

The background features a traditional Chinese scroll with intricate calligraphy in black ink on aged, yellowish paper. A wooden box, likely for brushes, is positioned at the top right, containing several brushes with dark tips. A brush with a dark handle and a light-colored tip lies across the scroll. The entire scene is set against a neutral, textured background.

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2010 OPEN MASTER ATHLETE JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 12th championships take place in Montreal, Canada from 17th – 22nd August. This will be the last WMJA championship as full responsibility for world masters judo is now held by the IJF. Keep checking www.masterathlete.com for updates.

OTHER MASTERS NEWS

New Competition Innovations – kyu grade and newaza events, they're here!

It's official, there is to be a newaza event at the WMJA Open Master Athlete Championships in Montreal. It'll take place on the Friday afternoon after the M4 age group completes.

The rules will be published on the website very shortly and I believe they are very similar or identical to those used in successful newaza events held in Lille, France and High Wycombe, England this year. The age and weight category format will depend on the entries received. We will employ a similar methodology to create the fighting categories as we have done in previous years for the women's shiai where there are sometimes low numbers in some divisions.

White judogi only please!

The organisers of the WMJA Open Master Athlete Championships in Montreal insist that all competitors (shiai and kata) wear white judogi only. No blue judogi allowed!

International Masters Judo Developments

Take a look at www.masterathlete.com and you'll find statements from WMJA President Arthur Canario and IJF President Marius Vizer clearly defining the way forward for Masters judo for 2010 and beyond. In a nutshell, the IJF will organise an annual World Championship and Montreal 2010 will be the last WMJA event.

Potential Grand Masters

A message from Liz Roach, "If you have won 5 golds in 5 different years – go to tournament updates on the WMJA website – click on GRAND Masters and fill in the information – please pass this along to anyone that you know".

"I require this information by July 15th, 2010"

Masters judo video footage!

Fred Guerra from Brazil sends the following message.

"After long hours editing, here I send the links for the main Masters Judo Competitions we took part in 2009. Enjoy and promote, please!

WMJA World MasterAthlete Championships Atlanta, USA, August 2009
<http://judotocantins.blogspot.com/2001/01/videos-world-masters-2009.html>

South American Masters, Porto Alegre, Brazil, September 2009
<http://judotocantins.blogspot.com/2001/01/sulamericano-master-2009.html>

Pan-Am Masters, Milford, USA, November 2009
<http://judotocantins.blogspot.com/2001/01/pan-am-masters-judo-2009.html>

Abraços.

Fred Guerra

<http://judotocantins.blogspot.com>”

Many thanks Fred. If anyone else has added their own video footage or photographic gallery to the web then be sure to let us know.

IJF World Grand Masters Championships, Budapest

900 competitors descended on Budapest for a very well run world championships and some top class judo on display. Many former Olympians, world and international medallists participated and the IJF made further improvements on the previous year such as all the women participating on the same day and a more even spread of categories across the 4 days ensuring that each day finished at a sensible time. Peripheral improvements such as a live internet feed of the competition through the IJF website, ready availability of water for the competitors etc added to the status of the event and promises well for the future.

For a full set of results and photos go to www.ijfveterans.com

Women's Judo – Masters tournaments!

Deborah Fergus, Chair of the United States Judo Association Women's Committee, reports a highly successful All Women's tournament and Coaches' conference was held in Las Vegas in January. This was the first of a series of five which Deborah is promoting across the USA this year. All of these will include Masters categories.

The next tournament in the series took place in Toronto, Canada from 18th – 19th June directed by our very own Liz Roach. This top quality event included a kata clinic given by Eiko Shepherd specifically studying goshin-jitsu and ju-no-kata

The Toronto championships also included both shiai and kata, with the shiai including age bands ranging from age 6 up to masters.

International participants are most welcome in this event series so please get in touch with Deborah at defrgs6@att.net or via the contact details below

Just to give you a flavour of what to expect, Deborah has forwarded me this report from Vancouver's Sandra Hewson on the All Women's Judo Championship in Cleveland, Ohio, USA on November 21, 2009.

“I flew on the red-eye to Toronto, drove for nearly 6 hours and went straight into a Kata clinic for 4 hours. Not exactly the best preparation for a Kata competition or shiai! Karen DuPage and Ryan O'Connor ran a good session splitting the group into Nage-no-Kata and Ju-no-Kata. There was also a group in a refereeing clinic run at the same time. I left to flake out in the hotel as the keen Kata people stayed extra and went through some Goshin-Jutsu.

As usual, in my hotel room after the Kata clinic, I went through my “Why am I here?” worry before a shiai. I hoped I'd made the right decision in convincing my husband to commit to the cost and time of a long weekend away from family.

I entered the Ju-no-Kata competition, first thing on Saturday and there was one other pair besides Louise Ullman and myself. It would have been good to have more pairs but with Kata you're competing for points rather than against others directly. We scored pretty well (so people said) especially considering we were a “pick-up” pair, Louise from Detroit and myself from BC.

Time seemed to fly by at the shiai as it was well organised and all the officials were really friendly and helpful. It was such a different experience seeing only girls and women, and so many of them, in some very tough matches with some really good techniques. Hats off to the referees who worked so hard with all the round-robin divisions and then the team event!

Was it worth the trip? Definitely!!

I had 8 matches in all - 3 in Masters and then 5 in Seniors, all tough. I would have had another 2 or 3 in Open Masters but the lady withdrew and I don't blame her. Julee Cope was the main draw-sheet organiser and had been running up and down stairs for hours by the time her matches should start. I could also have had matches in the Team event but the referees were getting a bit tired so Diane Manganaro and I switched to referee in our Gi's. Great fun!

The Team event seemed to be one of the best parts of the shiai. Half way through the day people put there their name down if they were interested in entering. Then the organisers worked out teams of 3 or 4 with U11 to Seniors in each team, trying to match weight and skill level as well as possible between the teams. This worked out most of the time in the matches. In the true spirit of judo, on a couple of occasions, the totally outmatched young girl was graciously given the opening to score the winning throw by her opponent. I was truly impressed and wanted to give a round of applause there and then (except I was refereeing the match at the time).

It was great to see Deborah Fergus spend time throughout the day walking round and talking to the judoka and parents, just listening to what they had to say. She was constantly on the ball, listening and finding out what people thought, good or bad, always learning and enjoying all the feedback.

At the end of the day all the medals were given out and most people stayed for the ceremony. They also had special awards including a Spirit award for Junior, Senior and Masters for best fighting spirit, a Best Technique award and an Iron Woman award which a young girl won for fighting 15 matches through the day excluding team!

To my utter surprise several people stopped me throughout the day saying that I was either inspiring their daughter or themselves or both. One parent told me her daughter had made a video all my matches so they could learn from them.

I am under NO illusions, trust me. My judo needs lots of work. I will never be a Senior World Champion. But one of my main long-term goals in judo is to be a good role model for women and girls, to be an inspiration through my instructing, coaching, competing, refereeing and anything else judo. So this feedback, more than medals or anything else, made the trip a VERY worthwhile experience."

WMJA Certificates

Looking for an official record of your participation or achievements in WMJA World MasterAthlete Judo tournaments? Then look no further. The WMJA have produced certificates recording participation and medal placing in every one of their events since 1999. If you wish to order one (price \$15) then take a look at this web page www.masterathlete.com/certificate.htm

Forthcoming Masters Events

August 14th Verna Larkins All Women's Tournament incl Masters, Northglenn, Colorado, USA
defrgs6@att.nett

August 17th – 22nd WMJA 2010 Open Master Athlete Championships, Montreal, Canada
www.masterathlete.com

September 25th – 26th Asian Grand Masters, Nagaoka, Japan,
www.ijfveterans.com

October 7th – 10th European Masters Championships, Porec, Croatia
www.ijfveterans.com

November 5th – 7th All Women's Championship incl Masters, Bowling Green, Ohio, USA
defrgs6@att.net

... and finally

Don't forget to regularly check the WMJA website for further news and updates for Montreal 2010.

Paul Sawyer.



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