

**MERRY XMAS TO  
ALL UNSW MEMBERS,  
FAMILY & FRIENDS!**

# UNSW Judo News

December 2015



## OJU CONTINENTAL OPEN WOLLONGONG

### TOP WORLD ATHLETES VIE FOR OLYMPIC SELECTION

Leading judoka from all over the world converged on Wollongong in November for the Oceania Judo Union Continental Open. With only six months remaining for Olympic qualification, the quest for those final elusive World Ranking List points is on in earnest. While some leading countries like Japan, Korea and China were absent, the tournament attracted almost 200 athletes from thirty nine countries. With Britain, Canada, Azerbaijan, Algeria and USA all sending strong teams, the competition was always going to be hot. The WIN Entertainment Centre looked its best for the event, which went off smoothly as a credit to the organisers.



our team in 11<sup>th</sup> place on the results table.

Great Britain topped the medal tally with 3 gold, 2 silver and three bronze, ahead of Canada and Algeria, both nations with two gold, one silver and one bronze.

The competition was fierce and spectacular, and there were some outstanding individual performances over the weekend:

Katelyn Bouyssou of the USA took the 48kg in a gutsy display of aggressive judo after surprisingly beating favourite Kimberley Renicks (GBR) in their semi final. Nathan Burns (GBR) topped the men's 66kg in a bruising final with Houd Zourdani (ALG). Marco Madaloni (ITA) surprised Danny Williams (GBR) with a last second uchimata to win the 73kg after Williams had dominated the entire fight to that point. Ecaterina Guica (CAN) was classy in taking out the womens 52kg. Emirhan Yucel (TUR) came out on top of a very competitive and entertaining mens 81kg, decisively throwing Commonwealth Games gold medallist Owen

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Miranda (L) in the 78kg final

Faced with such elite opposition, the Australian team's results were a little disappointing, taking only two medals, both silver. There were however nine fifth placings, tantalisingly close to getting onto the podium; putting



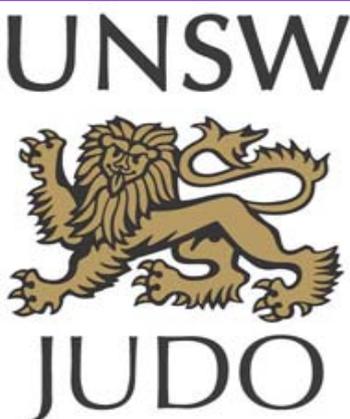
Heidi on her way to winning vs BEL

## FIVE NEW DAN GRADES!

After a lot of hard work and preparation, Heidi Wright, Mauricio Goncalves, Henry Han, Jason Dimos and Con Dimos, were all successful in achieving their shodan.

This is the greatest number of club members to achieve the grade on a single day. JFANSW grading convenor and UNSW coach Rob Maurency reports that all our guys did well in the examination. Congratulations to all!

Unfortunately Dave Jordan chose to attempt the grading via batsugun, but just came up short, nailing four wins of the necessary five.



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## OJU OPEN Cont'd

Livesey (GBR) in the final with a great seoinage. Britain's other Commonwealth Gold medalist Megan Fletcher was in a class of her own in taking out the 70kg category, holding Kathleen Sell (USA) in the final.



Oren comes to grips with Dawson (GBR)

Others to impress were genial Fijian Jo Naulu, who almost took a medal in 81kg with his explosive brand of judo. Australia's young 100kg hopeful Elijah Schuurmans also had a good tournament, just falling short after disposing of Jason Koster (NZL) and Stefan Jurisic (SRB) only to be edged out somewhat unluckily in the semis by Davadorj (MGL)



The trophies - distinctly Australian!

For Australia there were only two podium placings. Our own Miranda Giambelli took second in the 78kg, with a disappointing loss to Sarah Mazouz (GAB) by a strangle.



Heidi (far L) waits to fight for bronze

Katharina Haecker could not repeat her victory last year, going down to Stefanie Tremblay (CAN) in the final of the 63kg. Apart from Miranda, the best performance by a UNSW athlete came from Heidi Wright, who fought strongly in her first major international competition, almost snatching bronze in the 63kg. Heidi started off well, coming from behind



Megan Fletcher GBR wins the 70kg

to defeat Sandrine Billiet (BEL). Her bronze medal match was a close affair, with her opponent Leilani Akiyama (USA) lucky to survive without being penalised out of the fight. Heidi can take a lot of satisfaction from her performance.

Our other club members did not fare so well. In the 73kg, Oren Janiv faced Patrick Dawson (GBR) in the first round, and in attempting a counter had it reversed on him and was held for ippon.



Grossklauss (SUI) attacks in the 90kg final

Our three Kiwis didn't do much better. Ivica Pavlinic, just back from Europe, won his first fight, but injured his arm in doing so, and went out in his next round. Dave Jordan lost a hard fought first round match against no.1 ranked Australian Eoin Coughlan. Mark Brewer, still nursing various injuries, was thrown with saesae by Thomas Capra (USA) in his first fight.



The 66kg final was full of action



## UNSW KIDS DEBUT AT SHINSEI COMPETITION

A determined band of UNSW kids, many of them entering their first competition, descended on the Shinsei tournament in Blacktown on 8 November.

As always, this competition gives the younger kids an ideal opportunity to gain experience of what it means to fight, before they venture into the larger State tournaments.

Dylan Katz was our most experienced entrant on the day, and he was untroubled to win his category. Younger brother Anthony had his first taste of competition and came through well, showing a good attitude. Alexandra Spaska also fought hard.

Riki Aravena, a chip off the old block, showed some good potential, had some good fights and came away with a determined third place.

Natalia Nachman and Caeden Lang suffered badly from first comp nerves, but gradually improved in their confidence as the day went on.



Dylan Katz takes another title



Riki (above) and Anthony (below) fighting



## UNSW PEOPLE AND EVENTS

### Strength and Conditioning program for UNSW juniors

This important new initiative commenced on 7 November. Under the program, a selected group of the club's up-and-coming juniors and cadets began training with Marco Ferrara. Marco is not only a 3<sup>rd</sup> dan in judo, but is a well qualified and experienced strength and conditioning coach who has worked with elite judo athletes in his home country of Italy. We look forward to seeing the benefits of this program in the future.



**Grand Prix Korea and Grand Slam Tokyo**  
Oren Janiv and Miranda Giambelli both competed in some major World Tour events in Asia in November and December.



Miranda further enhanced her chances of Olympic qualification by taking first round wins in Korea and Japan. (Wang TPE in Jeju; Garthia INA in Tokyo) The victories gained her some valuable additional WRL points. Unfortunately Oren went out in Round one in Tokyo to Setz (GER).

**There was a rush of International visitors at the club as they arrived in Australia to prepare for the OJU Open competition.** Although their stay was very brief, we were pleased to host athletes, and some coaches from Great Britain, Ireland, USA, Estonia and French Polynesia.



**Sofie Haglow and son John in Sydney.** Sofie is a long term friend of the club, having first come here way back in 1993. In his past visit John was just a youngster, now he is a handy shodan and a good training partner.



**Michael Penkov** is back home after completing his studies in Japan. Good to see Michael back with us and on the mat, where he is enjoying himself.

**Rob Maurency is the new President of the NSW Black Belt Register.** The BBR is the technical advisory panel for the JFA NSW, and is responsible for conducting state gradings, technical courses, and the development of the technical standard of judo within NSW. Rob's appointment gives him the opportunity to breathe new life into this organisation.

## XMAS PARTIES ROUND OFF A BIG YEAR FOR UNSW JUDO

The club's year was celebrated in spectacular style with two events which brought members, family and friends together.

The first function was a dinner at a city restaurant, attended by some 40 people. A great night with good food, drinks and a festive atmosphere.

The second gathering was a first for the club, and an outstanding success. This was a "family day" held at the Giant Dwarf theatre in Redfern. The day exceeded all expectations, bringing together around 100. The venue was ideal, allowing the "littlies" to run free while their parents enjoyed themselves. There was a BBQ lunch, drinks and entertainment that included a "judo dance" routine by some of our girls, a self defence demonstration, and the traditional club annual awards that recognised performance and progress.

Thanks to Azita, Heidi and especially Sam Asher for their efforts in making our Xmas so memorable.



# More pics from the OJU Open



Kathy Meyer: official announcer



The 81kg final: TUR vs GBR



Warm up area - the usual chaos



UNSW members and coaches enjoying the competition



| <u>Country</u> | <i>Gold</i> | <i>Silver</i> | <i>Bronze</i> | <i>5<sup>th</sup></i> | <i>7<sup>th</sup></i> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>GBR</b>     | 3           | 2             | 3             | 2                     | 1                     |
| <b>CAN</b>     | 2           | 1             | 1             | 1                     |                       |
| <b>AJG</b>     | 2           | 1             | 1             |                       |                       |
| <b>USA</b>     | 1           | 2             | 2             | 2                     | 1                     |
| <b>AZE</b>     | 1           | 2             | 2             | 1                     |                       |
| <b>SUI</b>     | 1           | 2             | 1             |                       |                       |
| <b>TUR</b>     | 1           |               |               | 2                     |                       |
| <b>CZE</b>     | 1           |               |               |                       |                       |
| <b>GAB</b>     | 1           |               |               |                       |                       |
| <b>ITA</b>     | 1           |               |               |                       |                       |
| <b>AUS</b>     |             | 2             |               | 9                     | 9                     |

Medal Table: The top ten countries



# ...and from our Family Day



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