



European Tours

Paris, German, Austrian Int'nl



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Ogawa's Debut vs Pro-Wrestler



PREVIEW

1997

U.S. SR

NATIONALS





N. OGAWA Displays His Dynamic New "TORNADO VALLEY DROP", To Be Used In Professional Fighting!



USA's JAMES PEDRO is the highest seeded male for the U.S. Senior Nationals. Pedro recently captured the German International -71kg Title, with a surprising win over the Olympic -65kg Champion Udo Quellmalz

World Championships

What's Inside

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**MEN'S -60KG, -65KG,
-71KG**

**WOMEN'S -48KG, -52KG,
-56KG**

**Several Top JAPANESE
FIGHTERS RETIRE!
Yet the Europeans are
Sure to Return, As Well
As Many Newcomers
Like N. Korea's -48kg K.
Sun and China's +72kg
F. Sun!**

Some of the older veterans in the Judo world will be retiring, and others are soon to follow. Espe-



RYOKO TAMURA (JPN)

cially from the Japanese National Team, champions of yore are

beginning to step aside for the young up and comers. Specifically, heavyweight 4 time World Champ Naoya Ogawa has officially retired. Also, -78kg veteran Toshihiko Koga will be taking this year out of Judo, and -86kg Uchimata specialist Hidehiko Yoshida may be retiring.

For the other countries, Hungary's 1992 Olympic Champ Antal Kovacs (-95kg) may soon be on his way out, as well as his rival from Spain Aurelio Fernandez. Some of these veterans and old champions stick around for a while after their peak, and often give chase for the medals; yet, they are still on the downhill side of their Judo careers.

Many newcomers moved up to the top slots at the last Worlds and Olympics. Such young bloods include for the Men: Japan's -60kg Tadahiro Nomura and -

71kg Kenzo Nakamura, and for the Women: surprise Olympic Champions -48kg Kye Sun of Korea and -61kg Yuko Emoto of Japan.

Of course, there are several stable returning champions, who are at their peak and have dominated over the past 3-4 years, such as France's heavyweight David Douillet, Poland's -95kg powerhouse Pawel Nastula, and Korea's speedy -86kg Ki-Young Jeon. For the Women, consistent champions include -56kg Driulis Gonzalez of Cuba, -66kg Min-Sun Cho of Korea, and Belgium's -72kg Ulla Werbrouck.

Let's have a look at the weight category break down, who are the leaders, and who should give chase

WOMEN

- -48KG
(Please turn to Page 9)

Bernie Semel
6365-6 Rancho Mission Rd.
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Ogawa's Debut vs Pro-Wrestler



Nori Bunasawa, 6-Dan Kodokan Judo (Bunasawa-Kai) Goshinjutsu, Taihojutsu

- All Tokyo University Champion.
- All Japan Silver Medalist.
- All Tokyo University Team Champion.
- All State Grand Champion.
- All Japan University Team Championships 2nd.
- Member of Japanese Olympic/World Team.
- Member of Waseda University Team.
- Kimura style Judo/Jujitsu direct instruction from M. Kimura Shihan.
- Tomiki Aikido direct instruction from Founder Tomiki Shihan.
- Goshindo direct instruction from Founder H. Jono Shihan.

PRO JUDO DEBUT!! PRO-JUDO VS. PRO-WRESTLIN

N. Ogawa Vs. S. Hashimoto

The date - April 12th. The location - the Tokyo Dome. The crowd - 65,000. The reason? The first ever fight between a Japanese Judo World Champion, Naoya Ogawa, and a Pro-Wrestler, Shinya Hashimoto. The four-time World heavyweight Champion, Ogawa, announced both his retirement from Judo and his intention to begin fighting on a professional level against other disciplines, such as Pro-Wrestling. The rules that will govern Ogawa's first big fight include knee and foot locks, punching and kicking,



NAOYA OGAWA Meets Rival SHINYA HASHIMOTO Before The Big Fight!!

along with traditional Judo and Wrestling techniques.

We believe that a top level Judoka, such as Ogawa, has tremendous potential to succeed in such fights. In fact, another Olympic Champion Judo heavyweight, Georgian David Khakhaleishvili is now fighting in a similar professional circuit, where he has recently defeated a high ranking wrestler. It's becoming more

apparent that all-around fighting ability requires many elements which a Judoka already possesses. Standing techniques demand powerful balance to successfully throw an opponent. Various mat skills, such as pins, chokes, and armbars will "finish off" an opponent, and are all inclusive in Judo. The only areas in which Ogawa needs real improvement are in punching and kicking.

To prepare for his professional debut,



Ogawa displays his defense against the typical leg tackle attack!

Ogawa sparred with a former amateur wrestler, Fujito, who definitely had his hands full against the former World Champ. Initially, Fujito attempted to leg tackle the 6'4", 286 pound Ogawa, but he found himself being countered by Ogawa's new "tornado valley drop," a dangerous Sukui-nage style of throw, where the opponent is picked up high into the air and dropped back onto his head.

French Int'nl

PARIS, FRANCE - The Paris Internationals are typically the most significant European tournament of the year.

JAPANESE TEAM Dominates With 7 Golds Overall!

JAPANESE MEN Take Total Of 4 Golds, Spearheaded By '92

German Int'nl

Austrian Internationals. By observing the line-up of players, it becomes apparent that many of the top Judo competitors

a chance to test the international waters. At -60kg, it was interesting to see the Japanese send their

most significant European tournament of the year, and more so in 1997, with the Worlds taking place in Paris in October! Not all of the Atlanta Olympic medalists showed, but a good deal were on hand, especially from the Korean Men's squad, and the Cuban Women's team.

The big tournament took place on the weekend of February 7 to the 9th, at the Paris Qurbertan Stadium, an older stadium that

Dominates With 7 Golds Overall!
Japanese Heavyweight Shinji Shinohara Topples F. Moller (GER) & H. Van Barneveld (BEL).
Women Olympic Champs G. Vandecaveye (-61kg, BEL) & U. Werbrouck (-72kg, BEL) Drop To Third Place

Total Of 4 Golds, Spearheaded By '93 World Champ R. Sonoda At -60kg!
USA's JIM PEDRO DEFEATS UDO QUELLMALZ (GER)!

Munich, GERMANY - The 1997 German International Invitation was held on March 22-23, on the weekend following the

becomes apparent that many of the top Judo countries alternate first and second team players between tournaments. For instance, Korea sent their star player -86kg Ki-Young Jeon to Paris and Austria, but not here in Germany.

MEN

Japan also alternates various top level players in and out of the European tournaments, giving all

ing to see the Japanese send their 1993 World Champion Ryuji Sonoda back on the front lines, after omitting him from the Olympics in favor of Tadahiro Nomura. Winning the Gold here, Sonoda showed that he can still contend at this level of competition, and indeed that the Japanese have great depth with their lightweights.

In the -71kg division, the Japanese

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Judo Journal

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is not the location of the Paris Worlds. Almost 60 countries with a total of 423 players, 217 men and 206 women, were in attendance.



Japanese Heavyweight Hope,
 SHINJI SHINOHARA

DAY 1

- MEN'S: -60kg, -65kg
- WOMEN'S: -66kg, -72kg, + 72kg

Continued On Page 4

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.IJF

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Mitsuyo Maeda

The Legendary Story Of "Conde-Koma" Mitsuyo Maeda

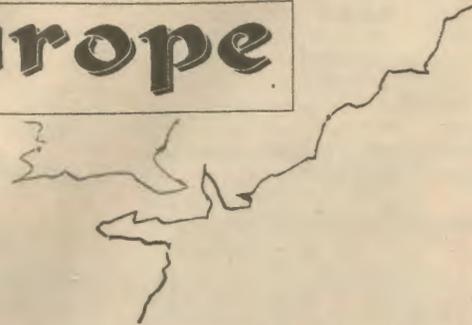


**Mitsuyo Maeda
Conde-Koma**

1878-1941
We continue here the story of Mitsuyo Maeda, the harbinger of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Maeda, a direct student of Professor Kano, travelled at his sensei's request in 1904 to the U.S. and Europe to exhibit the superiority of Judo over all other fighting styles. At 5'5" and 140 lbs., Mitsuyo Maeda (4th Dan) fought as

Europe

by Michael Watt



MAEDA DISPLAYS Judo To Other Parts Of Europe!!

defeated the Judoka under Greco-Roman rules.

Now Mitsuyo looked to even up the score and defend the honor of the Kodokan by challenging Esson to a no-holds-barred fight, something more to his forte. Apparently, Esson excelled in brains as well as brawn, because he told the Judo master that he would clear this mistake, by asking the present newspaper journalist to write an article of Esson's apology, with his signature on



Kodokan Judokas performing in Europe in the early 1900's, include, from left: Akitaro Ono, Shiro Satake, Tokugoro Ito, and MITSUYO MAEDA

MAEDA TRAVELS TO BELGIUM, CONTESTS More Wrestlers, This Time Under "CATCH CAN" Rules!

returning to London. So he travelled the short 20 miles across the English Channel to the coast of Belgium and met with the

pressed by Maeda's abilities, and wanted to introduce him to the local Athletic Club owner.

A time was set for a club meeting. Being led through the club by the owner, Mitsuyo observed that the gym had recently been established, and was in dire need of funds for upkeep and development. The club owner was gracious enough, and asked if Maeda would teach some of his winning Judo techniques there, to drum up business. The Judo enigma was more than happy to comply, and that night they set out to celebrate Mitsuyo's arrival with champagne.

MAEDA CHALLENGED By Wrestling Teacher!!

On the first day of the Judo clinic, Mitsuyo was approached by one of the school's wrestling teachers, who confronted him, saying "I heard that you are a pretty good wrestler. I would like to challenge you tonight." In customary Japanese fashion, Maeda downplayed his wrestling abilities, and responded, "I am totally a white belt in wrestling, but if you would like still to challenge me, than I accept."

Taking him aside, one of Maeda's students asked him, "Mr. Maeda, this must be some joke! I saw you defeat many top ranked wrestlers at the Alhambra World Wrestling Championships." But Maeda's way was not to draw attention to himself or his skills, and he suggested to the student that the only reason he had fought so successfully is that in Alhambra they had fought in the

Mitsuyo Maeda (4th Dan) fought as Conde-Koma, and challenged any fighters.

After Europe, he returned to the Americas, and in Brazil (1914) accepted as his first non-Asian student Carlos Gracie, who created Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Maeda married in Brazil and settled down there. The Gracies continue his legacy by accepting challenges and demonstrating time and again the effectiveness of techniques which originated from the Kodokan.

"DO YOU WANT TO FIGHT?"

Remember where we left off in the last issue of Mitsuyo Maeda? Maeda had been verbally embarrassed in a local newspaper by his huge Scotch opponent, wrestler Jimmy Esson, who had previously

newspaper journalist to write an article of Esson's apology, with his signature on it.

Esson turned to Maeda, "Will you accept these conditions?" Standing in the midst of Esson's gym, with the journalist at hand, Maeda accepted the apology, and was happy to read in the following day's newspaper the article with Esson's signature, including a favorable description of martial art of Judo!

From Alhambra, Maeda struck up the notion that it might be exciting to travel to Brussels, before

the English Channel to the coast of Belgium, and went an additional 50 miles to reach the Brussels capital. Curious about this town and its people, Maeda walked into a cafe and took a seat.

In no longer than it takes to order a beer, the Judoka was approached by another customer, who had seen him fight a few weeks prior in the First World Wrestling Championships in England. The customer said that he was so im-

pressed so successfully in Alhambra they had fought in the "catch as catch can" style, and not under Greco-Roman rules. But of course, the reverse was the case.

Mitsuyo and the Wrestling teacher stepped onto the mat. Both had agreed to fight the first round under the Greco-Roman rules, and the second round under the "catch can" rules, where submission techniques were included. The

(Please turn to Page 4)

German Int'n'l

(Continued from Page 1)

opted to send their Olympic Champion Kenzo Nakamura. Another huge entry here, and fighting on home turf was the 2-time World and Olympic -65kg Champ Udo Quellmalz, who must have missed his lighter weight division cut. Also entered was USA's Olympic Bronze Jim Pedro. Unfortunately for the Japanese, straight out in round #1, Nakamura, who has not been seen since the Olympics, lost to the unknown Uzbekistani Storvein on a koka point.

Quellmalz advanced, as did USA's Jim Pedro. In fact, the two met in the semifinals. Since moving up to -71kg, Pedro has not had a chance to avenge his 1993 Hamilton Worlds defeat at the hands of Quellmalz in the -65kg category, which sent him back to 5th Place overall. Now was his opportunity. Jim fought aggressively to gain the lead with 2 yuko's and a wazari over Quellmalz' yuko. A further keikoku penalty on the German, gave Pedro the sogo-gachi win, and his first big European Title!

The German's did win one Gold at -86kg, with their Olympic Bronze Marco Spittka. The highest seed in this category was the Olympic Silver Medalist Armen Bagdasarov of Uzbekistan, who fell down to 7th overall, indicating that the Uzbekistanians swift claim to Olympic fame could have been a fluke!

In the heavyweight +95kg division, the Japanese came armed with their young hope Yashiharu Makishi and the veteran "always in the background behind Ogawa" player Naoto Yabu. However, Makishi fought not in full condition, due to a nagging injury. He still was capable of upending the World Bronze



USA's Jim Pedro

Selim Tataroglu of Turkey with a powerful full point Uchimata, sending him back to 5th overall.

However, Makishi could not reach past the strong Harry Van Barneveld (BEL) in the semifinals, who defeated the Japanese on a keikoku penalty. To answer back, Japan's Yabu made up for Makishi's demise, by throwing the Belgian in the Finals with a full point Ouchigari inner foot reap, handing the strong Japanese Team their 4th Gold here in Germany.

Makishi came back in the repechage to capture the Bronze.

WOMEN

The Cuban Women continued on their roll, after gaining 4 Golds

Austrian Int'n'l

CUBAN'S Take 3 Golds / Korea's MIN-SUN CHO Regains Focus At -66kg!

in Austria. Two of their Austrian Gold Medalists had a repeat here, including the drop Seoingage specialist -52kg Driulis Gonzalez and newcomer -61kg Kenia Rodriguez. The third Gold was won by the always tough -48kg contender Amarilis Savon.

USA's Hillary Wolf, who defeated Savon in Austria and went on to capture the Gold there, fell in the quarterfinals here against a new German player Dorte Danmany, and in the repechage Wolf lost by ippon to Japan's Tomoe Makabe, finally slipping to 7th Place overall.

At -52kg, the World and Olympic Champion D. Gonzalez has now won the Paris, Austrian, and German Internationals, to show her off her superior skill going into 1997! Once again, her main weapon is a very powerful, "snapping", low Seoingage. This wave-like body movement, or snapping action not only catches many players, but also plays well with the referees; in other words, if the throw is ineffective, it still looks like a serious attempt, and is not awarded a "fake attempt" penalty, which so many penalty happy referees are handing out these days.

(Continued on Page 4)

Leonding Austria - Held on the weekend of February 14-16, the Austrian Internationals were the third "A" ranked European tournament so far held this year. The week before in Paris, the Japanese squad had dominated with 7 Golds, men and women

combined, but here in Leonding, the Korean Men and the Cuban Women in particular held everyone at bay.

MEN

Several players fought here from

Continued On Page 4

⚡ KRUGANS ⚡

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French Int'nl

Continued from Page 2

Japan's No. 2 Seeds Take Gold This Day For Men's -60kg & -65kg. Noriko Anno Fights Well In Her New -72kg Division

MEN

The Korean Team made a show of force, led by the unstoppable -86kg Ki-Young Jeon and his teammates -71kg Dae-Sung Kwak and -78kg In-Chul Cho. World and Olympic Champion Jeon is the holder of Judo Journal's 1996 "World Runner Up" honor. All three captured Golds here. The Japanese Men's Team tied with 3 Golds, winning the two lightest weight divisions by new up and comers, and looking sharp in the heavyweights with a win by the '95 World Bronze Shinji Shinohara.

• -60kg - Men's

The major world players were absent from this division. Yet, Japan's #2 position fighter Kazuhiro Tokuno swept through the opposition as if he were their Olympic Champion T. Nomura. **TOKUNO WON 5 OF HIS 6 FIGHTS BY IPPON!** Even in the Final Match, where Tokuno



Japan's -60kg K. TOKUNO

faced Korean newcomer Dae-

ranked players, including Belarus (former Soviet province), who's Rachad Mamedov captured Third. The other Third went to Spain's Oscar Penas. USA and Canadian players were absent in this category.



Japan's -65kg N. UCHIMURA

• -65kg - Men's

The top contenders here all landed in Pool A. Once again, the Olympic First and Second placers, Germany's famed Udo Quellmalz and Japan's Yukimasa Nakamura, were absent. In Nakamura's stead came the upcomer Naoya Uchimura. Also present was the Olympic Bronze Henrique Guimaraes of Brazil and the Hungarian veteran Jozsef Csak.

Guimaraes made it to the third round, where he fell to Korea's new Hyuk Kim. Like the Japanese, ALL KOREAN PLAYERS ARE TOUGH! Yet, Kim could not reach past the Hungarian technician, and Barcelona Olympic Silver J. Csak. Csak went on to face Japan's young Uchimura in the Pool Finals, and fell victim to his Uchimata for a koka point win.

Moving up to face Uchimura for the Title was the unknown French player Larbi Benboudaoud. Here, Uchimura moved well with a nicely timed counter to Benboudaoud's Osoto-gari for an ippon win and the Paris Title!

The veteran Csak went home with a Third Place finish, as well as did Korea's Hyuk Kim. USA's Alex Otieno fought

couple of other Olympic top seeds, -61kg Gella Vandecaveye and -72kg Ulla Werbrouck, both from Belgium. There was some unfortunate news at -66kg, where Judo Journal's 1996 "World Player of the Year" Min-Sun Cho of Korea was hit with a Juji-gatame armbar so hard by Britain's Kate Howey, that she did not continue in the repechage, which is uncharacteristic for an Asian fighter, unless she has sustained some injury.

KOREA Takes Big Loss At -66kg, Where Star M.S. Cho Taken By Juji-gatame!

• -66kg - Women's

This division contained over 30 fighters. The unfortunate happened for the Korean's, when their top Women's star player Min-Sun Cho was apparently injured in the quarterfinal against England's Kate Howey. Howey was a Bronze Medalist back at the '92 Olympics, but was surely unsuspected of causing damage to Min-Sun, winner of the Atlanta Olympics and previous two World Championships.

The tall Uchimata / Ouchi-gari specialist Min-Sun could well have been caught off guard by Howey, who's Juji-gatame assault kept Cho from a repechage challenge. We were concerned that Cho had a serious elbow injury; however, the good news came when Min-Sun returned to compete in other February European Tournaments, including a win at the German Internationals.

Howey went on to defeat Japan's new Natsuko Sano in the Pool A Finals, to make a Gold Medal challenge against the unknown Frenchwoman Isabelle Beuruelle. Beuruelle looked good in her previous match by defeating the At-

Bronzes were won by Claudia Zwiwers (NED) and Japan's Natsuko Sano. No USA or Canadian contestants here.

BIG UPSETS At -72kg - Olympic Champ U. Werbrouck (BEL) & World Champ D. Luna (CUB) Fall!

• -72kg - Women's

Sometimes the top seeds fall short at other than World status tournaments. Why is that? Oftentimes at a tournament such as the various European Internationals, top fighters are just checking other players, or adjusting their techniques, and may not be fighting at full force. Then at the Worlds or Olympics, they come through for the big stakes.

Such was possibly the scenario in this division. Coming up in Pool A was the Olympic 5th Placer Tatiana Beliaeva of the Ukraine, who was looking strong by defeating Japan's Y. Fukuba with a full point Uranage throw. Then the big upset came in round 4, when Beliaeva defeated the highest world -72kg seed, Olympic Champion Ulla Werbrouck of Belgium.

Then in the other pool, the Cuban 1995 World Champion Diadenis Luna lost



Noriko Anno (JPN) now fights at -72kg!

Olympic Champ U.



the pool Final Match by a koka point against Japan's former top +72kg player Noriko Anno. Anno prepared for her Final's matchup against the burning hot Beliaeva, but apparently the Ukrainian had sustained some injury, and withdrew from the Title bout, handing Anno the Paris Gold.

Werbrouck seized Third Place, and Diadenis Luna fell to 5th, after being vexed by another Japanese, Y. Fukuba who took the 2-1 decision in the repechage Final.

• +72kg - Women's

This division was interesting with the entry of China's upcoming heavyweight Hua Yuan, winner of the December Fukuoka's at +72kg, where Yuan defeated her own teammate, the Olympic Champion Fuming Sun, to show the depth of the Chinese heavyweight team.

So it was a shock to see an unknown French player, Gaelle Potel take out Yuan in round 3. But Potel's fate then pitted her against the strong Cuban contender Daima Beltran, who defeated Potel to move up to the Title bout.

In the other pool, France's Olympic Third Christine Cicot lost to the unknown Korean Lee-Hyun Kyung. Kyung then lost to Cicot's teammate Celine Lebrun, who moved up to face Beltran for the Title. Lebrun pleased the home crowd by downing the Cuban with Kosoto-gake for her first big international win, which was also Team France's first and only win here.

China's Hua Yuan and France's Potel Gaelle settled for Thirds. Keep in mind that the French beef up here on home turf, and allow up to 8 French contestants in EACH WEIGHT DIVISION! The French are extremely Judo strong, and show great depth in many weight classes. At the Olympics, they won medals in 6 of the 14 weight divisions (men and women), taking 3 Golds. Interestingly, here on home turf though, they did not send some of their best talent, including for the men, heavyweight D. Douillet and -78kg - Olympic Champ D. Bouras.

facéd Korean newcomer Dae-Hyun Moon, good balance and footwork earned the Japanese at first a wazari by Kouchi-gari, and then a full ippon throw with Kosoto-gari.

Other countries sent their second

Third Place finish, as well as did Korea's Hyuk Kim. USA's Alex Otiano fought here in Pool B, and was blown out in his first fight against the Russian Moussa Nastouev.

WOMEN

The Japanese Women looked great by taking 4 Golds, even ousting out most of the top Cuban contenders, as well as a

Beauruelle. Beauruelle looked good in her previous match by defeating the Atlanta Bronze Medalist Claudia Zwiers of Holland. Against Howey though, Beauruelle was simply out-powered, as the Englander picked her up with a full point Uchimata for the Gold.

Olympic Champ U. Werbrouck (-72kg) falls in Paris!



Austrian Int'n'l

from page 3

the Paris Internationals, with a total of 38 countries represented. In the Men's light an mid-dleweight divisions, three Korea fighters dominated. In the Men's lightest -60kg division, Korea's new Dae-Hyun Moon ousted out two Japanese players by full point,

KOREAN MEN CONTINUE TO DOMINATE EUROPE!

D.H. Moon (-60kg), D.S. Kwak (-71kg) & K.Y. Jeon (-86kg) All Capture Gold!

CUBAN WOMEN Return To Top Status With 4 Golds, Led By Champ D. Gonzalez (-56kg), U.S. WOMEN GIVE CHASE!!



Korea's Min-Sun Cho

injured when England's Kate Howey hit her with a strong Juji-gatame armar. Cho then took an uncharacteristic Third the following week in Austria at the heavier -72kg weight class, but returned to form here with the -66kg win, albeit over unknown challengers.

Fighting at -72kg, USA's Sandra Bacher came up with another European medal, by winning the repechage Title match over Korea's Y.H. Choi. Bacher has looked strong on this year's European circuit, capturing the Austrian Silver, the German Bronze, and the Hungarian Gold.

For the Women's heavyweights, it was the new upcoming Chinese starter Hua Yuan, who rose above such names as Korea's World Third H.K. Lee, Cuba's Daima Beltran and Japan's Miho Ninomiya. Yuan started raising eyebrows with her Fukuoka win in December over the Olympic Champion, her teammate Fuming Sun. This was her second international Title in 3 months.

In all, the Cuban team led with 3 Golds, followed by Japan, Belgium, Korea, and China, all taking one apiece



+95kg K. Inoue

German Int'n'l

(Continued from Page 3)

OLYMPIC -61KG 1st & 2nd Placers, Yuko Emoto (JPN) & Gella Vandecaveye (BEL) Cannot Reach Past CUBA'S NEW KENIA RODRIGUEZ!

It looks like the Cuban's may have a steady -61kg contender. In Atlanta, the Cuban Women medalled in every weight division except two, -66kg where their former 1992 Olympic Champ Odalis Reve could only reach to 5th Place, and -61kg, a category in which they did not place at all in the top 7. Kenia Rodriguez may change all that, with a show of dominance by winning the Austrian and German Internationals.

And she did it here by rising above both Atlanta Olympic finalists. The surprise Olympic Gold, young Yuko Emoto of Japan lost here to China's unknown Y. Quin by a koka point, to be sent to the repechage. The Olympic Silver, Belgium's always strong Gella Vandecaveye, also fell back to the repechage. An interesting match-up came when Vandecaveye had a chance to avenge her Olympic loss to Emoto in the repechage Final, and did so with a Sankaku-gatame pin for ippon! K. Rodriguez continued on for the Gold. Canada's Michelle Buckingham managed to reach 5th Place here.

At -66kg, it was great news for the Korean's, to bring back their Olympic Gold Min-Sun Cho to top status. Remember that Cho fell out of the competition in Paris, perhaps temporarily

Kenichi Harada and the Paris International winner Kazuhiko Tokuno to take the -60kg Gold, avenging his Paris Finals loss to Tokuno.

Two other Korean top performers continued their winning streaks, the World Silver Medalist Dae-Sung Kwak at -71kg and star player Ki-Young Jeon at -86kg. At -71kg, USA's Olympic Third Jim Pedro as well as Brazil's Sebastian Pereira fell to Thirds behind Kwak. Actually, Pedro faced the Korean straight out in round #1, and narrowly lost by a

split decision. The American star returned in repechage action to defeat all three opponents by ippon for the Bronze.

In Ki-Young Jeon's -86kg category, there simply was no one to challenge, and the Olympic Champ moved up for another First Place, following his Paris International win.

At -95kg, Japan's new face H. Hanjo created a big upset by taking the Gold over the Atlanta Silver Medalist Min-Soo Kim of Korea, who wound up 3rd overall.

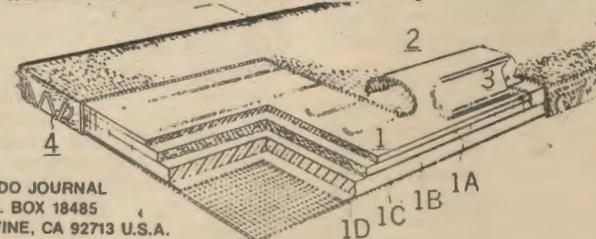
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Mitsuyo Maeda

Continued from Page 3

Wrestler was of about similar size to Maeda.

Mitsuyo felt uncomfortable defeating the wrestling teacher at his own school, but he remembered that this was a Judo clinic, and decided to take the challenge seriously. The fighters squared off! At the onset, Maeda decided to hold back his offensive for a while, just to see what kind of power his opponent harbored. But the instructor also chose not to initiate the attack, so Maeda picked up the pace and began his movement. First he pushed the instructor to bring a response, and when the wrestler pushed back, he whipped around with an Ippon Seoinage that landed the teacher cleanly.

He then mounted him, and attempted to press back his shoulders for the pin, but the instructor bridged to escape. Mitsuyo stayed on top and kept on the pressure, long enough for the wrestler to just give up, handing the Judoist a first round victory!

Before the second round "catch as catch can" part of the competition began, the wrestler approached Maeda, and heavily breathing he asked if Mitsuyo would be willing to fight the second round tomorrow, as he was not in good condition today. Maeda smiled, and accepted the request. Then he overheard the wrestler telling a student that he felt out of condition due to such champaign consumption the previous night, and also that Maeda was heavier than himself.

But before showering up, Maeda observed the man weigh in 20 pounds heavier than himself.

But, no matter. The next night before the Judo clinic began, the gym hosted a first boxing competition, between a puncher from London and one from Brussels. The outcome was a bit of a blood bath, with the London boxer as victor. But what astonished Maeda, was that in this culture, in contrast to the Japanese, such brutality was well received, even by the women who were presently cheering away in the audience.



HUGE WRESTLER JIMMY ESSON of Scotland backs down to Maeda's "No-holds-barred" challenge!!

MAEDA DEFEATS WRESTLER AGAIN, As Well As Man From Audience!

For the Judo part of the venue, many Judo fans showed, in anticipation of the "catch can" style of event. To start, Mitsuyo faced the Wrestling instructor again, this time more on his own turf, and made short work of him before the Brussels crowd, in a fight which lasted less than 2 minutes.

With a desire to please the audience, Mitsuyo then asked the them if there was anyone who wished to challenge him. One of the spectators arose, a strong looking, well built rather large man. He was a wrestler, who Maeda later found out had been pre-arranged by the club owner to challenge a fight. But Mitsuyo also toyed with this wrestler, eventually taking an armbar to

finish the match.

After the Judo "clinic", the excited club owner again took Maeda out for another champaign dinner, and offered him a position as Judo instructor at the athletic club. But Mitsuyo felt that the offered salary was too low for him, and declining, he returned back to London. Yet, he enjoyed himself in this west European land, had a chance to visit a carnival, fancied champaign dinners, and best of all had a chance to expound his special techniques of an art still foreign in many countries.

CONDE-KOMA!

MAEDA Receives Ring Name, "CONDE-KOMA", In Barcelona!!

It was by a twist of fate that Maeda took his official ring

name, "Conde Koma!" In May of 1908, after returning back to London from Brussels, Mitsuyo received a letter of invitation from Barcelona, Spain, to come out and demonstrate his Judo skill.

With so many invitations to demonstrate Judo, Mitsuyo's penchant for travel was being wonderfully fulfilled. It's also interesting to note that many of these countries, even if small, in which Maeda brought the teachings of Judo, later become very strong Judo contenders in today's Olympic circuit. England, Belgium, and Spain have regularly produced strong champions!

On May 27th, Mitsuyo travelled from London to Paris, where he boarded a 38 hour train ride, through the high Pyrenees Mountains to reach Barcelona. In the olden times, the Pyrenees were a great defense wall for Spain from central Europe, being very difficult for troops to pass.

Maeda met his trip organizer at the Barcelona station, and was taken by horse wagon to one of the best hotels, just at the outskirts of town. Barcelona lies on the coast of the Mediterranean in northeast Spain, and its beauty made quite an impression on the Japanese master. Yet, he couldn't help but wonder if the sports club that he would be visiting, was as deteriorated as the one in Brussels.

Other JAPANESE JUDOKA Brought to Spain The Same Time As Maeda!

Mitsuyo met the owner of the theater where he would be displaying his Judo skills, a nice man who informed Maeda that he had also invited another Japanese Judo player to Spain. This

Judoka had made claims that he was the Japanese Judo Champion. Mitsuyo knew the other Judo man well, and informed the theater owner that if this Japanese self proclaimed "champion" found out that Maeda was in town, he would not come to Barcelona.

Seeing that he might lose a future performer, the theater owner sought to cover Maeda's true identity by giving him another name, a "ring" name. Maeda tried to help, and came up with the Japanese word "Komaru," which means "trouble" or "in trouble." But the owner felt that it just didn't sound quite right, so he thought, "What about 'Koma', just take off the "ru." Then another friend came up with the idea of adding a Spanish name to it, "Coma," which means "royal family."

Mitsuyo's new stage name would be "CONDE KOMA," a name that he felt good about, as this would elevate the status of Judo to "royal family," a status which he felt was necessary to keep it above the more brutal fighting stylists, such as boxers and certain wrestlers.

"Conde Koma." Little did Mitsuyo and his friends know that this would one day become a popular name for one of the toughest fighters in Spain and eventually abroad.

NEXT ISSUE PRELUDE

Another Judo instructor from Japan, who proclaims himself to be the Japanese "Champion" shows up in Spain. He hears of a Judo fighter who calls himself "Conde Koma," and challenges him! Little does he know that Conde Koma was no ordinary Judoka; but a direct student and emissary of Jigoro Kano's!

Ogawa's Debut vs Pro-Wrestler

Continued from page-2.

This particular throw is boosted by Ogawa's height, and in this case unfortunately gave his sparring partner a concussion. The Judo Champ also demonstrated good defense against the punch, as when Fujito came in slugging, Ogawa blocked and threw him with Harai-goshi, to finish him off on the ground with a Juji-gatame armbar.

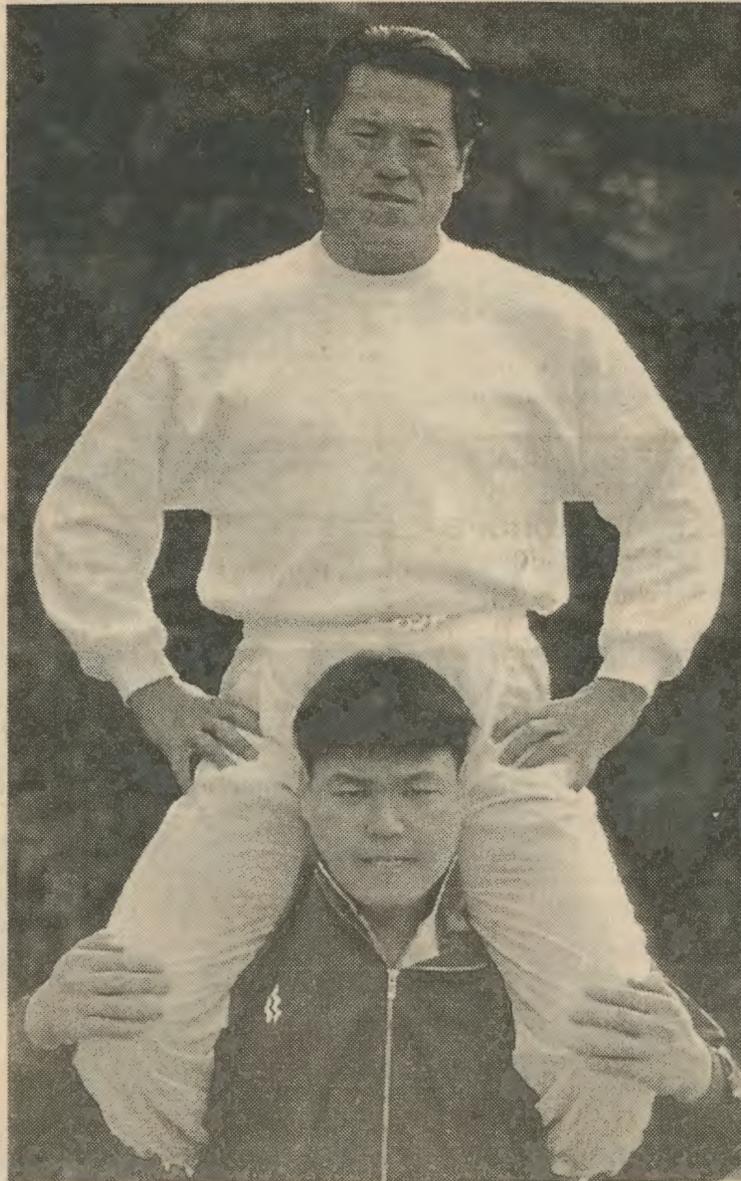
Ogawa's plans to wear his Judo-gi during his match against the top Japanese Wrestling fighter Hashimoto, so that he can use his gi as a good offensive tool, to assist with such submissions as chokes and armbars. Since the beginning of February, Ogawa has been preparing for this fight, first training at a Los Angeles based camp, and then at two locations in Japan, the last one being Zao, a ski resort, for five days of high altitude training.

Ogawa's head coach is none other than the former World Pro-Wrestling Champion, Antonio Inoki. This native Brazilian born Japanese once fought Mohammed Ali in the 1980's in a boxing vs. wrestling match, and is one of the prestigious figures in the world of professional wrestling. Inoki commented that Ogawa is one of the most talented fighters that he has trained, and compares with such Judo World Champions as Wilhem Ruska (NED), Anton Gesink (NED), and S. Chochoshvili (RUS).

In Inoki's opinion, Ogawa's new "tornado valley drop" will become a devastating technique if it works as well as it appears. Although Ogawa must build up his offensive and defensive skills for the kick and punch, his powerful Judo grip, which leads into his throws, finishing with armbars and chokes, are already formidable. Hashimoto's strengths lie in kicking and punching.

NAOYA OGAWA Comment:

"My body conditioning is just about 70-80% completed. I



A DISPLAY OF POWER! - 4-time Judo World Champion NAOYA OGAWA turns to professional fighting. Ogawa is shown carrying his coach ANTONIO INOKI, a one-time opponent of Mohammed Ali

learned the knee lock and ankle lock, which are moves prohibited in Judo, but allowed in an open fight such as this. At first it felt funny to work on these techniques because they are not allowed in Judo. I got used to wrestling in a ring, and I also trained with a special coach to learn offensive and defensive punching and kicking moves because my opponent Shinya will attack with those techniques. I built up my Jujitsu techniques, but my final technique will be Sankaku-jime or Juji-gatame, to finish off my opponent. I am ready!"

NEXT ISSUE PRELUDE:

"OGAWA IS THROWN BY HASHIMOTO'S HARAI-GOSHI, But Then..."

The next issue we will cover the full results of this first ever fight between Ogawa and Hashimoto. Ogawa's opponent is about 6 feet tall and extremely solid, probably well over 300 pounds. He is a top seeded, very tough professional wrestler.



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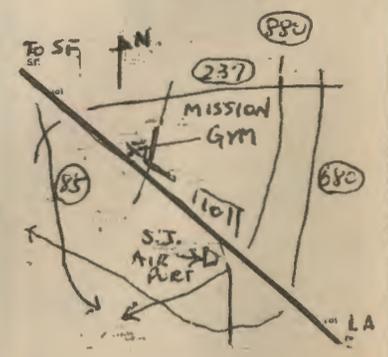
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PREVIEW

97 U.S. SENIOR NATIONALS

J. PEDRO (-71kg) CAPTURES GERMAN INT'NL TITLE! Is Far Ahead Of Rest Of Field! -65kg Division A Dead Heat Between A. Otiano (CT), J. Flores (CA), & C. McDonald (OTC). How will Heavyweight Powerhouse M. Boonsayer Fare in Florida!



Last years U.S. International Champ, Scott Rice of Illinois will be a sure bet at this year's Senior Nationals, that is if Jason Morris does not compete!

The 1997 U.S. Senior National Judo Championships will take place at the Broward Convention Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on May 1-3. In this post-Olympics year, most of the top international contenders are recon- ditioning for this year's World Championships. In the top Judo countries, such as in Europe and Asia, many new competitors are coming up in the ranks at the world level, while at the same time well known players are retiring. This does not seem to yet be the case in the U.S., where many veteran players remain in competition.

Certain U.S. players, especially in the Women's divisions, did a great job at the recent European International Tour and accumulated points that can be used towards competing at the upcoming Paris Worlds. As usual at the U.S. Senior Nationals, he

MENS DIVISIONS

MEN'S LIGHTER WEIGHT DIVISIONS, Like -56kg, -60kg, -65kg, Will Be Hotly Contested. Many Top Former Junior Champions To Challenge!

Senior Roster with 5 points, followed by Young with 3 points. Although these two top contenders may face each other at Nationals, they may be surprised by either the new Junior National Roster's

Senior Nationals, Raul Tomaya (CA), has improved his Sode-tsuru-komigoshi, so these top three competitors may enter the competition head-to-head.

The darkhorse contender here will be '96 Nationals 3rd Place Joe Cramer (CA). Another possibility could be Brian Wada (CA), who's at the top of the Junior Elite Roster, while Ryan Reser, Second on the same roster, may move to this -60kg division instead of competing in the -56kg this year.

-60KG PREDICTION:

1. Clifton Sunada (HI)
1. Brandon Greczkowski (CO)
2. Raul Tomaya (CA)
3. Joe Cramer (CA)
3. Brian Wada (CA)

ever, since his focus has obviously shifted from the U.S. to international competitions, he may not and does not

J. PEDRO So Far Ahead On Points, He May Not Compete At Nationals / Instead T. Brehe Should Be A Sure -71kg Bet!

need to compete at this Senior Nationals.

Coming in second far behind Pedro is the '96 Senior Nationals Gold Medalist Todd Brehe of OTC. If Pedro predictably skips this competition, the two time National Champion Brehe is definitely the highest -71kg seed. However, we

3. Orlando Fuentes (FL)
3. Ricky Shibuya (HI)
3. Carlos Mendez (CO)
3. Ali Moghadas (CA)

-78kg JASON MORRIS May Still Have One More Worlds Left In Him Before Retiring. If Not, This Division Goes To S. Rice!

• -78kg

In this division, we have as an international contender Jason Morris, the '92 Olympic Silver Medalist. However, he may retire this year, leaving Scott Rice (IL) at the top. A former junior Champion, Scott Rice is now at the top of the U.S. Senior Roster for -78kg. After attending San Jose State for one year, he decided to return to Chicago. At the '96 U.S. Internationals, Rice defeated all foreign contenders and took first in his division; no other U.S. player placed.



-78kg JASON MORRIS

His challengers this year could be the '96 Senior Nationals 1st Placer David Williams of San Jose or OTC's young and upcoming Reno Reser. This year's darkhorse contenders will be last year's 3rd Place finisher at Nationals, Vicente Rodriguez (FL) and veteran Richard Riley (CO).

-78KG PREDICTION:

towards competing at the upcoming Paris Worlds. As usual at the U.S. Senior Nationals, besides the Senior Men's and Women's divisions, there will also be Men's and Women's Master's Judo Championships and a Kata Competition. This may be the last large Nationals competition, because the structure of the National Championships may change in the near future. Prior to the National Championships, regional or state elimination competitions may be held.

Now let's take a look at the prospective winners of this year's SENIOR NATIONALS in Florida:

● -56kg

Last year, Sacramento's Jevon Matsuoka captured the Senior National title over David Young of Chicago, while holding the 1996 Junior National Roster's 9th position. This moved Matsuoka into the No. 1 position on the '96

two top contenders may face each other at Nationals, they may be surprised by either the new Junior National Roster's No. 1 position Brian Wada of Gardena, or the second position 1996 High School Champion Ryan Reser of Texas (depending on whether they fight at -56kg or -60kg).

Last year's Third place finisher, Jamie Aguilar, could still emerge at the top, as well as darkhorse contender and '96 Senior Bronze Mickey Matsumoto of Gardena, CA.

-56KG PREDICTION:

1. Jevon Mitsuoka (CA)
1. David Young (IL)
2. Brian Wada (CA)
2. Ryan Reser (TX)
3. Jamie Aguilar (FL)
3. Mickey Matsumoto (CA)

● -60kg

Although Clifton Sunada of Hawaii has kept his No. 1 National Roster position, the '96 Senior Gold Medalist, young Brandon Greczkowski (OTC) has been busy gaining some good international experience to become as strong as Sunada. Last year's Third Placer at the

3. Joe Cramer (CA)
3. Brian Wada (CA)
3. Ryan Reser (TX)

● -65kg

This exciting division contains four top players. Alex Otiano (CT), who is at the top of the '96 Senior Elite Roster, leads the pack. The recent international experience Otiano gained at the '96 Kano Cup bolstered his confidence, and may give him a little extra edge over the other competitors. However, chasing Otiano closely in the No. 2 position is Orlando Fuentes (FL), who was the 1996 U.S. Olympics -56kg contender. The pack also includes the '96 Senior Nationals' 1st Placer Chris McDonald (OTC), as well as the 18 year old Uchimata specialist Jake Flores (OTC), who looked sharp to win Second at -60kg last year in his first Senior National bid.

Again, any one of these top four could win in this division. The two darkhorse contenders here are '96 Nationals 2nd Mike Pechina (CA), and 3rd Place finisher and '97 National Collegiate Champion at -65kg, Chuck Jefferson of San Jose State.

-65KG PREDICTION:

1. Alex Otiano (CT)
2. Orlando Fuentes (FL)
2. Chris McDonald (CO)
2. Jake Flores (CO)
3. Mike Pechina (CA)
3. Chuck Jefferson (CA)

● -71kg

USA's current best all-around Judoka, James Pedro, completely dominates this division nationally, having won the previous World and Olympic Bronze Medals, as well as a recent First Place at the '97 German Internationals. How-

ever, James Pedro is definitely the highest -71kg seed. However, we never know when Brehe may move up to the -78kg division for a chance to represent the U.S., as it is near impossible here due to Pedro's presence.

-78KG PREDICTION:

1. Jason Morris (NY)
2. Scott Rice (IL)
2. David Williams (CA)
3. Reno Reser (CO)



Last year's -71kg winners, from left: Ricky Shibuya (HI), Todd Brehe (CO), Orlando Fuentes (CO) and Ali Moghadas (CA)

3. Vicente Rodriguez (FL)
3. Richard Riley (CO)

(Please turn to Page 8)



U.S. Open Finalist, Jake Flores (left, attempting a Seoinage) and Alex Otiano (CT) are top rated for this year's Senior Nationals at -65kg!

Two others who could stand on the winners' podium are the '96 Senior National 2nd Ricky Shibuya (HI) and Carlos Mendez (OTC), who took Third at this year's U.S. Internationals. The darkhorse contenders will be Ali Moghadas, who finished Third at last year's Nationals, and possibly O. Fuentes, if he competes in this division instead of the -65kg.

-71KG PREDICTION:

1. James Pedro (MA)
2. T. Brehe (CO)

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PREVIEW

97 U.S. SENIOR NATIONALS

BRIAN OLSON Has International Experience Plus the U.S. Intern'l Title To Lead The -86g!

• **-86kg**

Brian Olson (OTC) leads this division with 19 points on the Senior Elite Roster. He won at the '96 U.S. Internationals, beating Canada's Keith Morgan with a clean counter-technique. Olson's recent Olympic and international experience both contributed to his stability.

His challengers will be the '96 Senior National 1st Place winner Marius Popescu of San Jose State, and 2nd Place finisher Dmitry Lisenenkov (NY). Darkhorse contenders in this division will be the '96 Nationals 3rd Placer, Michael Barnes of San Jose, and Chris Fukuma of Long Beach State (CA).

-86KG PREDICTION:

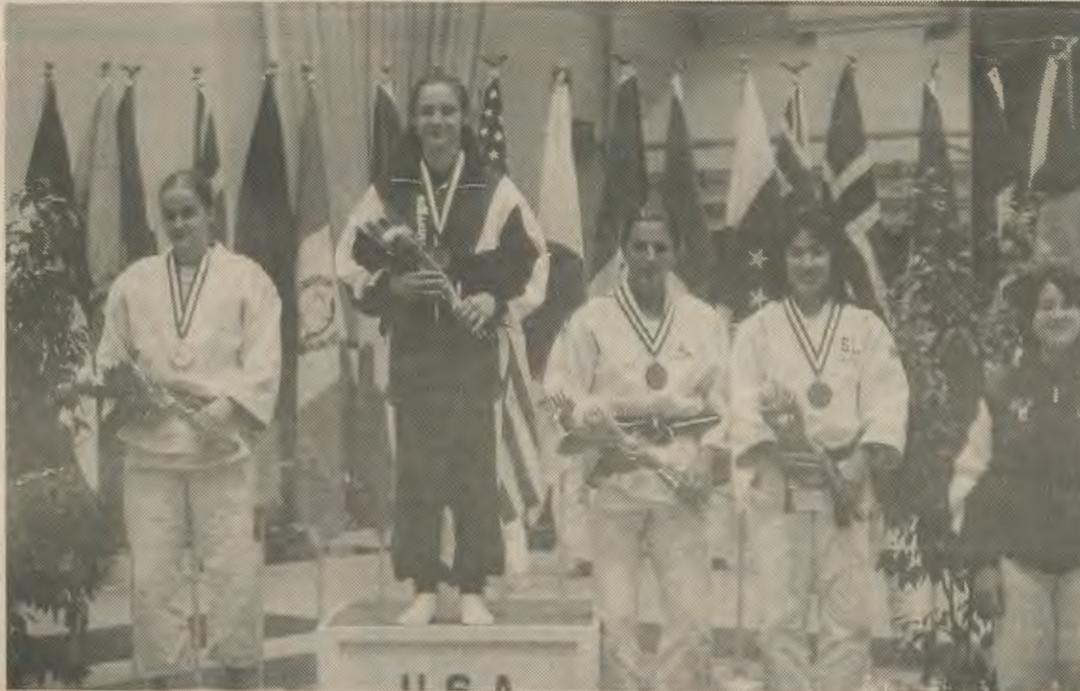
1. Brian Olson (CO)
2. Marius Popescu (CA)
3. Dmitry Lisenenkov (NY)
3. Michael Barnes (CA)
3. Chris Fukuma (CA)



• Brian Olson

• **-95kg**

After falling out at the '95 Worlds, young hope Rafael Hueso (FL) has had



USA's HILLARY WOLF grins a big smile here after capturing the -48kg U.S. International title. The internationally experienced Wolf is a level above other U.S. women of her division. To the far right on the medal stand is Hawaii's young TERRI-ANN FUJIKAWA.

Nationals Open Weight Second and newcomer Martin Boonzaayer (AZ), with only a couple of years of Judo experience, has an abnormal amount of power. He surprisingly also took two Silvers behind international contenders

The Serious Heavyweight Challenge Will Come From Necomer POWERHOUSE MARTIN BOONZAAYER!!

huge Jorge Fizz of Cuba at +95kg and Vladimir Sanchez (also Cuba) in the Open Division at the '96 U.S. Internationals. Within Boonzaayer's incredible

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

H. WOLF (-48kg) & S. BACHER (-72kg) Hype Up Status with European Int'n'l Titles. C. Rosensteel (+72) & M. Pedulla (-52) Also Look Good This Spring Season

1996, Hillary had more accumulated points (28) than any other U.S. woman

year at the Senior Nationals. The darkhorse contender in this division will be Chanin Sugimoto (CA).

-52KG PREDICTION:

1. Marisa Pedulla (PA)
2. Emily Wee (MI)
2. Yvette Gray (CA)
2. Sarah Pacheco (CA)
3. Chanin Sugimoto (CA)

CORINNA BROZ Will Pose A Serious Threat At -56kg or -f 1kg, Whichever One She Chooses To Fight!

Champion, Broz. Schutz lost to Broz at last year's Nationals.

Darkhorse contenders are Colleen McDonald (FL), the 1994 National Champion, and Dedra Phillips (CA), who took 2nd last year, being choked into submission by Broz.

-61KG PREDICTION:

1. Corinna Broz (CO)
1. Celita Schutz (NJ)
2. Colleen McDonald (FL)
2. Dedra Phillips (CA)



-66kg LILIKO OGASAWARA

World Contender L. OGASAWARA Unlikely To Compete, Leaving -66kg Up For Grabs! Red hot S. Bacher Should Dominate -72kg!

• **-66kg**

This division has been dominated since 1993 by Liliko Ogasawara, the year in which she took the Hamilton World's Silver Medal. In 1995, she took the World Bronze. With such a record, Ogasawara, like James Pedro for the Men, is far above other U.S. Women Judoka. In fact, like last year, she is far enough ahead in points to possibly skip another Senior Nationals.

Attempting to fill her spot will be the

-95kg
 After falling out at the '95 Worlds, young hope Rafael Hueso (FL) has had difficulty reaching the top of this weight class. Instead, the veteran former +95kg player John Serbin of San Jose State has moved down to this weight class, only to capture the '96 U.S. National Title, and be placed at the top of the Senior Roster.

Just behind Serbin on the Roster is another veteran, Lance Nading of Colorado. If all three show, Hueso, Serbin, and Nading, it will be a close competition for the title. The darkhorse contender is Albert Davis of New York, who out of nowhere took Second at last year's Nationals.



The 1996 -48kg Senior Nat. winners, loaded with Junior Champions, from left: 15 year old Charlee Minkin (CA), Christine Carrera (CA), Nicole Okino (CA), and Terri-Ann Fujikawa (HI)

Admir Sanchez (also Cuba) in the Open Division at the '96 U.S. Internationals. Within Boonzaayer's incredible power lies his unlimited potential, if he builds his Judo technique on it correctly.

If Boonzaayer were to enter both the +95 and Open Weight categories, he could take both titles, as nothing could stop him this year. The darkhorse contender will be young Ato Hand, who placed Third at Nationals last year.



Last year's -56kg winners, from left: Miki Nakajima (CA), Ellen Wilson (CO), Elia Rodriguez (CO), and Tammy Tokuhara (CA)

1996, Hillary had more accumulated points (28) than any other U.S. woman Judo! So, who then would take her place at the top? It could be any of four young up and comers, running neck to neck at a dead heat.

Terri-Ann Fujikawa recently gained some experience at the Fukuoka Internationals and may have a chance here, as well as last year's Champion Christine Carrera (CA), along with young Charlee

Whichever One She Chooses To Fight!

• -56kg

OTC member Ellen Wilson captured Third at the '96 U.S. Internationals and won last year's Senior National title over teammate Miki Nakajima (CO) with a kuzure Tate-shiho-gatame pin. However, both will receive some serious heat from Corinna Broz (CO), who is now at the top of the National Roster in the -56kg division, after returning to this division from a brief trial at -61kg. Broz had won the National -56kg Title in 1995, and the -61kg Title in '96, to prove that she is an all around threat!

All these three top players will be vying closely for the Title. Darkhorse contenders are last year's Senior National 3rd place finishers Elia Rodriguez (CO) and Tammy Tokuhara of San Jose.

-56KG PREDICTION:

1. Corinna Broz (CO)
2. Ellen Wilson (CO)
3. Miki Nakajima (CO)
4. Elia Rodriguez (CO)
5. Tammy Tokuhara (CA)

enough ahead in points to possibly skip another Senior Nationals. Attempting to fill her spot will be the '96 Senior National winner Kristi Springer (OK), who won last year's Title over Natasha Newsom (CO) with a Seoinage for yuko point. Another possibility is the up and comer Liane Harada, formerly of California, who works out now at OTC, and moved up into the Senior division last year to capture the Bronze. Darkhorse contenders are last year's other Third Heidi Seibold (CA), as well as N. Newsom.

-66KG PREDICTION

1. Liliko Ogasawara (CA)
2. Kristi Springer (OK)
3. Liane Harada (CO)
4. Natasha Newsom (CO)
5. Heidi Seibold (CA)

• -72kg

Another dominant U.S. player is Sandra Bacher, a San Jose State graduate, who was one of three U.S. women to win Gold at the 1996 U.S. Internationals (also -48kg H. Wolf and +72kg C. Rosensteel). This year, the 25 year old Bacher moved herself up con-



The 1996 Senior National -66kg winners, from left: Natasha Newsom (CO), Kristi Springer (OK), Heidi Seibold (OR), and Liane Harada (CO)

• -61kg

In the first position on the U.S. Roster, Celita Schutz (NJ) now leads this division, and has also gained valuable international experience. However, if Corina Broz returns to -61kg again this year, rather than -56kg where she has been competing, Schutz may lose her newly acquired top status to last year's

siderably in the international community, by taking three European medals, the Hungarian Cup Gold, the Austrian Silver, and the tough German International Bronze!

No one seems to be able to challenge Bacher at home, as veteran Grace Jividen (CO) has retired and Tammy

Continued on Page 14

-95KG PREDICTION

1. John Serbin (CA)
2. Lance Nading (CO)
3. Rafael Hueso (FL)
4. Albert Davis (NY)

• +95kg/OPEN

At the top of the Roster sheet in the +95kg category is the Atlanta Olympic U.S. Contender, Damon Keeve (CA). However, Keeve may retire this year, allowing the young '96 Senior National 2nd Place finisher, Oswaldo Norat, and veteran Third Place finishers James Bacon (CO) and Joseph Felton (MA) to battle amongst themselves for the medals.

But let's have a look at the most exciting heavyweight prospect, the '96 Senior

+95KG/OPEN PREDICTION

1. Martin Boonzaayer (AZ)
1. Damon Keeve (CA)
2. Oswaldo Norat (FL)
2. James Bacon (CO)
2. Joseph Felton (MA)
2. Bryan Leininger (AZ)
3. Ato Hand (CO)

• -48kg

In this division, Hillary Wolf of Chicago dominates. Although she had a disappointing finish at the '96 Olympics, her talent emerged when she captured the Austrian International Gold Medal in March, making her position as a top U.S. player concrete.

However, being so far in the lead point-wise, like last year Hillary may skip the Senior Nationals. In fact, by the end of

Minkin (CA) and Nicole Okino. The darkhorse will be veteran Sherrie Phillips, the 1995 National Champion.

-48KG PREDICTION:

1. Hillary Wolf (IL)
2. Christine Carrera (CA)
2. Terri-Ann Fujikawa (HI)
2. Charlee Minkin (CA)
2. Nicole Okino (CA)
3. Sherrie Phillips (CO)

• -52kg

The '96 Olympic Contender Marisa Pedulla of Pennsylvania had an excellent performance at the Olympics and finished 7th. She also took a strong Third at the '97 Austrian Internationals, and is easily leading this division. Challengers will be young Emily Wee from Michigan, the '96 U.S. Open 2nd Place finisher, Yvette Gray (CA), the '96 Senior National Second, and Sara Pacheco (CA), who finished 3rd last

PREVIEW

1997 World Championships

(Continued from Page 1)

In Atlanta, this category turned into a real scene for the Japanese coaching staff, as well as for their star -48kg player Ryoko Tamura. Above all Japanese fighters, men or women, Tamura was a shure bet for Olympic Gold; her record of 78 straight wins, and two recent World titles, was unsurpassed.

But in the Olympic Final match, the totally unexpected nightmare hit, by the name of Kyu Sun of North Korea. The only Judo entry for the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, or PRK, Sun dominated, even controlling Tamura with a strong high grip, stealing the title away!

Nobody had seen Sun before the Olympics, and no one has seen her fight since. This leaves us all wondering what she will do in Paris this year. On the other hand, Tamura has returned to competition, serious, and beating the pants off all opposition, especially at the Fukuoka's and the 1st World Team Cup. Our highest odds player for Paris still goes to Tamura.

Other top contenders will be Tamura's continuing rival from Cuba, Amarilis Savon, as well as China's Li Aiyue, who captured Second behind Tamura at the previous two Worlds, but shockingly fell out in the early rounds at the Olympics to a newcomer from France, Sarah Nichilo.

Dark horse contenders include Spain's Yolanda Soler, who took the Bronze in Atlanta, and harbors a powerful Seoinage that could bring her into medal contention. The same goes for Sarah Nichilo, who is strong enough to contend.

-48KG PREDICTION
(March, 1997)

1. Ryoko Tamura (JPN)
1. Kye Sun (PRK)
2. Amarilis Savon (CUB)



Look for these -60kg Olympic winners to return at the Paris Worlds, including, from left: G. Giovinazzo (ITA), T. Nomura (JPN), R. Trautmann (GER), and D. Narmandakh (MGL)

lanta.

Another challenger will be Japan's Noriko Sugawara, who recently won the Paris Internationals over Restoux, Verdecia, and Mariani. Sugawara is now also definitely in medal contention for the Worlds. Dark horse contenders will be Poland's Larysa Krause and USA's Marisa Pedulla.

-52KG PREDICTION
(March, 1997)

1. Marie-Claire Restoux (FRA)
1. Sook-Hee Hyun (KOR)
1. Noriko Sugawara (JPN)
1. Legna Verdecia (CUB)
2. Carolina Mariani (ARG)
3. Larysa Krause (POL)
3. Marisa Pedulla (USA)

-56KG PREDICTION
(March, 1997)

1. Driulis Gonzalez (CUB)
2. Sun-Yong Jung (KOR)
3. Isabel Fernandez (ESP)
3. Marisabel Lomba (BEL)
3. Chang Liu (CHN)
3. Zulfya Garipova (RUS)
4. Nicola Fairbrother (GBR)
4. Zulfya Guseynova (AZE)



MEN

DIFFICULT TO PREDICT Men's Lightweights! -60kg, -65kg, -71kg Will All Be Close Races!

● **-60KG**

All of the current leading -60kg lightweight contenders are very closely matched up. In fact, any one of the top 8 could seize the Paris Gold. Take, for example, what happened between the '95 Worlds and Atlanta. In 1995, an unknown Russian powerhouse by

-60KG PREDICTION
(March, 1997)

1. Tadahiro Nomura (JPN)
2. Girolamo Giovinazzo (ITA)
2. D. Narmandakh (MGL)
2. Richard Trautman (GER)
2. Natic Bagirov (BLR)
2. Nikolai Ojeguine (RUS)
3. Nigel Donahue (GBR)
3. Giorgi Vazagachvili (GEO)

● **-65KG**

UDO QUELLMALZ (GER) Record: '89 Worlds 2ND, '91 Worlds 1ST, '92 Olympic 3RD, '93 World 3RD, '95 World 1ST, '96 Olympic 1ST !!! Can He Again Defeat Tough Young Y. Nakamura of Japan?

This should be a Quellmalz (GER) vs. Nakamura (JPN) rematch, that is if Quellmalz competes! After a long illustrious Judo career, and taking both the '95 World and '96 Olympic titles, perhaps Udo has enough trophies to call it quits. We will have to wait and see. But if he does contend, he will most surely take serious heat from Japan's '93 World Champ Yukimasa Nakamura, who lost to Udo in the Final matches of both '95 and '96!

1. Kye Sun (PRK)
2. Amarilis Savon (CUB)
3. Li Aiyue (CHN)
3. Yolanda Soler (ESP)
3. Sarah Nichilo (FRA)
4. Salima Souakri (ALG)

3. Larysa Krause (POL)
3. Marisa Pedulla (USA)

● -56KG

This divisions strong favorite is Cuba's Driulis Gonzalez, the



Cuba's World and Olympic -56kg Champ DRIULIS GONZALEZ



The Olympic -48kg winners, from left: Japanese superstar Ryoko Tamura, North Korea's surprise fighter Kye Sun, A. Savon (CUB), and Y. Soler (ESP)

● -52KG

This will be an interesting division to watch, as there are four stand-out players, any which of whom could capture the Gold, depending on line up, etc. Marie-Claire Restoux of France is the reigning World and Olympic Champion, and would seem to have the strong advantage, but not necessarily.

Restoux is an orthodox stylist, who stands up straight and needs a deep grip to control her opponents. This works well against a similar fighter, but she may run into trouble with Cuba's Legna Verdecia or Argentinian Carolina Mariani. These two top contenders prefer grabbing their opponent's sleeves, not allowing the defender a high grip, and then shoot in with a very low dropping Seoinage or Tsuru-komi-goshi.

If they fight in her pool, this will be trouble for Restoux, and for another top contender Sook-Hee Hyun from Korea. Hyun fights similar to Restoux, and took Second behind the Frechwman in At-

reigning 1995 World and '96 Olympic Champion. Taking Second to Gonzalez at both of these championships was Korea's Sun-Yong Jung. These two are a step ahead of their competitors. Between them, Gonzalez fights more like her teammate -52kg Legna Verdecia, taking a low sleeve grip and shooting in with Seoinage, while Jung stands up straight and prefers Uchimata or Osoto-gari.

Behind these two comes the Atlanta Olympic Bronzes Isabel Fernandez of Spain and Marisable Lomba of Belgium. If their grip fighting improves against Gonzalez or Jung, they may find themselves in contention, otherwise they will have a difficult time of it.

Further down in the charts is China's '96 Olympic 5th Chang Liu, Russia's Zulfiya Garipova, Azerbaijan's (former Soviet province) Zulfiya Guseynova, and the 1991 World Champion Nicola Fairbrother of England, who looks to be past her prime.



The -52kg Olympic winners, from left: S.H. Hyun (KOR), M.C. Restoux (FRA), L. Verdecia (CUB), and N. Sugawara (JPN)

'96! Worlds and Atlanta. In 1995, an unknown Russian powerhouse by the name of Nikolai Ojeguine, shocked all ontakers with his strong Kata-garuma and Seoinage combinations, taking the Gold in his first big appearance!

But in the short time between the '95 Worlds and the '96 Olympics, other players had a chance to study this new Russian adversary, N. Ojeguine. Subsequently, in his second Olympic match, Ojeguine was upset by Japan's newest addition Tadahiro Nomura, who went on to win the title. Now, this year Nomura is the man to beat, and he will be under the eye glass for all serious -60kg challengers. Yet the young 21 year old Nomura has a large enough variety of techniques to keep others guessing, which is all important at this level. Once they know your favorite moves, the best players can block them.

Other challengers who could reach to the top include the Atlanta Silver Medalist G. Giovinazzo of Italy, a Seoinage specialist, Germany's Richard Trautmann, a Tomoe-nage to mat work man, and Mongolia's D. Narmandakh, who prefers Sode-tsurikomi-goshi. Also, don't forget the '95 World Silverist from the strong Georgian team G. Vazagachvili, who took an unfortunate 7th in Atlanta.



GERMANY'S UDO QUELLMALZ

In '95, Quellmalz fought strongly by countering Nakamura's Uranage for ippon. But in '96, Quellmalz looked somewhat passive against the Japanese by taking an uncharacteristic grip for a Tai-otoshi player when he grabbed the backside of Nakamura, and just held the much younger Japanese at bay, working in enough Ashiwaza (foot techniques) to please the judges for the 2-1 decision and the Title.

One level down from Quellmalz and Nakamura, we are looking at the Olympic Bronze, Henrique Guimaraez of Brazil and Georgia's G. Revazichvili. A couple of veterans are also in there, including 34 year old Phillip Latts of Belgium and Hungary's '92 Olympic Silver Jozsef Csak.

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PREVIEW

1997 World Championships

(Continued from Page 9)

-65KG PREDICTION (March, 1997)

1. Yukimasa Nakamura (JPN)
1. Udo Quellmalz (GER)
2. Henrique Guimaraes (BRA)
2. Israel Hernandez (CUB)
3. Giorgi Revazichvili (GEO)
3. Ivan Netov (BUL)
3. Jozsef Csak (HUN)
3. Phillip Latts (BEL)

• -71KG

Lots of young, energetic talent in this division. Korea's Dae-Sung Kwak will be focused for a rematch with another outstanding Nakamura brother, Kenzo. Kenzo is the younger of the three World competitor Nakamuras, and raised eyebrows with his Olympic victory over Kwak in his first big world level tournament.

Kwak has had bad experiences against the Japanese, starting with his Second Place finish at the '95 Worlds, behind another Japanese standout Daisuke Hideshima. And at the Olympics, he was in the lead over Nakamura by a chui penalty, when in the last 3 seconds, he also received a chui, and the decision went to Japan.

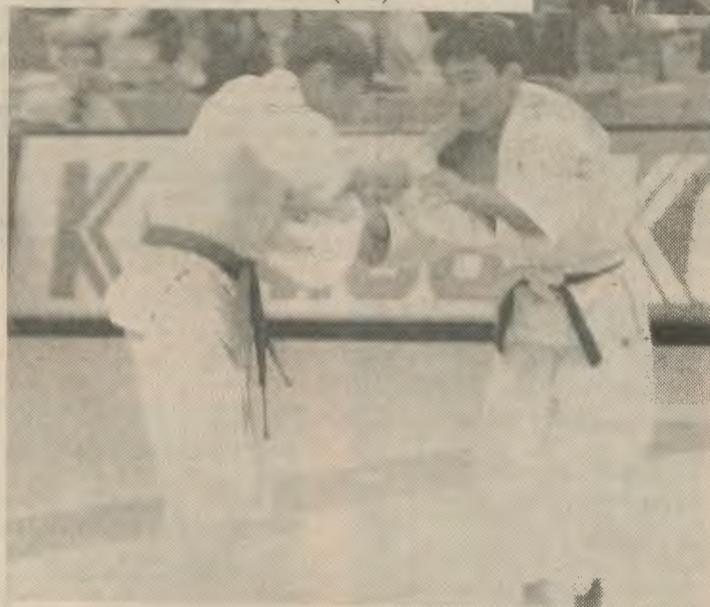
This year Kwak recently won the Paris Internationals, to prove that he again means business. There are a few other strong players who will be in medal con-

tenion, including USA's strongest overall judoka James Pedro. Pedro is now 26 years old, and has yet to reach beyond the Bronze in world competition, and will be focused on doing so this year before it's too late.

Former Kano Cup winner, Germany's Martin Schmidt is also in contention, as well as Brazil's Sebastian Pereira (Olympic 5th) and France's Christophe Gagliano (Olympic 3rd).

Dark horses are Mongolian Khaliun Boldbaatar, who harbors a strong one-

The Olympic -65kg winners, from left: Y. Nakamura (JPN), U. Quellmalz (GER), H. Guimaraes (BRA), and I. Hernandez (CUB)



The '95 Worlds Final, showing one of this year's high seeds Dae-Sung Kwak of Korea (left) tying up against Japan's D. Hideshima, who has since been replaced by K. Nakamura.



Japan's -71kg Olympic Champion KENZO NAKAMURA

shot Seoinage, and Uzbekistani Andrey Shturbabin.

-71KG PREDICTION (March, 1997)

1. Kenzo Nakamura (JPN)
1. Dae-Sung Kwak (KOR)
2. James Pedro (USA)
2. Martin Schmidt (GER)
2. Sebastian Pereira (BRA)
2. Christophe Gagliano (FRA)
3. Khaliun Boldbaatar (MGL)
3. Andrey Shturbabin (UZB)

Austrian Int'nl

(Continued from Page 4)

U.S. COLLEGE



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presents the

(Continued from Page 4)

The Japanese coaching staff was also delighted to see their High School Heavyweight Champion Kosei Inoue, who weighs only 231 pounds, win his first big international tournament. Although Inoue did not have to face any well known Olympic contenders here, he did display his super talented Seoinage in the Final bout to land Cuba's Angel Sanchez for 2 yuko points and the +95kg Title.

Other Golds won included one by the home team at -78kg with their '95 World Bronze Patrick Reiter. Reiter defeated Japan's new T. Murata in the Final. Murata had fought well earlier to oust Korea's strong Olympic Third In-Chul Cho on an Uchimata throw for wazari, sending Cho down to 5th overall. One final Gold went to the Brazilian Team with their '95 World Bronze Henrique Guimaraes at -65kg.

WOMEN

U.S. TEAM COMES TO LIFE! Women Capture 1 Gold, 2 Silvers, 1 Bronze, Led By -48kg H. WOLF!

Although it was the the strong Cuban Womens Team that controlled the pulse of this tournament, the big news for U.S. fans was that their women came to life! In the -48kg division, USA's former Junior World Champion Hillary Wolf showed that she has what it takes to defeat two of the world's best. Straight out in round #1, Hillary downed the Japanese #2 spot -48kg player Atsuko Nagai with a Juji-gatame armbar. The week before, Nagai had won the Paris Internationals.

Then in the second round, Wolf unleashed an Uchimata on Cuba's Olympic Bronze Amarilis Savon, to shockingly land her for ippon. Even Japan's star player Ryoko Tamura has had difficulty throwing Savon for ippon. After these two dynamic wins, Hillary continued on past other lesser known players to capture her first big international Gold over



Russia's T. Chichkina in the Title match.

Other U.S. Women fought well here too. At -72kg, Sandra Bacher reached the Title match, where she took a Second Place to Brazilian E. Silva, who Seoinage. Japa's N. Sugawara seized the -52kg Title.

For the Cuban Women, after only 1 Gold, and several Silver Medals in Paris, their return to top form here was not surprising. Two of their Golds in Austria went to their high odds veterans -56kg Driulis Gonzalez and +72kg Daima Beltran. The Olympic Champion, 23 year old Gonzalez is in peak fighting performance: she won Paris, Austria, and the following week's German Internationals!

At -61kg, Cuba's new player Kenia Rodriguez won her first big International, defeating Japan's K. Kusakabe for the Gold. In the -66kg division, Cuba could be seeking a player to succeed their 27 year old veteran, 1992 Olympic Champ Odalis Reve. Recently, Reve has not been seen on the Cuban squad, and in her stead came newcomer S. Veranes here to Austria, who proved herself with the -66kg Title over several new players.

The Japanese Women, who shone so brightly in Paris, were only capable of one Gold here. -52kg Noriko Sugawara has kept up a good pace, with the Paris win, and a repeat here in Austria. The Olympic Bronze, Sugawara is looking in strong form, and should be a high odds player for the Japanese going into the Paris Worlds.

COLLEGE NATIONALS

SAN JOSE STATE & U. OF COLORADO Dominate! Not A Big Turnout Overall

Lawrence, Kansas - The 1997 National Collegiate took place at the University of Kansas Gymnasium, on March 14 and 15. It was a small turnout for the Collegiate Nationals, especially in the Women's divisions, and as usual turned into a race between USA's biggest Judo college, San Jose State, and the University of Colorado, which imports all it's talent from the nearby OTC, or Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

FOR THE MEN, San Jose State took a whopping 5 out of the 8 weight division titles, led by last year's -95kg Senior National Champion John Serbin. Serbin looked strong by winning two divisions here, the +95kg and Open. In the Open, Serbin faced another nationally ranked player, the young upcoming heavyweight Ato Hand (CO), who had just taken the -95kg category. However, the more experienced Serbin dominated, to prove that he will be a serious threat in the upcoming Senior Nationals.

Colorado's other two wins came at -65kg and -78kg, with Jake Flores and Reno Reser, respectively. Flores is only 18 years of age, yet he has recently moved up swiftly in the senior circuit, last year capturing the Senior National Silver Medal at -60kg. Here, Uchimata specialist Flores looked sharp by putting out San Jose State's Joshua Resnick in the title match.

The -78kg Final was a close match-up between former Junior National Champion Richard Garcia and 1996 Senior National Second Reno Reser of OTC. This Gold went to Reser, giving OTC its third Men's Division victory.

IN THE WOMENS DIVISIONS, the Continued on Page 14

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'97 French Int'l

DAY 2

- MEN'S: -71kg, -78kg
- WOMEN'S: -52kg, -56kg, -61kg

Korean's Fight Big With Top Players -71kg D.S. Kwak & -78kg I.C. Cho. For Women: Japanese Sweep -52kg & -61kg, But Cuba's D. Gonzalez Continues -56kg Dominance!

- -71kg Men's

The Olympic -71kg Champion Kenzo Nakamura of Japan was not in attendance. Many other top performers were, including USA's Jim Pedro; yet, Pedro was upset on a penalty by Austria's Thomas Schleicher in the quarterfinal. Schleicher continued on strong in the semi's, to put out the French #1 seed and Olympic Bronze Christophe Gagliano with a Yoko-shiho-gatame pin, advancing himself on to the Finals.

Moving up valiantly in Pool B came the Korean World and Olympic Silver Medalist Dae-Sung Kwak, who defeated the French newcomer Daniel Fernandes in the semi's to advance. Kwak continued his dominance for the Title against Austria's Schleicher, pinning him with Yoko-shiho-gatame to win the Gold. It looks like the Korean's are

Bulcke then also fell out of medal contention. Austria's Axel Eggenfellner moved up to the semi's to face the unknown Russian player Guerman Abdoulaev. At this level of competition, any Russian or Georgian fighter must be taken seriously.

Eggenfellner had just smartly won the quarterfinal bout with Harai-goshi, but was unprepared for the same from Abdoulaev, who caught the Austrian with Harai to advance on to Final action.

Here, Abdoulaev was unprepared for the experienced In-Chul Cho, who used a throw of choice by Asian contenders of this weight class, Sode-tsurikomi-goshi to defeat this sixth ontaker for the Paris Gold. Cho, like his Korean teammates, showed skill using a variety of throws to win here, including for Cho: Kouchigari, Osoto-gari, Uchimata, Katagaruma, and Sode-tsurikomi-goshi.

USA's contingent, Todd Brehe was downed in the first round by the Swiss player D. Hischier.

Japanese Capture -52kg With N. Sugawara / Cuban's Answer Back At -56kg With Champion D. Gonzalez

- -52kg - Women's

This division converged all the Atlanta Olympic medalists, as well as USA's Olympic 7th finisher Marisa Pedulla. However, straight out in the second round, Pedulla lost by a full point Osoto-gari from Japan's Olympic Bronze Noriko Sugawara.

Sugawara, the titleholder of last year's Paris Internationals, fought steadily and strongly, taking out her first four opponents with ippon throws, including her semifinal match against Germany's Raffaella Imbriani, who she threw with a sharp Tai-otoshi.

The REAL BIG NEWS in this pool occurred in the second round, when France's Olympic Champ Marie-Claire

ty against her put her behind on points, and the win eventually went to Sugawara for her second consecutive Paris International Gold.

Third Places were won by Carolina Mariani and Belgium's Nicole Flagothier.

- -56kg - Women's

Driulis Gonzalez of Cuba is on a roll. She won both the 1995 Worlds and the 1996 Olympics, and continues to dominate her weight category. Although she had a Third Place set back at the December Fukuoka's in Japan, nobody can win them all, and Gonzalez again regained her superior status by fighting brilliantly here.



Cuba's Champ DRIULIS GONZALEZ

In the third round match against the Olympic Bronze Marisabel Lomba of Belgium, Gonzalez forced Lomba to submit with a chokehold. In the semi-finals, she threw the '95 World 3rd, Filipa Cavalleri of Portugal with Teguruma, or Sukuinage, for ippon.

Top seeds from the other pool included China's Chuang Liu and England's '93 World Champion Nicola Fairbrother. But the French home team dashed the hopes of these two internationally experienced fighters, by taking them both out with newcomer players. Finally, rising above the rest in this pool division was Frenchwoman Isabelle Magnien.

But for the Title, the new French Magnien just could not contain Gonzalez,



Japan's HIROKO KITAZUME

Karine Petit, to advance to the Finals. Coming up in the other pool was the darkhorse Hiroko Kitazume of Japan. The veteran Kitazume takes a back seat in her home country to young Yuko Emoto, who has stayed out of the spotlight by not competing since her surprise Olympic win over G. Vandecaveye.

Piercely fighting for the Gold, Kitazume upended Alvarez with a full point Ippon-Seoinage to show that she, and not only her teammate Emoto, is also of world caliber. In the repechage action, Gella Vandecaveye won three straight bouts to claim the Bronze. And USA's contingent Celita Schutz did well to win her first two matches against a Ukrainian and a French player, both with Seoinages, but then fell to France's Magali Cazenove and a Sankaku-jime triangular leg choke!

DAY 3

- MEN'S: -86kg, -95kg, +95kg
- WOMEN'S: -48kg

KOREAN STAR PLAYER K.Y. JEON (-86kg) Burning Hot! Japan's Shinji Shinohara Looks Good To Dominate Heavys

back and wait for the Paris Worlds to come to him.

But Jeon likes to fight and likes to win; it shows in his fighting style, always aggressive and ever ready to try any combination of attacks to win. Positioned in Pool A, he first countered Japan's current #1 -86kg player Masaru Tanabe's Osoto-gari for ippon, he then dumped the '95 World 5th R. Machourenko (UKR) by Kosoto-gari, he threw two others with Sode-tsurikomi-goshi, and then clocked Austria's Sergej Klischin in the semi's with his choice Seoinage. Jeon advanced to the Title Match.

Working up the ranks in Pool B came Lithuanian A. Merkevicius, to face Jeon for the Gold. Jeon finished up this Paris appearance with a combination assault on Merkevicius, a quick Kouchi-gari to Morote-Seoinage for an ippon win. Jeon's style of Judo shows what it takes to win like this at this level - he has great body movement; it's moving Judo, not standing Judo!

Thirds went to Japan's M. Tanabe and Austria's S. Klischin.



Canada's -95KG N. GILL

- -95kg - Men's

This is an interesting division at the world level. There are several strong players: a few of them in their peak, a few veterans just past their prime who still give chase, and some up and comers. Fighting here in Paris came the Atlanta Olympic Silver from Korea, Min-Soo Kim, the veteran '92 Olympic Silver from England Raymond Stevens, and Canada's top Nicolas Gill, who has increased

in the semi's to advance. Kwak continued his dominance for the Title against Austria's Schleicher, pinning him with Yoko-shiho-gatame to win the Gold. It looks like the Korean's are sharpening their best swords for the Paris Worlds.

USA's Jim Pedro relied on his mat skills and a Juji-gatame armbar to seize Third Place. The other Third went to the Frenchman Christophe Massina.

● -78kg - Men's

The Olympic First and Second Placers, France's Djamel Bouras and Japan's star Toshihiko Koga, were absent here. Instead, Korea's Olympic Bronze In-Chul Cho arrived to give the opposition a good workout. In the A Pool, Cho moved up steadily to the semifinals to face Austria's world level contender Patrick Reiter, and threw him with Uchimata to reach the Title bout.

The B Pool was more unpredictable. Expected to do well, Japan's #2 -78kg man, Kazunori Kubota, the Universiade Champion, was upset in the first round against Belgium's Philippe Bulcke.

Rising above the rest in this pool division was Frenchwoman Isabelle Magnien. But for the Title, the new French Magnien just could not contain Gonzalez, who's main weapons of a quick low Seoinage and Sode-tsurikomi-goshi are ever to the for. Gonzalez finally won this match by ippon to take the Paris Gold.

Canadian Brigitte Lastrade fought here in the B Pool, but lost her first fight against Frenchwoman Sandrine Bouland.

● -61kg - Women's

The highest seed here was definately Belgium's Gella Vandecaveye, '93 World Champion and Atlanta Silver Medalist. Gella is a strong top world level player, she is tall, and harbors a good Harai-goshi and Uchimata. But perhaps her height worked against her here, as in round 3 the Spanish Olympic 7th Sara Alvarez shot underneath Gella with a Tai-otoshi body drop to win the match.

Alvarez went on to win her next match against the unknown French player



Japan's A. NAGAI

Good to Dominate Heavys



KI-YOUNG JEON of Korea

● -86kg - Men's

No one can beat him! Ki-Young Jeon is simply Burning Hot! He's tough, he's in superior condition, he's 23 years young, and he has perhaps the most important winning ingredient, a great fighting spirit. Jeon did not need to compete in Paris. He won the last two Worlds and the Atlanta Olympics, and could if he wanted sit

Silver from England Raymond Stevens, and Canada's top Nicolas Gill, who has increased his weight from -86kg.

Certainly Judo Canada is concerned about how Gill will perform in his new -95kg weight class. -95kg, or under 210 pounds, signifies at this level of Judo a size of man who has no body fat and is extremely physically strong. A former -86kg contender must adjust for this, although N. Gill is already physically abile.

Yet, Gill could not reach past the top seed here M.S. Kim, who threw the Canadian in the quarterfinal with Sode-tsurikomi-goshi to advance. But, Kim was largely upset in his subsiquent match against the French newcomer Eric Fauroux, who went on to the Finals. Fauroux had also earlier defeated veteran Raymond Stevens on penalties.

From the other pool, another newcomer arose, Germany's Daniel Gurschiner, who on his way to the Finals took out Holland's Olympic 5th Ben Sonnemans by decision.

Gurschiner stayed on his roll into the Finals, taking out Fauroux with Ouchi-gari to win his first big tourney, the Paris

Please turn to Page 12

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Many of us know the basic set up and body position for standing Uchimata. But what about the reality of competition? Let's have a look at what we might call a "circular" type of movement in the set up for this "moving" competition Uchimata.

• STEP 1

The initial step is the most important part here. Tori (right, offense) and Uke (defense) both have tied up in the natural right standing posture. Tori first pulls Uke to force him into moving by stepping around, or past Uke's right foot, while at the same time pulling Uke towards Uke's left, front. This kuzushi, or off-balancing forces Uke to take a step forward with his left foot.



• STEP 2

Both fighters have therefore taken a clockwise circular movement. This does two things for Tori: it opens Uke's legs up for the Uchimata reap, and it creates momentum which will lead into the throw. Tori should now be positioned low, with his right hip into Uke's waist. It's as if Tori has moved across Uke, and pulled him into position for the throw. This pulling has been assisted by a strong right arm with a "yank." Tori's right leg is pulled up ready to shoot underneath Uke.



• A, B, C

"A" shows the proper head position - straight up. The vertebrae will then likewise be straight, for added power. Diagram "B" shows improper head position. "C" shows poor right arm placement. It should be cocked underneath Uke's arm, with the wrist straight.

• STEP 3

Some key points during the throw - Tori's left arm should be pulling up at 45° on Uke's right elbow (although picture does not show this well). Tori's right elbow should be cocked underneath Uke's left armpit. Also, for added power, Tori's right wrist should not be bent, but straight.

Important: Tori must lift with not only leg power, but **LEG AND HIP POWER COMBINED!**

*Good Luck! Remember, proper body movement and body placement, as well as using **HIP & LEG POWER!***

French Int'nl

Continued from Page 12

Internationals. Fighting for Third Place, N. Gill turned up the energy with his trademark dynamic Kata-garuma to defeat Sonnemans. The other Bronze went to Korea's Kim.

• +95kg - Men's

**HEAVYWEIGHTS:
Superstar D. Douillet
(FRA) Does Not
Compete. All Other
Atlanta Olympic
Medalists Challenge**

A Good Day For S. Shinohara (JPN)!

All we can say is: This was a good day for Shinji Shinohara, Japan's #1 heavyweight hope! And Shinohara did not just squirm past the easy players to make it to the Final Match; straight away he faced the serious contenders. Shinohara looked in good condition and positively dynamic.

His first match - vs. the always tough German '95 World 2nd / '96 Olympic Third Frank Moller. Moller, shaped like a block with feet, was caught by tall Shinohara's full point Sasae-tsirikomishashi forward foot clip. Shinohara's next match - vs. the other Olympic Bronze Harry Van Barneveld of Belgium. Another physically strong European, Van Barneveld was also demised with a full point Ouchi-gari.

Moving up to take on the Japanese in the quarterfinal was China's Olympic 5th, giant Shenggang Liu, who had fought strongly to defeat the Olympic Silver Ernesto Perez of Spain with an Uchimata throw. But, against Shinohara, Liu fell victim to a Kouchigari attack, to land on his backside for another ippon! Shinohara's semifinal opponent, France's K. Boumedjane withdrew from competition, and the

Japanese fighter advanced on to the Finals.

Coming up in the other pool was France's Laurent Crost, who rose above the Hungarian Imre Croz and Estonia's Indrek Pertelson to advance to the Title match. But by now, Shinohara's confidence was soaring, and he easily countered Crost's Uchimata attack for another full point, and the Paris title.

Germany's Frank Moller came back with a vengeance in repechage action, downing four players, including Van Barneveld and Shenggang Liu to win the Bronze. An interesting note in this division: the world caliber Georgian fighter DAVID KHAKHALEISHVILI, who had been denied competing in the Olympics because he arrived late to weigh in by 15 minutes, showed up here in Paris. This time he checked in to fight, and was slated to face Shinohara, but for some reason he forfeited out early on. Nevertheless, his post-Olympic appearance proves that the 1992 Olympic Champion is still interested in top level competition.

It will be interesting to see in what kind of condition is this Georgian powerhouse, when he finally does compete again.



Shinji Shinohara(Jpn)

• -48kg - Women's

With Ryoko Tamura home nursing a knee that she injured in practice, Team Japan sent to Paris their #2 ranked -48kg player, Atsuko Nagai. Nagai is no slouchy

**ONLY ONE Women's
Division, -48kg, On
Final Day. Japan
Sends A. Nagai
Instead Of Injured R.
Tamura!**



Japan's -48kg Atsuko Nagai

contenter, she is top world ranked, but taking a back seat to Tamura at home, she never receives the Olympic or World bid. She does contend at other large toumays. In 1994, Tamura and Nagai took 1st and 2nd at the Fukuoka's, Nagai defeating the World Silver Medalist Li Aiyue (CHN) to advance.

So it was no surprise that Nagai advanced to the Finals here, above such players as the Olympic 5th, Salima Souakri of Algeria. Nagai had won three of her four bouts by ippon. Moving up in Pool B was the serious threat, Cuba's top ranked Amarilis Savon, winner of last year's Paris Internationals.

Savon had defeated Nagai in the 1995 Fukuoka's, to have some confidence here in the Finals action. Yet, Nagai looked prepared, and began attacking with Ashi-waza (foot techniques), gaining a small lead on the Cuban. The an Osoto-gari backwards throw by Nagai caught Savon for a wazari, which she held for the duration to win her first

Thirds went to the unknown players, Korea's Hee-Joon Yoo and France's Servane Bruneau.

USJI HIGH SCHOOL NATIONALS

Houston, Texas - The High School Nationals this year took place in Houston, on March 7 and 8. Some top juniors showed up for the events, particularly in the Girl's divisions. 1996 Triple-Crown sisters Charlee and Davina Minkin captured their respective -52kg and -56kg titles. Both girls also received special awards, 14 year old Charlee the "Special Award," and older sister Davina the "Most Outstanding."

Another top girl to win big was Victoria Brown, who has consistently fought at the top of junior level competition for years. Victoria competed in her -61kg category, and took the title over Californian Yvonne Carrera.

1995 Triple-Crowner, Sagrario Hernandez, of Tenri Dojo in Los Angeles, stayed true to form by taking the Gold in the -72kgs.

For the boys, former Junior National Champion Ryan Resser of Texas defeated New York's Dynell Pinder for his -60kg title. It was a good match-up at -71kg, where 1995 Triple-Crown / '96 Double-Crown Tony Mojica faced 1996 JA Junior National Champ Richard Cohen of Uptown Dojo, Illinois. Yet Mojica is only 15 years old and could not reach past the older Cohen (fights in 17-20 div.) here. Cohen won and also received the "Best Technique" award.

The "Most Outstanding" Award was earned by Alan Slobedsky of Brooklyn, New York for his -78kg win over Lawrence Shenkman (PA).

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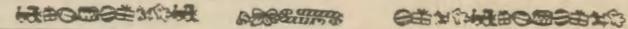
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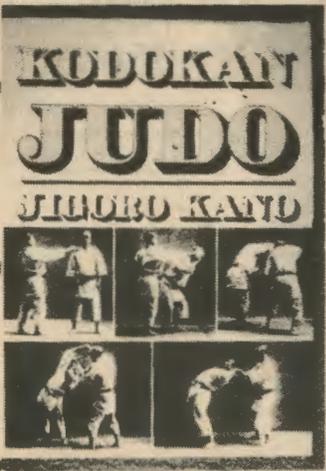
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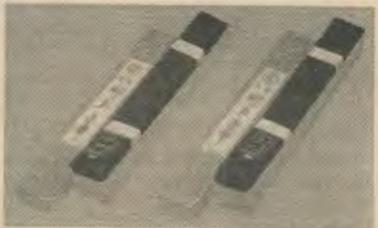
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TRAVEL

1997 World Championships

'97 Paris World Championships To Be Held At Bercy!

Paris, France - The 1997 World Judo Championships will be held from October 9-12, at the Omnisports Palace of Paris, in Bercy. Just 45 minutes from down town Paris, the arena was once host to the European Team Championships in 1984 and 1987.



• Paris Worlds Schedule

	MALE	FEMALE
OCT 09 :	+95kg, -95kg	+72kg, -72kg
OCT 10 :	-86kg, -78kg	-66kg, -61kg
OCT 11 :	-71kg, -65kg	-56kg, -52kg
OCT 12 :	-60kg, Open	-48kg, Open

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PREVIEW U.S. SR. NAT'NLS

Continued from Page 8

Hensley is out of competition this year. The only other possible challengers are last year's Third place finishers, Sumer Nishimura (CA) and Robyn Benincasa (CA). But in J.J.'s opinion, they have no chance against Bacher.

-72KG PREDICTION:

1. Sandra Bacher (CA)
2. Sumer Nishimura (CA)
3. Robyn Benincasa (CA)

+ 72/OPEN

Although Colleen Rosensteel (FL) and young Jamie Henry (CO) were listed with equal points on the November 1996 Senior Roster, recent placements in the tough European 1997 tournaments has, like -72kg S. Bacher, placed Rosensteel

C. Rosensteel's International Experience Gives Her Top U.S. Heavyweight Seed

in a league above other U.S. heavyweights. Rosensteel took an impressive Silver Medal at the Austrian Internationals, losing to the '95 World Bronze Daima Beltran of Cuba in the Final bout. She also won Bronze at the Checho Internationals.

Likely, Rosensteel will compete here to gain more points. Other heavyweight hopefuls include Jennifer Conte (NY), who was last year's Open Division Gold Medalist, and veteran Charmaine Alsager (IL). Darkhorse challengers will be young Cynthia Kono (CA) and Cyn-



1996 Senior National medal stand, from left: Tammy Hensley (CO), internationally experienced Sandra Bacher (CA), Sumer Nishimura (CA) and Robyn Benincasa (CA)

thia Nicholas (PA), both '96 Senior National Bronze Medalists.

+ 72KG/OPEN PREDICTION:

1. Colleen Rosensteel (CO)
2. Jamie Henry (CO)
2. Jennifer Conte (NY)
2. Charmaine Alsager (IL)
3. Cynthia Kono (CA)
3. Cynthia Nicholas (PA)

U.S. COLLEGE NATIONALS

Continued From Page 10

University of Colorado (OTC), won out over San Jose State, by 2 wins to 1, with a few other colleges close behind, including Texas A & M and Idaho State. It was an interesting match-up between -72kg players Liane Harada of OTC and San Jose State's Amy Tong. Formerly of Southern California, 18 year old Harada defeated Tong in the -72kg Final, but both faced each other again for the Open division title. Here, Tong avenged the previous loss for the Open Gold, to prove that she is as good as Harada.

At -61kg, the 1994 Senior National Champion Colleen McDonald of OTC predictably captured her division over the lesser known Loretta Edwards of Ohio State University. Other 1996 Senior National medalists to win here were -52kg Chanin Sugimoto and -56kg Elia Rodriguez.

Again, many top collegiate players opted to not compete at the Collegiate Nationals, more likely focusing their energy (and travel costs) on the May 2nd Senior Nationals, to be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Results

1997 U.S. HIGH SCHOOL NATIONALS

2. Gillian Miller (PA)
 3. Iris Feliciano (NY)
- -61kg
1. Victoria Brown (TX)
 2. Yvonne Carrera (CA)
 3. Zelenda Koch (WI)

● -66kg

1. Maribel Marrero (NY)
2. Addy Loughran (CA)
3. Maria Rodriguez (CO)

● -72kg

1. Sagrario Hernandez (CA)
2. Jill Collins (CA)

● +72kg

1. Colette Lameyse (CA)
2. Nonoushka St-Pre (NY)
3. Cynthia Kono (CA)

**Most Outstanding Davina Minkin
Best Technique Terri-Ann Fujikawa
Fighting Spirit Victoria Brown
Special Award Charlee Minkin**

PARIS INTERNATIONALS, Feb. 7-9

MEN

● -60kg

1. Kazuhiro Tokuno (JPN)
2. Dae-Hyun Moon (KOR)
3. Rachad Mamedov (BLR)
3. Oscar Penas (ESP)
5. Yacine Douma (FRA)
7. Frank Chambily (FRA)

● -65kg

1. Naoya Uchimura (JPN)
2. Larbi Benboudoud (FRA)
3. Hyuk Kim (KOR)
3. Jozsef Csak (HUN)

● -71kg

1. Dae-Sung Kwak (KOR)
2. Thomas Schleicher (AUT)
3. James Pedro (USA)
3. Christophe Massina (FRA)
5. Christophe Gagliano (FRA)

● -78kg

1. In-Chul Cho (KOR)
2. Guerman Abdoulsev (RUS)
3. Uwe Frenz (GER)
3. Karen Balayan (UKR)
5. Axel Eggenfellner (AUT)
5. Patrick Reiter (AUT)

● -86kg

1. Ki-Young Jeon (KOR)
2. Algiman Merkevicus (LTU)
3. Masaru Tanabe (JPN)
3. Sergej Klischin (AUT)

● -95kg

1. Daniel Gurschner (GER)
2. Eric Fauroux (FRA)
3. Min-Soo Kim (KOR)
3. Nicolas Gill (CAN)
5. Ben Sonnemans (NED)

● +95kg

1. Shinichi Shinohara (JPN)
2. Laurent Crost (FRA)
3. Frank Moller (GER)
3. Karim Boumedjane (FRA)
5. Imre Csasz (HUN)

WOMEN

● -48kg

1. Atsuko Nagai (JPN)
2. Amarilis Savon (CUB)
3. Servane Bruneau (FRA)
3. Hee-Joon Yoo (KOR)

● -52kg

1. Noriko Sugawara (JPN)
2. Legna Verdecia (CUB)
3. Carolina Mariani (ARG)
3. Nicole Flagothier (BEL)
5. Heidi Goossens (BEL)

● -56kg

1. Driulis Gonzalez (CUB)
2. Isabelle Magnien (FRA)
3. Isabel Fernandez (ESP)
3. Magalie Baton (FRA)
5. Mariabel Lomba (BEL)

● -61kg

1. Hiroko Kitazume (JPN)
2. Sara Alvarez (ESP)
3. Gella Vandecasteyne (BEL)
3. Severi Vandenhende (FRA)

● -66kg

1. Kate Howey (GBR)
2. Isabelle Beuruelle (FRA)
3. Claudia Zwiers (NED)
3. Natsuko Sano (JPN)

● -72kg

1. Noriko Anno (JPN)
2. Tatyana Byelyayeva (UKR)
3. Yuriiko Fukuba (JPN)
3. Ulla Werbrouck (BEL)
5. Diadenis Luna (CUB)

● +72kg

1. Celine Lebrun (FRA)
2. Daima Beltran (CUB)
3. Gaelle Potel (FRA)
3. Hua Yuan (CHN)
7. Christine Cicot (FRA)

WOMEN

● -45kg

1. Lesley Tanaka (HI)
2. Ayako Toma (CA)
3. Christal Ransom (AR)

● -52kg

1. Charlee Minkin (CA)
2. Sara Pacheco (CA)
3. Rosi Bartkowski (CT)

● -56kg

1. Davina Minkin (CA)

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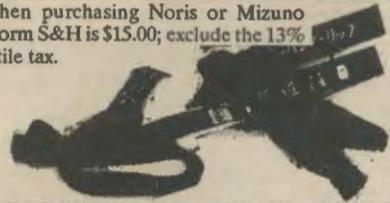
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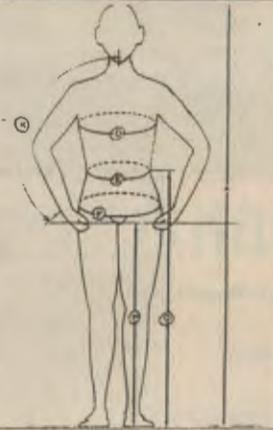
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 Women's: -61kg, -66kg, -72kg
- HUNGARIAN CUP RESULTS
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NATIONAL COLLEGIATE JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS, University of Kansas, Mar. 14-15

MEN

-60kg

- Johan Huit (San Jose S.)
- Deacon Kurwaye (San Jose S.)
- Beau Sunahara (Fresno St.)

-65kg

- Jake Flores (U of Col.)
- Joshua Resnick (San Jose S.)
- Thomas Craig (San Jose S.)

-71kg

- Chuck Jefferson (San Jose S.)
- Tetsu Okano (San Jose S.)
- Travis Tillman (US Military A.)

-78kg

- Reno Reser (U of Col.)
- Richard Garcia (St. Thomas)
- Charles Lee (San Jose S.)

-86kg

- Michael Barnes (San Jose S.)
- Alex Fukuma (Long Beach St.)
- Craig Walsh (US Military A.)

-95kg

- Ato Hand (U of Col.)
- Jeff Barret (U of Texas)
- Eugene Kuzmir (San Jose S.)

+95kg

- John Serbin (San Jose S.)
- Jeff Castilla (U of Col.)
- Scott Heimstader (U of Mich.)

OPEN

- John Serbin (San Jose S.)
- Ato Hand (U of Col.)
- Garret Waler (U of Col.)

FINAL MEN STANDINGS-POINTS

1. San Jose State	37
2. U of Colorado	22
3. Long Beach St.	3
U of Texas	3
St. Thomas U.	3

WOMEN

-52kg

- Chanin Sugimoto (Loyola U.)

-56kg

- Elia Rodriguez (Pike Peak C.)
- Renee Howard (San Jose S.)
- Elisa Horsch (Hendrix C.)

-61kg

- Colleen McDonald (U of Col.)
- Loretta Edwards (Ohio State)

-66kg

- Jackie Bayard (Texas A&M)
- Kim Fukda (Texas A&M)
- Kim Howard (U of Central A.)

-72kg

- Liane Harada (U of Col.)
- Amy Tong (San Jose S.)
- Stacia Lowry (Mohawk Valley)

+72kg

- Kalesi Felt (Idaho St.)
- Cari Reese (Slippery Rock U.)
- Mandy McCoy (U of Okl.)

OPEN

- Amy Tong (San Jose S.)
- Liane Harada (U of Col.)
- Kalesi Felt (Idaho St.)

FINAL WOMEN STANDINGS-POINTS

1. U of Colorado	13
2. San Jose State	11
3. Texas A & M	8
4. Idaho State	6
5. Loyola U	5
Pikes Peak C.	5

AUSTRIAN INTER'NLS, Leonding, Feb. 15-16

MEN

-60kg

- Moon, Dae-Hyun (KOR)
- Harada, Kenichi (JPN)
- Wenzel, Gernot (AUT)
- Naveira, Roberto (ESP)
- Tokuno, Kazuhiko (JPN)
- Pouillot, Manolo (CUB)

-65kg

- Guimaraes, Henrique (BRA)
- Kim, Hyuk (KOR)
- Nanjo, Mitsutoshi (JPN)
- Uchimura, Naoya (JPN)

-71kg

- Kwak, Dae-Sung (KOR)
- Adachi, Haruki (JPN)
- Pedro, James (USA)
- Pereira, Sebastian (BRA)

-78kg

- Reiter, Patrick (AUT)
- Murata, Ryuichi (JPN)
- Claverie, Cedric (FRA)
- Kubota, Kazunori (JPN)
- Cho, In-Chul (KOR)

-86kg

- Jeon, Ki-Young (KOR)
- Zanol, Edelmar (BRA)
- Fujita, Hiroomi (JPN)
- Nomis, Stephane (FRA)

-95kg

- Hanjo, Hisanori (JPN)
- Etinger, Thomas (AUT)
- Despaigne, Yhosuany (CUB)
- Kim, Min-Soo (KOR)

+95kg

- Inoue, Kosei (JPN)
- Sanchez, Angel (CUB)
- Tmenov, Tamerlan (RUS)
- Saruwatari, Takumi (JPN)

WOMEN

-48kg

- Wolf, Hillary (USA)
- Chichkina, Tatiana (RUS)
- Savon, Amarilis (CUB)
- Yoo, Hee-Joon (KOR)

-52kg

- Sugawara, Noriko (JPN)
- Nagai, Kazue (JPN)
- Pedula, Marisa (USA)
- Verdecia, Legna (CUB)
- Souiakri, Salima (ALG)

-56kg

- Gonzalez, Driulis (CUB)
- Rinnerthaler, Alexandra (AUT)
- Lastrade, Brigitte (CAN)
- Madl, Birgit (AUT)

-61kg

- Rodriguez, Kenia (CUB)
- Kusakabe, Kie (JPN)
- Vernerova, Michaela (CZE)
- Leocoeuche, Karine (FRA)
- Schutz, Celita (USA)

-66kg

- Veranes, Sibelis (CUB)
- Zabacka, Jana (SVK)
- Rambault, Karine (FRA)
- Kimoto, Nami (JPN)

-72kg

- Silva, Ednanci (BRA)
- Bacher, Sandra (USA)
- Anno, Noriko (JPN)
- Cho, Min-Sun (KOR)

+72kg

- Beltran, Daima (CUB)
- Rosensteel, Colleen (USA)
- Lee, Hyun-Kyung (KOR)
- Andrade, Edilene (BRA)

GERMAN INTER'NLS, Munich, Feb. 22-23

MEN

-60kg

- Sanoda, Ryuji (JPN)
- Vanous, Robert (CZE)
- Penas, Oscar (ESP)
- Poulot, Manolo (CUB)

-65kg

- Manjiyo, Mitsutoshi (JPN)
- Revazishvili, George (GEO)
- Vazagashvili, George (GEO)

- Ozkan, Huseyin (TUR)
- Narmandakh, Dorjpalam (MGL)

-71kg

- Pedro, James (USA)
- Kingston, Danny (GBR)
- Quellmalz, Udo (GER)
- Euclide, Jeany (FRA)
- Pereira, Sebastian (BRA)
- Viera, Gilberto (USA)

-78kg

- Takimoto, Nakoto (JPN)
- Kubota, Kazunori (JPN)
- Ochireat, T. (MGL)
- Canto, Flavio (BRA)
- Hajtos, Bertalan (HUN)
- Bulke, Philippe (BEL)
- Cho, In-Chul (KOR)

-86kg

- Spittka, Marco (GER)
- Nonis, Stephane (FRA)
- Fujita, Miroomi (JPN)
- Arens, Maarten (NED)
- Bagdasarow, Armen (UZB)

-95kg

- Ivan, Radu (ROM)
- Soares, Pedro (POR)
- Kim, Min-Soo (KOR)
- Lemaire, Ghislain (FRA)

+95kg

- Yabu, Naoto (JPN)
- Van Barneveld, Harry (BEL)
- Ruano, Aythami (ESP)
- Nakishi, Yoshiharu (JPN)

WOMEN

-48kg

- Savon, Amarilis (CUB)
- Yoo, Hee-Joon (KOR)
- Danmary, Dorte (GER)
- Makabe, Tomoe (JPN)
- Heron, Joyce (GBR)
- Wolf, Hillary (USA)

-52kg

- Clement, Inge (BEL)
- Tang, Lihong (CHN)
- Verdecia, Legna (CUB)
- Nagai, Kazue (JPN)
- Flagothier, Nicole (BEL)

-56kg

- Driulis, Gonzalez (CUB)
- Liu, Chuang (CHN)
- Lomba, Marisabel (BEL)
- Magnien, Isabelle (FRA)

-61kg

- Rodriguez, Kenia (CUB)
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- Tokarz, Irena (POL)
- Vandecaveye, Gella (BEL)
- Buckingham, Michelle (CAN)
- Emoto, Yuiko (JPN)

-66kg

- Cho, Min-Sun (KOR)
- Wansart, Yvonne (GER)
- Rambault, Karin (FRA)
- Kazumi, Risa (JPN)

-72kg

- Yoshida, Saki (JPN)
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- Bacher, Sandra (USA)

+72kg

- Yuan, Hus (CHN)
- Lee, Hyun-Kyung (KOR)
- Beltran, Daima (CUB)
- Ninomiya, Miho (JPN)
- Hagn, Johanna (GER)
- Maksymow, Beata (POL)

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MAY 31-01 Guido Sieni, Sassari, Italy.

JUN 18-21 BENITO JUAREZ, Mexico.

JUN 23-28 CUBA CUP, Cuba.

JUL 03-09 PAN AMERICAN JUDO UNION - JUNIORS, Columbia.

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MAR-APR 1997

IJF NEWS

NEW RULE - 25 SECONDS TO PIN?

The European Judo Union has recently proposed a new 25 SECOND RULE to win with ippon on pins, or Osaekomi, rather than the traditional 30 seconds. They feel that if an opponent is pinned to the mat for 25 seconds, then he has very little chance of escaping. Consequently, a wazari would be given for a hold down of 20 to 24 seconds, a yuko would be 15 to 19 seconds,



Sankaku-gatame pin, displayed at recent Women's Fukuokas

and a koka 10 to 14 seconds.

This is an interesting idea, but a Japanese official's response was that they felt this was to the advantage of the Europeans, as Europeans prefer grappling and winning on point accumulation, rather than shooting for the big throw, like the Japanese.

Nevertheless, the International Judo Federation Referee Commission has announced that it will allow the 25 second proposal to be on the agenda at the IJF General Meeting to be held during the upcoming Paris World Championships in October. First, however, the proposal must pass through an Executive Committee Meeting in May, which is to be expected.

The IJF Referee Commission will also vote on allowing women judoka to wear leotards instead of a white T-shirt underneath their gi.

World Champion Ogawa Turns Pro!

JAPAN'S TOP VETERAN NAOYA OGAWA Leaves Judo, Quits Job, and Takes Up PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING!!

Japan - Japan's heavyweight champion Naoya Ogawa has been at the top of his country's national team since 1989, when he won his first All-Japan Open Weight title. Since 1989, he captured 7 out of 8 All-Japan victories, a record second only to the Judo great Yasuhiro Yamashita, who won 9 straight. Ogawa is also credited with 4 World titles, and the Olympic Silver Medal!

Last year at the age of 28, he reached the end of an illustrious Judo career, and retired from amateur competition at a safe age. His 5th Place finish in Atlanta was an indication of that. However, the real BIG NEWS then came! Ogawa retired from a long held position with JRA, the Japan Racing Association, and accepted an offer to fight for the Professional Wrestling Association Shin-Nippon. This news splashed huge face pictures of Ogawa across the entire front sports pages of Japanese newspapers!

It should go without saying, that this must have rocked considerably the

ultra-traditional Kodokan establishment. Their 286 pound, 6'4" baby turns PRO! Well, he needed a change in his career, and this was a very lucrative option.

The Shin-Nippon Pro Wrestling establishment is spearheaded by Seiji Sakaguchi, himself a former All-Japan Champion. It was Sakaguchi, along with others who also took up professional fighting careers after Judo. Another was the legendary Judoka and several time All-Japan Champion Masahiko Kimura, who attempted to form for the first time Professional Judo, much to the consternation of the Kodokan, and eventually fought as a Pro Wrestler.

Their is a long list of other great Judoka to turn pro, either as a wrestler or as an "open" or "free" fighter, meaning no-holds-barred. One of them was the first Judo Olympic heavyweight Champion (1964), Anton Geesink of Holland. Holland's 1972 Olympic winner Wilhelm Ruska also turned pro. Others include the 1992 Barcelona heavyweight winner David Khakhaleishvili of Georgia, the 1991 World Champion Sergei Kosorotov of Russia, and the top Women's heavyweight contender Svetlana Goudarenko (RUS), all three of whom continue to compete in amateur Judo.

Perhaps all this commotion about amateur and professional status, along with Ogawa's transition into the professional arena, the advent of professional Judo may soon be at hand!

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JUNE 22 (Sunday)

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It should go without saying, that this must have rocked considerably the professional judo may soon be at hand!

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