

Growing Judo

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Club Support Services Committee of the USJA

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Photos from the 2011 USJA/USJF Winter Nationals





News and Photos from the 2011 USJA/USJF Winter Nationals



The 6th annual USJA/USJF Winter Nationals were held in Damien High School's gym on December 3-4 in La Verne, California. There were over 500 competitors from 73 clubs that competed in 119 divisions including Seniors, Juniors, Masters, Novices, and Kata.

Over the last six years, the USJA/USJF Winter Nationals has provided the opportunity for serious competition. Gary Goltz, President of the USJA and head of Goltz Judo launched this Grassroots Judo tournament at the request of Jim Bregman to provide a chance for a year-end competition. The tournament continues to grow in popularity.

This year, participants came from all over the country, including large groups from Louisiana, Arizona, Texas, and Florida and international competitors from Brazil and Mexico. Along with individual honors, the event offers a Top Club Award. This year, Hayastan MMA Academy in North Hollywood and Kenam's Judo Club in Glendale California tied for the award, both with 74 points.

On the day prior to the tournament, Bill Montgomery, USJA Board Member and Coaching Education and Certification Committee Chair, and Joan Love, USJA Vice President, offered a USJA Coaching Certification Clinic. The full-day clinic, which was attended by over 25 coaches from all over the country, included both classroom discussion and active on-the-mat sessions on teaching methods such as drill training. Participants were able to gain initial coaching certification or earn continuing education credit.





After Saturday's competition, Sauveur Soriano, originally from France, and Paulo Augusto, originally from Brazil, offered a competitors' clinic that was free to all participants.

Goltz Judo, under the direction of O.J. Soler and Tony Farah, provided the majority of volunteers along with Discover Judo, Industry Sherriff's Judo, and Empire Judo and its sister USJA clubs, which are all offspring of Goltz Judo. The event ran smoothly, through the efforts of all of these volunteers, many of whom were parents of judoka. This year, Brian Platt of Goltz Judo tirelessly organized the volunteers who did everything from mat setup and breakdown to staffing the four pooling tables. Registration was expertly handled by his wife, Rebecca. Security for the tournament was supervised by Tony Cortina and Sean Gregory of Goltz Judo.



Tatamis were provided by Nanka Judo Yudanshakai, which came through when a last-minute problem

arose with the tournament mat supplier. USJA board member Dr. James Lally, Chief Medical Officer of Prime Health, provided an experienced team of sports medicine physicians accustomed to working judo tournaments, along with EMTs from Aegis Ambulance.

Hayward Nishioka oversaw the officiating. Additional IJF-A referees Mark Yamanaka and Mark Oermann assisted him, and many other high level referees participated. Kenji Osugi was in charge of the Kata Competition, an area that is targeted for future growth. Toward this end, renowned kata authority Eiko Shepherd is scheduled to do a Kata Certification Clinic at next year's event!





The judowinternationals.com website has the complete history of the tournament, results, photos from Gary Wagstaff and videos, and information for the 2012 USJA/USJF Winter Nationals and Clinics can also be found there.

--Randall Swift, father of a young green belt.



Post-Winter Nationals Clinic and Celebration

On Monday December 5, 2011, Goltz Judo club hosted a post-Winter Nationals clinic and celebration. Sensei Goltz invited many of the tournament's competitors that were still in town to Goltz Judo Club's Monday night class. We were fortunate to have both Sauveur Soriano and Paulo Augusto lead a clinic with over 80 judoka present. We also celebrated the achievements of these competitors. There were several well earned promotions, including Sensei Nathan Goltz's promotion to 4th Dan. This event really highlight Grassroots Judo!

