wilson	3 rd forms.		Ryan Jerome	2 nd pt sparring	
Noah Wilson	2 nd forms	2 nd sparring	Drew Willis	2 nd forms	
Samantha Cushing	1 st forms		Jackson Gadberry	2 nd pt sparring	
Liam Gadberry	2 nd pt sparring				
Ryan Spires	1 st forms,	1 st pt sparring	1 st sparring		
Richie Long	2 nd forms	2 nd pt sparring	2 nd sparring		
Gunnar Bryant	2 nd forms	2 nd pt sparring	3 rd sparring		

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Dominic Tejera	5-3	Cooper Jones	5-13	Don Niese	5-20
Ryan Spires	5-25	Eli Estep	5-25	Dave Hubbard	5-29
Miki Mascoe	5-30				

Training Anniversaries

Luke Wilson (TKD 9 yrs)	Nate Wilson (TKD 9 yrs)	Lise Roberson (HKD 8 yrs)
Donovan Sieg (LD, TKD 7 yrs)	Caleb Waltz (TKD 3 yrs)	Dana Elliot (TKD 9 yrs)
Ben Wigal (TKD 1 yr)	Alaina England (LD 1 yr)	

Quotes of the Week

This May, as Heroes in Training, we will be looking at the stories and learning from some real life heroes (medal of honor recipients) in honor of Memorial Day.

This Month in Martial Arts History (selected from "Dates with Destiny" in *Martial Arts Success* by John Corcoran.

1984—Ninja Turtles debuts (in comic form)

May 1st 1971—Billy Jack, featuring HKD master Bong Soo Han, premieres (it is released in 73 and helps fuel the



Martial arts boom

May 20, 1975 –KTA in Korea consolidates the “kwans” as part of the unification effort of TKD. The CDK is assigned kwan #9.

May 25-27, 1973 First world TKD championships held at the Kukkiwon. The WTF is founded the next day.

May 27,1949. Shotokan founder Gichin Funakoshi founds the Japanese Karate Assoc, helps to spread Karate worldwide



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A Martial Arts Eccentric’s Take on Current Trends in Tournaments and Today’s Tournament “Fighters”

Both our TKD and BJJ programs are currently gearing up for tournaments in the near future. Recently, World Taekwondo changed the scoring system and other rules....again. And in last month’s rant, we talked a little about how the tournament experience can help us grow in various ways. I figure this is as good a time as any to elaborate on my concerns about the current trends in martial sports. There are certainly benefits to martial sports as well, and I have written previously about many of them, but there are also drawbacks that sadly are becoming more relevant today on both the physical and philosophical side.

The new TKD point system is designed to incentivize flashy, highlight reel techniques by rewarding them with more points. This is undoubtedly motivated by competition for viewership and sponsorship dollars at the Olympics and social media highlight marketing. Overall, the emphasis is on more scoring, because like all other major sports, it has been determined that people like watching more scoring. So simultaneously, I feel the criteria for scoring a point has been reduced. In general, the technique and power required to earn a point is becoming disappointingly low. In fact, recently I had a highlight video of a major tournament come across my feed. I was excited to view it for myself and share it with our students for inspiration. More than half of the highlights were so ugly that I decided I didn’t want our students watching it—and these were supposedly the best! Now, you know what they say, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and I suppose there is some skill in contorting your foot around to make contact with someone’s head, but it is looking less and less like the art I grew up in for the past 30 years.

And while I don’t want to sound like the cranky old guy who still bemoans interleague play or the advent of the forward pass, I would assert that these changes are a challenge to tradition that are dangerous. They result in a distortion of technique. As mentioned, technique and power adapt to score a point, even if it is no longer a great technique outside of a game of tag. In some of our scrimmages, I have certainly been scored on by some of these “newer style” kicks, and they would win the match. But I am confident that even without any padding I could walk through those “kicks” to the head and do a lot more damage with my old school stuff. I have always been very reluctant to call any sparring match a fight, because, well, it is not. I almost exclusively use the term match and competitor, not fighter. Admittedly, it is sometimes easier, especially if we are saying it more



generically in the sense of competitive spirit (in which case, we should all be fighters most every day). But more often is used because it sounds cooler. And while I know some fine TKD competitors who are also great martial athletes and when push comes to shove, could also be fighters, there are others who would make me cringe if the term was applied to them.

And my bigger concern is that these trends are not only changing the techniques but also the mentality as well. As previously mentioned, the emphasis is on scoring points and the flashy stuff is being rewarded. I used to say that a good match score was like a soccer score—1-0, 2-1, a blowout was 4-1. Now, they are like football scores, where 10-7 is low scoring. Originally the criteria for a point was determined to be technique of sufficient skill and power that if some control was not exercised, that technique would have ended the fight or at least precipitated the end. I used to laugh at people who got excited when they won a match 5-4. Yes, you “killed” the opponent 5 times, but you also died 4. While aggression does matter in a real fight, that is not sound martial arts thinking. And in a real fight, you most certainly don’t get extra credit for flash or style!!

Martial arts writer and Shotokan stylist David Hooper makes the point that ironically this distortion of technique is simultaneously occurring amidst cries for better judging/refereeing in the sport. He comments that if objectively we made every point what is really was supposed to be, and the winner was the only one who could continue, there would be no need for refs at all.

Furthermore, in an attempt to work the judges for penalties, I don’t know when TKD tournament turned into soccer matches, but I am tired of seeing competitors fall to the ground and roll around in agony upon suffering any minor infraction, only to miraculously recover to fight on. You don’t get to fashion yourself some type of modern gladiator one minute and then not only appeal for help, but even misrepresent the situation to a referee to help your situation the next.

Similarly, I feel like martial arts etiquette and composure is also seeing an erosion in martial arts competition, beyond just working the system. I can relate stories of yester year, where judo competitors had thrown their opponent but were still declared the loser, because they lost their concentration and celebrated their victory instead of remaining focused on “battle.” I seem to recall one account where the referee took the opportunity throw the distracted combatant before disqualifying him. No one can fathom that today, and I am sure the degree of celebration was by today standards still quite tame. But the point remains (no pun intended), that if you want to call yourself a warrior in the ring, then you don’t get to cry foul when any little thing goes against you and you don’t get to lose your composure in the heat of battle. Those are things that cannot happen in a real self-defense situation.

At the last tournament, we had one of our top competitors get robbed. That isn’t just my opinion. MANY instructors and the tournament directors told me so, and corrective measures were taken in the ring, but the damage was done against our student. What makes me proud is the way he lost with grace, composure, and a smile on his face, even in the face of unfairness. In my book, that is true martial arts etiquette, composure, and humility. Sadly, that isn’t being expected or reinforced in most martial arts tournaments today.

While this rant used examples specific to Taekwondo, I could easily replace the specifics with examples from BJJ, push hands, or other combat sports to make the same points. It may seem like I am talking out both sides of my mouth, but there are many positives to martial sport and I encourage our students to compete. But with most everything else in life, one must keep things in perspective and make sure they are not distorted. I complain because I care and don’t want to see those benefits be overshadowed or lost. There are much bigger rewards to martial sports than just a shiny medal or trophy, and I prefer our students take away those lessons. For it is those lessons that will make them better fighters the rest of their lives, way past when their competitive career is over.