

UNSW Judo News

February 2017

**FIRST
EDITION FOR
THE YEAR!**

RECORD ACT INTERNATIONAL OPEN

UNSW JUNIORS LEAD THE WAY INTO 2017

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There was a record number of around 480 entries for this year's ACT Open...the first major event of the year for Australian judoka.

Many weight categories had very healthy fields of high quality athletes. UNSW was well represented across the board, although we could have used more senior entrants! Not surprisingly perhaps, it was our junior brigade who brought home the most medals.

With so many competing and succeeding it was hard to single out our stars, but special mention needs to be made of a few...



Angus Hutcheon (above) swept all before him in taking out the senior boys 36kg. Angus had his best competition day ever and in the final took revenge over a boy he had never beaten before. In the same category Dylan Katz suffered a rare defeat, but collected himself and came back to take bronze.

Josh and Ryan Koenig also had good days, taking silver and bronze respectively. Dylan Nguyen was untroubled to win his category, and could have used a bigger challenge. Also in junior boys, Elijah Raif just keeps improving, showing excellent judo and fine sportsmanship. His uchimata is something special for a young boy.



Iakov Ivanets came out on top of a very tough senior boys 45kg. One of the youngest in the field, and in his first competition as a senior boy, Iakov showed good technique and maturity to take gold., with Ryan on bronze.

Our cadets and junior men had a tough day, with very strong entries in most categories, including a high quality team from Hong Kong. It was good to see Giorgia Goutzas back in competition after a long absence. Giorgia had a brief scare in her first fight, but recovered and came back to fight again in the repechage, going within one second of winning her fight!

Nick Leong, Will Crouch, Jordan Bond, Josh Devine and Matt Peppas battled hard in all their fights, winning several but just missing out on getting amongst the medals.

Our small senior contingent had mixed results. Fresh from her international tour, Heidi Wright looked sharp in early fights, but lost her final to rival Maeve Coughlan after a seoi went wrong. Amy Meyer and Mel Budiarto both came away with bronze medals in their categories. Indra Sadeli made a welcome return to competition, and was travelling well until a small mistake led to his being held down. Tin Pavlinic, fighting in +100kg, started well, but ended without a win.

Unfortunately a couple of injuries put a dampener on the weekend, with Elizabeth Goutzas suffering a broken collarbone, and Ethan Carpenter needing attention after a hard fall. Nevertheless, as usual, the weekend was a great opportunity for club members to socialize away from the venue, and they made the most of it! **Thanks to the parents who supported our team and contributed to the weekend, and of course to the coaches, who fought every fight with their athletes!**

More pics from ACT P4...

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The Illawarra training camp once again provided a "kick start" to the major events of the year. Despite the absence of many of our leading athletes who were training overseas, numbers were good, providing excellent opportunities for randori. UNSW members were somewhat reduced, due mainly to school holidays and injuries, but we still managed a strong presence in both junior and senior ranks. The start of the camp on the Friday night featured a team match between a local team gathered from a number of clubs, and a visiting British Navy team. From UNSW,



KOSEN COMPETITION

This year's kosen tournament on 29 January was a poor imitation of the previous gathering, where it had seemed that it was gaining popularity. Only a relative handful of men, and two women (!) turned up to fight. For UNSW, only Tin Pavlinic, Sam Asher and Maricarmen Wachter were there to fight...we actually had more coaches than athletes on hand...

Luckily, our two guys were able to join a couple of Zenbu athletes to form a combined team, which gave them some additional fights. The team went down fighting to teams from Zenbu and the eventual winners Willoughby. Best on the day for us was Tin Pavlinic, who won both his fights in the team matches and finished in equal third place in the individual. Sam Asher was his redoubtable self and although outclassed in weight and experience fought hard all the way. The team event was won by Willoughby club, in a tense struggle with Zenbu. UNSW club regular Alex Womersley had a good win over veteran Morgan Endicott Davies. In her first competition, Maircarmen also fought hard, but was unlucky to injure an ankle and had to withdraw. Let's hope that the event gets more support in the future, as it is an imaginative competition for those judoka who like to test their newaza skills.



Our boys line up for the team event



Our three athletes: Tin, Sam and Maricarmen

NEW CONTEST RULES FOR 2017



As the new Olympic cycle begins, the IJF has reviewed the international contest rules, and come up with some significant changes in an attempt to promote and encourage more positive judo. The biggest change is no doubt the new scoring system, where there will no longer be any yuko, and winning depends on positive scores rather than penalties. The previous yuko score will now be combined with waza-ari. Men and women will now fight for four minutes, and there are major changes to gripping rules, which become less restrictive.

At home, the JFA has introduced new rules for Junior boys and girls to make competition safer for the youngsters, in particular to reduce the risk of neck injury.

We were lucky to have Australia's leading international referee, Lubo Petr (pictured) at the club to give members a special briefing on Mon 6 February.



Summaries of the new rules may be found on the Judo Federation of Australia's website.

NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES

For UNSW, our year really began on 1 January, with the now traditional gathering at KK's place. The famous (infamous??!) water slide grew this year to a hair-raising 100 metres...which was lots of fun, and produced some daredevil rides and healthy competition for the longest slide. A controversial gold medal was claimed by Adony Goutzas, just pipping Warren Rosser and daughter Giorgia, who took revenge by eating the gold medal! A protest has been lodged!

Our pictures show some of the action.



READY...



SET...



...GO!!

UNSW PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Heidi Wright has returned from her overseas tour, which took her to Canada and Europe, where she competed and trained with many of the leading athletes in her category. She even managed to catch up briefly with our other ex-pat Josie Choy in London.

In Europe, the international year began with the Mittersill training camp in Austria. An Australia team took part, with most of our leading international hopefuls attending. Heidi was there too, travelling to the camp with the squad from Grosshadern club in Munich, where she was training at the time. Although she was unable to remain for the full camp, Heidi was able to come to grips with many of the world's top women, and reports that the experience was very valuable.



Newaza sessions for the year got under way on 8 January. A small but dedicated group took part in the session, which was followed by a run to Coogee beach, a cooling-down swim and brunch.



Junior State training session. Judo NSW held a training session at the Federation dojo to give the many kids who are looking to compete at this year's Nationals the opportunity for some technical instruction and randori. A solid group of UNSW youngsters took part and gained some valuable additional training. Our pic shows them tired but satisfied after the session.



Big effort for O week. It was that time of the year again...a big opportunity for the club to recruit new members. With demo's and talks, our volunteers attracted plenty of attention on campus. Thanks to Ivica, Indra, and all those who turned up to assist. Hot and thirsty work!



Ivica and Angus take a break

Training news: It was a big start to the year when training sessions resumed on 4 January. Marieta has returned to us and is charming our kids once again. There were some new visitors who added to our training depth. We had a long overdue dojo cleanup following the first Saturday morning session...goodbye to much of the rubbish that had accumulated in the room and was annoying everyone. Thanks to all who helped.



Roni and Amelie from Israel extended their stay for some additional training before continuing their backpacking tour of Australia.

Special welcome to Eric Stears (IRL) Daniela Bremmer (GER) and Bastien Calone (FRA). Our latest visitors have made a big contribution to our training group. Sadly, Daniela and Bastien will head off soon...we hope they will return. By a huge coincidence, Eric hails from the same club in Ireland where former UNSW member Dave Smith still trains.

Gentlewayproject visit 9 January.

Antonio Gil is a Spanish judoka who is travelling the world with the approval of the IJF recording and making a documentary video on judo activities in all corners of the globe. Before arriving in Australia he had been to Russia, Mongolia, China, Korea, Japan and Indonesia. After his lightning visit, he was off to Chile the next day! Antonio observed our training, and afterwards interviewed coaches Rob and JB on our UNSW training program.



MORE PICS FROM THE ACT OPEN...



UNSW members watching the action



Angus gets some tips from Tati...they must have helped!



Indra fighting hard



Elizabeth wins her first fight



Amy on way to bronze in 48kg



Dylan Katz battling hard



Sam gave his best, as always



Time to relax...club dinner

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