

High School and College Nationals Report

The High School and Collegiate National Judo Championships were held in Spokane, Washington in March. Some impressive talent was showcased in the two competitions. With competing sports and activities vying for their focus, retaining and developing the promising young players is a formidable challenge for American Judo.

Spokane's Shinohara? Potential Pitfalls of Video Review

Popular with the fans of football, a coach has one chance in each half of a game to challenge a ruling on the field; inconclusive video review results in keeping the call made on the field. When a challenge is refuted or inconclusive, the team making the challenge is penalized with the loss of a time-out. Judo coaches and fans often wish there was such a system in judo to correct injustices, and even the director of the PJU Referee Commission thinks it is coming (see Diaz interview, page 3).

The Collegiate National Judo Championships gold medal match in the men's -73 kg division ended as a tribute to the need for and the problems that might be associated with video review. The referee called "ippon" and white jumped up ecstatic with his perceived victory. The crowd was led to chant "blue" by teammates of the blue player. The officials conferred and awarded the match to the blue player. The coach of the white player and most of the crowd expressed disbelief, and the referee commission met with the officials as they left the mat. After several minutes in conference, they returned to the mat and attempted to recall the players to the mat; apparently, the officials had decided to reverse the decision. The coach of the blue player instructed his player to not return to the mat, and other high level referees intervened with the opinion that since the officials had left the mat the decision was not able to be reversed.

Upon subsequent video review of several films, white clearly initiated and executed the throw, a rolling kata guruma that, depending on the angle from which the tape was made, deserved ippon (in which case the wrong player won) or alternatively hansukomake for a head dive (in which case the correct player won). What is the moral of the story? Even video review won't solve every difficult officiating question in dynamic judo matches. And things that seem painfully wrong or unjust can teach us lessons about character, emotion, perspective, and the healing power of time.

The white player was given a silver medal and a special sportsmanship award.



High School Results

Special Awards:

Best Technique Male: Naotomo Gibson
Best Technique Female: Veronica Castillo
Fighting Spirit Male: Harry Sr. Leger
Fighting Spirit Female: Mari Malloy

DIVISION: Women 44 kg

1. Brianna MATSUURA, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Palos Verdes Peninsula
2. Juli YAMANAKA, Oceanside, CA, Carlsbad High School

DIVISION: Women 48 kg

1. Christina PRO, Jefferson Hills, PA, Thomas Jefferson
2. Ann SHIRAIISHI, Elk Grove, CA, Sheddon High School

DIVISION: Women 52 kg

1. Christine ELLIS, Westfield, NJ, Home Schooled
2. Anna PALMER, Sacramento, CA, Rio Americano High S

DIVISION: Women 57 kg

1. Mari MALLOY, Oak Harbor, WA, Oak Harbor High Scho
2. Tawny UEMURA, Torrance, CA, W Torrance High Scho

DIVISION: Women 63 kg

1. Veronica CASTILLO, Richmond, CA, El Cerrito High S.
2. Janise NAKAO, Marina, CA, Seaside High School

DIVISION: Women 70 kg

1. Jennifer TUTASS, El Cerrito, CA, Salesian High School
2. Oronica JUAREZ, Fresno, CA, Central High School

DIVISION: Women 78 kg

1. Samantha LANG, Tualatin, OR, Tualatin H.S.
2. Amber THEIS, Barstow, CA, Barstow High School

DIVISION: Women +78 kg

1. Chelsea SIAKI, Vacaville, CA, Will C. Wood High
2. Misuy TASHIRO, Spokane, WA, Joel Ferris High

DIVISION: Men 49 kg

1. Marcus KAWAHARA, San Jose, CA, Branham High School
2. Carlos BEDOLLA, San Fernando, CA, JFK High School

DIVISION: Men 52 kg

1. Toshiya NISHIMURA, Westchester, OH, Lakota East High
2. Daniel HUNG, Cupertino, CA, The Harzer School

DIVISION: Men 55 kg

1. Charles HUNG, Cupertino, CA, The Harzer School
2. Matthew DIAS, Fremont, CA, JFK High School

DIVISION: Men 60 kg

1. Kenyu HASHIMOTO, Thornton, CO, Thornton High School
2. Grant NAKASHIMA, Kent, WA, Kentwood High School

DIVISION: Men 66 kg

1. Naotomo GIBSON, Scotch Plains, NJ, Pingry School
2. Michael ELDRED, Fruitland, ID, Fruitland High School

DIVISION: Men 73 kg

1. Garry ST LEGER, Brooklyn, NY, James Madison High S
2. Edwin ARANAZU, Cranford, NJ, Cranford High School

DIVISION: Men 81 kg

1. Zachary KOSTOPOULOS, Somerville, MA, Somerville Charter
2. Harry ST LEGER, Brooklyn, NY, James Madison High

DIVISION: Men 90 kg

1. Brandon HALSEY, Oceanside, CA, Rancho Buena Vista
2. Derek GEYER, Weatherford, TX, Trinity Christian

DIVISION: Men 100 kg

1. Jonathan FULLER, Elmendorf, TX, E Central High Schoo
2. Keith LÖHSE, Postrelo, ID, Century High School

DIVISION: Men +100 kg

1. Aaron SHIOSAKI, Lomita, CA, Palos Verdes Peninsula
2. J. Daniel MCCORMICK, Arlington, TX, Lamar High School

Complete results at:

www.usjudo.org/results/2003hscoll.htm

College Results

Special Awards:

Outstanding Male: David Fukuda, Boise State Univ.
Outstanding Female: Telitha Ellis, Rutgers, Univ.
Tom Lambert Award: Kazunaka ARA, Slippery Rock Univ.
Jeremy Click Sportsmanship Award: Drinin Moseley, Univ. of Tennessee.
Team Awards: San Jose State University won both the Men's and Women's team awards.
San Jose's Coach Mr. Yosh Uchida was named Coach of the Year

DIVISION: Women 48 kg

1. Diana CAPOCASA, Carpentersville, IL, Elgin Community College
2. Carolyn NERON, Ypsilanti, MI, Eastern Michigan Univ.

DIVISION: Women 52 kg

1. Siri TRAVIESO, Miami, FL, Florida Intl. Univ.
2. Karen GEORGE, Lafayette, LA, Univ. of Louisiana-lafayette

DIVISION: Women 57 kg

1. Stephanie MOYERMAN, Claremont, CA, Harvey Mudd College
2. Jessica MOSER, San Jose, CA, San Jose State University

DIVISION: Women 63 kg

1. Marija DJOKIC, San Francisco, CA, San Francisco State
2. Heidi BARTKOWSKI, San Jose, CA, San Jose State University

DIVISION: Women 70 kg

1. Telitha ELLIS, Westfield, NJ, Rutgers Univ.
2. Kimberly BALOGH, Flagstaff, AZ, Northern Arizona Universi

DIVISION: Women 78 kg

1. Lisa UEMURA, Salinas, CA, Univ. Calif. - San Diego
2. Molly O'ROURKE, Berkeley, CA, Contra Costa College

DIVISION: Men 60 kg

1. Darranyon BURROWS, Fruitland, ID, Boise State Univ.
2. Frank SANCHEZ, W Covina, CA, Calif. State Fullerton

DIVISION: Men 66 kg

1. David FUKUDA, Fruitland, ID, Boise State Univ.
2. Janusz LABEDZ, San Jose, CA, San Jose State University

DIVISION: Men 73 kg

1. Casey GAMBREL, San Jose, CA, San Jose State University
2. Kazunaka ARA, Slippery Rock, PA, Slippery Rock Univ.

DIVISION: Men 81 kg

1. Sivasas SAJUS, San Diego, CA, San Diego City College
2. Yujin TOMA, Fresno, CA, Fresno State

DIVISION: Men 90 kg

1. Marc UEMURA, Salinas, CA, University of California
2. Andy COHEN, Colorado Springs, CO, University of Denver

DIVISION: Men 100 kg

1. Garrett ORR, Nolensville, TN, University of Tennessee

DIVISION: Men +100 kg

1. Jonathan LEONHARDT, San Jose, CA, San Jose State University
2. Aaron RUTHNICK, San Jose, CA, San Jose State University

Complete results at:

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