

THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION MIDLANDS AREA

MENS AND BOYS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KEELE SPORTS CENTRE

ON SATURDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER, 1974

PROGRAMME 10p.

FOREWORD

by

JOHN M. THOMSON,

CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANISER

On behalf of the members of the Midland Area Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome all competitors, officials and spectators to the 1974 Men's and Boy's Team Championships.

The facilities which have been put at our disposal by the Physical Education Department of Keele University are undoubtedly first class and we are indepted to the staff of the university for their kind assistance in the running of these championships.

It is widely believed that team events produce greater excitement and are of greater entertainment value than individual events and it is hoped that these championships produce the kind of judo that is not only effective but is entertaining to spectators.

Since the introduction of new rules governing the scoring of points towards the dan degree earlier this year, it is now only possible to have one area event per year which is points scoring. The event which was nominated was the Senior Men's Individual Championships held in March, and therefore these Championships are not points scoring.

However, I am sure that they will be contested in a keen and sporting manner and that we can look forward to an exciting day of Judo.

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In recent years Judo has undergone a substantial change in the rules which govern the sport. The innovations which have been introduced, undoubtedly improve judo from a spectator point of view and also gives each contestant a clear indication, at any stage of the contest, of his relative score

At each table you will see two sets of scoring devices, a red one and a white one. A contestant wears a red or white sash and his score is shown on the score board relative to the colour of his sash.

The way a contestant can score is as follows.

1). IPPON

This is a ten point score and is the maximum score which can be awarded. If at any stage of the contest, a contestant scores IPPON, then the contest finishes.

- a). A throwing action which throws the opponent cleanly onto his back, with considerable force or impetus.
- b). A hold down lasting thirty seconds

IPPON may be scored as follows.

- c). A submission from a strangle or armlock.
- d). By scoring two WAZARIS.

2). WAZARI

This is a seven point score and is awarded for the following actions.

- a). A throwing action where one of the three factors for scoring IPPON (largely on the back, with considerable force, or impetus) is missing.
- b). A hold down lasting between twenty five and thirty seconds.

YUKO

This is a five point score and is awarded for the following actions.

- A throwing action where two of the above factors are missing and it does not merit the score of WAZARI.
- b). A hold down lasting between twenty and twenty five seconds.

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Judo is an international and Olympic sport. It's origins date back to the Japanese Samuri. Steeped in tradition with it's distinctive garb and ettiquette, it is a worthwhile and rewarding pastime, which is enjoyed by men and women throughout the world.

Judo at national and international level is hard and aggressive, and is practised by players who are superbly fit. They think nothing of being thrown hard and used like a pile driver. If they receive an injury anywhere short of a stretcher case, they carry on after receiving completely inadequate treatment. They shake hands at the end of a contest and despite having perhaps had an extremely hard thrashing, accept it in good grace.

Beneath the veneer of top judo there lurks at club level, a very different kind of judo player. He is unfit, overweight, hates pain and is terrified of being thrown. He comes to the club with both ankles and both knees heavily strapped up, and perhaps a wrist support as well. His kit is fifteen years old, faded and patched in numerous places. Sometime in the distant past he reached brown belt standard. It was so long ago that no one in the club dare contradict him, when he tells of how he smashed everyone in the grading examination, to win his belt. The belt he wears is a very deep brown, which with constant wear is so faded it is mistaken for black.

He is a coarse judo player. His judo is far removed from that seen at national level. He knows all the set little judo cliches, such as "Bending like the willow", "To overcome by accentuating force rather than opposing it", "Judo is the gentle way", to name, but a few. The only thing is that in practise he can't seem to get it to work that way.

He reminisces about training with Watanabe and Koizumi, whom he has never seen before, thinks that all these new rules spoil judo, when secretly he doesn't understand them and is too set in his ways to adopt knew methods.

He knows, or thinks he knows all there is to know about judo and if only he could devote more time to training hard, or was ten years younger, he would be a champion. He would have had his black belt long ago but the examiners kept putting him against twenty stone monsters, who eventually became Heavyweight British Champions What chance did he have against these kind of players.

When he goes on the mat he always avoids practising with black belts. "Well you have to encourage beginners - don't you?" and feels a sense of achievement if he manages to throw an orange belt or a green belt. If he doesn't manage to throw anybody - well it's not so bad. "You can't keep your fighting standard when your teaching". (He helps out with a childrens class when the instructor is on holiday).

If asked to go on with a black belt, he usually declines with the excuse that his knee is playing up a bit. Very occasionally he agrees, but only with someone whom he has known for many years and knows how to defend against. Having been at the club so long he has worked out ways of defending against most of the black belts that he has known, by watching them for a long time. When practising with them he again finds a sense of achievement, this time not throwing but avoiding being thrown himself.

"Well of course he beat me on the ground, never was my good point, ground work. But then Judo isn't really ground work is it? I mean it's throwing someone that counts isn't it? Yes I realise that I didn't throw him. but then he didn't throw me either, besides I was at a disadvantage with my bad knee and I couldn't turn on my left ankle either, so I didn't really have much of a chance. What do you mean I should pack up. Kano was still practising when he was eighty years old and if he can keep going that long, I have plenty time left. It's people like me that keep this club together. Just think of all the experience you would lose if I packed up. Yes! well I know that I only come now and again and that I always seem to miss the warming up exercises, but I've got committments you know and it is not so easy to get away sometimes. Besides with my knee, I couldn't do a lot of those exercises anyway".

Continued overleaf

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COARSE JUDO Continued . . .

On the rare occasions that he goes on the mat with someone who is far superior in judo standard to him, it is generally a mistake. On one such occasion he went on with a visitor from another club who was wearing a white belt. Actually he was a black belt third dan, but had forgotten his belt and had borrowed the white belt to hold his kit together. Unsuspecting our coarse judo player moved in for a flamboyant and very obvious O-Soto-Gari and was countered with a devasting throw which smashed him to the canvas with enough force to shake the Dojo to its foundations.

When he regained conciousness he dragged himself to the edge of the mat muttering obscenities at the pain he is suffering and when told that his opponent was a third dan, harangued his other club members for not warning him in time to feign injury and decline the practise. He hobbles off to the showers, plotting his revenge and considering reporting the third dan to the British Judo Association for unethical conduct.

"Well how was I supposed to know he was a third dan and had told everyone at the start of the practise. I mean, I couldn't get here for the start of the session with one thing and another and besides those exercises are a bit much. It's not fair at all, there was I looking for a nice gentle practise to get warmed up and to throw me like that when I was cold, he might have killed me. Got no sense of decency these people. Yes I know my belt looks as if it is black, but that is no excuse, he could have pulled the throw a bit and let me down gently. Third dans have a responsibility to take it easy on lower grades"

He leaves the showers and goes back to the Dojo, limping and holding his back. He only begins to feel better when he sees the third dan attempt a big throw on the edge of the mat. It would have come off beautifully, had the third dan not caught his foot in a small tear in the canvas. Instead he stumbled off the mat, lost his balance and fell heavily against the wall, splitting his head wide open in the process.

The third dan is taken to hospital while our doubtful hero is gloating over a pint in the local pub. Suddenly he realises the danger he is in, as the Championship Organiser for the Area has just walked in and is always on the scrounge for people to help out with moving mats and other unenviable work. He leaves half his beer and excuses himself to go to the gents, then sneaks out of the back door, before being pressured into agreeing to help out with any of the work which has to be done. He considers it is worth leaving some of his beer to get away and apart from that he wants to get home and tell his wife how he managed to throw a third dan and put him in the hospital.

The coarse judo players long suffering wife, knows him only to well and takes his stories about his judo exploits with a pinch of salt, while mentally saying to herself "Jackanory, Jackanory, Jackanory " She knows that really he would like to give up judo but refuses to admit that he is past it or will never be a Starbrook or a Parisi. Instead he believes that he could be exceptional, if it wasn't for "this blasted knee". Apart from that he revels in the advantages of being a judo player. He has a British Judo Association sticker on his car and always leaves his judo wrapped in his nearly black belt, on the front seat, where it can be easily seen by everyone who passes by. Locally he has a reputation for being a tough customer, purely and simply because he goes to judo, and since very few people in the area know anything about judo he is considered to be someone not to be taken lightly.

He has a job at the local town hall, every time they have a dance. He gets paid rather a nice little fee for being a bouncer, when he in fact does nothing except stand at the door all night. So far he has been lucky as no one has challenged him, as they are afraid of his reputation. Secretly he is worried that one day he may have to throw someone out who resists and not only smashes him but also the myth that surrounds his physical capabilities.

The National Squad members refer to this kind of judo player as a "Doughboy", meaning that they are as much use on a Judo mat as the Pillsbury Doughboy seen on the television adverts. I feel that this is rather unkind, but I dont let it worry me. I mean, they couldn't be referring to me? Could They?

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SEPTEMBER			
Sunday September	29th		
JUNIOR BOYS	Beginners & 1st Mon	Ryecroft	10 a.m.
SENIOR MEN	Kyu Grades	Nottingham	10 a.m.
SENION WEN	Kyu Grades	Nottingnam	10 4.111.
OCTOBER			
Sunday October 6t	h		
SENIOR MEN		Stoke-on-Trent	10 a.m.
SENIOR WOMEN		d Arts Centre	2 p.m.
JUNIOR GIRLS		nd Arts Centre	10 a.m.
		id Aits Centre	10 a.iii.
Sunday October 13 SENIOR MEN		Laignator	10 a.m.
	Kyu Grades	Leicester	
JUNIOR BOYS	Beginners & 1st Mon	Worcester	10 a.m.
JUNIOR BOYS	2nd Mon and above	Worcester	2 p.m.
Sunday October 27		0. " 1	10
JUNIOR BOYS	Beginners & 1st Mon	Stafford	10 a.m.
JUNIOR BOYS	2nd Mon and above	Stafford	2 p.m.
SENIOR MEN	Kyu Grades Fis	her & Ludlow	10 a.m.
NOVEMBER			
NOVEMBER			
Sunday November			4.0
JUNIOR BOYS	Beginners & 1st Mon	Burton	10 a.m.
Sunday November		2.15	54
JUNIOR BOYS	2nd Mon and above	Burton	10 a.m.
JUNIOR GIRLS	All Grades	Burton	2 p.m.
SENIOR MEN	Kyu Grades	Coventry	2 p.m.
SENIOR MEN	Kyu Grades	Worcester	10 a.m.
Sunday November	24th		
JUNIOR BOYS	Beginners & 1st Mon	Northampton	10 a.m.
JUNIOR BOYS	2nd Mon and above	Northampton	2 p.m.
SENIOR WOMEN	Kyu Grades	Worcester	10 a.m.
JUNIOR GIRLS	All Grades	Leicester	10 a.m.
DECEMBER			
Sunday December	8th		
SENIOR MEN		nam Judo Club	10 a.m.
JUNIOR BOYS	Beginners & 1st Mon	Metal Box	10 a.m.
JUNIOR BOYS	2nd Mon and above	Metal Box	2 p.m.
Monday December		Wiotai Box	- p
SENIOR WOMEN	Kyu Grades	Olympus	7 p.m.
Sunday December		Olympus	7 p.iii.
SENIOR MEN	Kyu Grades	Stafford	10 a.m.
SENIOR MEN		/ellingborough	10 a.m.
JUNIOR BOYS	Beginners & 1st Mon	Leicester	10 a.m.
JUNIOR BOYS	2nd Mon and above	Leicester	2 p.m.
JUNIOR GIRLS	All Grades	Worcester	10 a.m.

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For any information as to your nearest Judo Club or about Judo activities in the Midlands Area please write to the British Judo Association, Midlands Area Office, Kenpass Hall, Kenpass Highway, Coventry.