



Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter

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Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai

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Competition Memories

By
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Memories.

Some fond. Some...not so much.

Ask anyone who has competed in a jujitsu competition, and they can give you a detailed account of what they did, how they did it, and what happened because of it. Intense concentration and effort burn memories into our brains like mental tattoos.

During the last Sumo competition on February 18, 2017, I asked a few people to recall their fondest competition memories. The interviewees varied in experience from a few months to several decades. But all of them had very clear memories of a special moment that made competition worthwhile.

Fourteen year-old Joshua Burtle from the Downey YMCA dojo has been practicing jujitsu for three and a half years. He recalled his first competitive experience. "It was a randori contest. I won my division. The thing I remember most about it was trying to throw other kids. That was the fun part."

For Christina Ahn, her sumo contest was the second jujitsu competition of her life. But what she recalls most from participating was working out with people from different dojos. "Working in my dojo, I see the same people. Competing against people from other dojos is what I remember most."

Sensei Lee Firestone recalled his fondest competition memory, "I was a green belt at the time. It was my first jujitsu competition. It was a Shoshin Ryu judo contest. I was representing my dojo. Professor Gallegos had not showed up yet. I was in a division with all these big dudes. There were brown belts, a yellow belt, another green belt, a white belt. At Six feet two inches I was the smallest competitor. Midway through the tournament, Uncle David Nuuhiwa showed up. Professor Carlos brought him in with him. Uncle Dave had not been to a tournament in a long time. It was special for me that I got to compete in front of him. I ended up winning the competition. That was easily the most memorable competition I was ever involved in."

Not all competition memories are about winning, for Professor Dan Kveen it was a lesson he learned, "I was doing a freestyle competition. I got to my third technique, and I was completely out of breath. My sensei whispered, 'Breathe!' After that the rest of the tournament went fine." Professor Kveen laughed at his recollection, "It was a small but important point."

We tend to forget that Shoshin Ryu is not the only group providing competition experiences. Both Senseis Dale Evola and Leo Lopez had their most memorable events occur at judo and jujitsu events run by other organizations. For Sensei Evola it was finishing second at a sanctioned judo event. For Sensei Lopez his fondest competition memory came at the Jujitsu Games held at California State University Dominguez Hills. "It was my first competition. I did not know what to expect. I just decided to go in there and have fun. I placed third. It was my first one, so it was a learning experience. I was put into situations where I stalled and it took me seconds to figure out what to do next. It was memorable for me."

(See "**Competition**" on page 4)

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Sumo Contest February 18, 2017

More than twenty judoka from around southern California crowded the mat of the First Baptist Church of Westminster on Saturday, February 18, 2017. The competition was typical of a sumo contest, lots of pushing and shoving, some lifting and moving, and a whole lot of fun.

Here are a few pictures to commemorate the occasion.



A nice easy stretch before the competition.



Just because you hit the floor first, does not mean you lost. That is up to the judge.



Sumo is lots of pushing, shoving, and fun.



Two kids thinking the same thing, "I'm going to push you out of the ring."



How is sumo like life? Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, but you never give up.



The smallest competitors can be the toughest, most fierce on the mat.

Words of Wisdom

"The irresponsible life is not worth living." -Thomas Szasz

"Never live in the past but always learn from it." - Unknown

"However many holy words you read, however many you speak, what good will they do you if you do not act on upon them?" - Buddha

"Most people would rather be certain they're miserable, than risk being happy."
- Robert Anthony





Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai



Membership form

Please check one: _____ New member _____ Renewal Date _____

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthdate _____ Sex: M / F Phone(s) _____

e-mail address _____ Dojo affiliation _____

Instructor _____ Your current rank _____

Dues/ fees: \$25.00 per year for children, \$30.00 per year for adult kyu ranks, and \$40.00 for dan ranks. Membership dues include mandatory liability and supplemental medical insurance. Membership is for the current calendar year from January 1 through December 31.

Signature _____ Date _____

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Dedicated to the art and principles of
Danzan Ryu Jujitsu

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The History of Shoshin Ryu, Vol. I

The History of Shoshin Ryu is now available on Amazon.com and on the OutskirtsPress websites. It took nine months to write and was produced through countless interviews with Professors Mike Chubb, Bill Fischer, Len Riley, Jon Jacques, Kevin Dalrymple, Steve McMillan, Roger Medlen, and a host of others. For some it will be a trip down memory lane, for others it will be an essential part of understanding the roots of Shoshin Ryu.

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See what Professor George Arrington has to offer!

Promotion

Shodan

David Greenwalt

Golden West Dojo of Riverside

(“Compeition” continued from page 1)

Candia Franceschi has been practicing jujitsu for about 18 months. As of yet she has not competed in any event. She has been to many of them and watched what goes happens on the mat. “My favorite memories about watching the kids compete is seeing the confidence that the children have and seeing the lack of hesitancy. Once the competition begins, they are fully engaged. There is not a moment of hesitation.”

To contrast Candia is Professor Jim Lambert. He has been part of the jujitsu scene for more than fifty years. He had so many competition memories that it took him a minute to sift through his experiences and come up with one. “My very first enjoyable moment was when I threw an opponent Seoi Goshi, really clean, and got an ippon out of it. I almost got a standing ovation from the crowd and it felt really good. The second most memorable moment was when a friend of mine, his name was Preston Rosser, he finished like third place in the world championships in judo. We were having a friendly competition up in Big Bear, and I was able to get him on tomoe nage. It was a good, clean, easy throw and it felt so good.”

Whether one competes against classmates, jujitsuka from other classes, children, adults, or world champions, competition has a special place in learning jujitsu. It leaves memories in our brains, for better or worse, we cannot get rid of. Those memories help to enrich our jujitsu lives and give us tales to tell when the new faces come to the dojo.