

UNSW Judo News

August 2017

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL 2017 - SPECTACULAR JUDO

BIG DAY FOR UNSW ATHLETES



Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre looked great for the tournament

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This headline event goes from strength to strength and is a credit to the organisers. With an ambitious program including all divisions on a single day, it shows that it can be done, efficiently and on time...an object lesson to officials in other States and the National body. The venue looked great, everything worked, and the volunteers were efficient and cheerful as they went about their tasks.

Unfortunately there were some notable absences due to several of our leading athletes being away in Budapest for the World Championships. This took away a little of the quality, however there was a strong international flavour with large teams from New Zealand and New Caledonia, plus a couple of Russian athletes.



Ethan Carpenter had some good wins



Ivica and some UNSW youngsters

UNSW had a large contingent competing, spanning all age divisions. It was very pleasing to see several of our younger members Samantha Carey, Amaury Faures and Mateo Lopez taking the plunge into competition at this high level. While not everyone was able to make it to the podium, they all fought well, gained valuable competitive experience, and by all accounts enjoyed themselves. A feature of the UNSW group was the return to competition of a number of our members. Elizabeth and Tiana Goutzas, after a long absence, were rewarded with bronze and silver. Giorgia Goutzas also fought well in cadets and junior women, but couldn't quite make the podium. Azita Karpour and Josh Cook had some spirited fights, but also went without medals.

We did have some outstanding performances on the day, with our athletes achieving some terrific results across the board, with many gold medals to their credit.

In the junior boys and girls, Josh Koenig was impressive in taking out the 42 kg, pulling off some spectacular throws. Elijah Raif was also successful, taking bronze in 36kg with some determined fighting. In the same category Ethan Carpenter fought extremely well.



Dylan Katz really earned his gold

The senior boys and girls division was our most productive on the day in terms of medals. Angus Hutcheon continued his improvement, taking out the 36kg, with Tyron Valenti in fifth place. Dylan Katz celebrated his move up a weight category to win the 40kg, surviving a marathon final fight vs Victor Baud of New Caledonia that went almost ten minutes!



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SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL Cont'd

This was a cracker of a fight, and to the referees' credit they let the boys slug it out. An exhausted Dylan dug deep and finally won by ippon.

Ryan Koenig looked well on track for another victory, but went down in the final of the 50kg, as did Iakov Ivanets in 45kg. Dylan Nguyen once again had only one opponent, but fought with maturity to easily win the 66kg. In the senior girls Elizabeth Goutzas pulled off one of the throws of the day, a huge osotogari, to take her bronze medal in 52's.



Ryan Koenig on his way to silver in 50kg

A side note to the performance of our juniors is how well they have progressed as a result of the extra training on Mondays and Sunday mornings with Tatiana and Ivica. Their hard work is certainly paying off, and their results are a good reward for their efforts.

Our cadets and junior men and women faced some really tough opposition, but nevertheless performed with great credit, with Tiana Goutzas and Josh Devine both taking medals in cadets. Josh had a good day, including a titanic struggle with eventual winner Bjorn Tandean. Josh continues to surprise his opponents, and possibly himself, with his athletic ability to avoid throws.



Brendan Miu in cadet men 66kg

Tiana made an impressive return to competition with her silver medal. Sister Giorgia had a tough day, with seven fights in all, including a mammoth contest of over seven minutes for bronze in junior women. Giorgia fought well, and was a little unlucky not to achieve a medal placing, with fifths in both cadets and junior women. Likewise, Matt Peppas just missed out standing on the podium in his new category of 81kg.



Giorgia starts off in junior women 57kg

Our senior women were impressive. Nina Takenaka looked very sharp in winning the 52kg, taking every fight by ippon. Her demolition of nidan Joana Leon with juji-gatame in the final was a delight to watch. In the 57kg, Kiarn Kelly also moved up in the national rankings with her decisive victory. Maricarmen Wachter made an impressive debut in her first major competition, with silver in the 70kg,

It was wonderful also to see our long-time friend Miyuki Sakurai, a surprise visitor to the tournament as part of a brief Australian holiday. Miyuki had been a member of the club for several years back in the 80's and 90's. Also spied in the gallery was Mark Pullinger, whom we haven't seen for a while, there to enjoy the action.

There was plenty of support for our athletes by our keen group of parents, very much a part of our judo family...great to see! Needless to say, with such a large number of competitors, our coaching group was kept busy throughout the day. Thanks to their efforts none of our athletes was left without support during their fights.

Special acknowledgement must be made of the tremendous work of new JFA President Nic Lowe, Board member Kathy Meyer, CEO Phil McDermott, Adony Goutzas, Matt Carpenter and Kirsten McDougall. These people formed the core group who organized the tournament. Thanks to all the other UNSW members who formed part of the volunteers working tirelessly behind the scenes to make the event such a success. The event was also well supported by several key sponsors.



80's JUDO SESSION AN UPLIFTING NIGHT

It was a fun nostalgia night at training on 21 August - a "Back to the 80's" session...a great way to unwind after the Sydney International. There were leg grabs and pickups aplenty, as many of the now-banned techniques were shown and practiced. Lots of fun (and regrets for the "old times"). The brainchild of judo history buff Rob Maurency, the session also attracted some old faces, eager to re-live past battles in more liberal times...we had some very welcome input from Athens Olympian Martin Kelly, and former GBR international James Davies. An amazing night for our juniors, none of whom had seen these techniques.

Shota Khabarelli would have been proud...and so, we suspect, would Jigoro.



Rob demonstrates an oldie but a goodie



UNSW PEOPLE AND EVENTS



We have enjoyed having Bastien Calone with us for a while, but he has now headed for home. Bastien was a keen trainer and a good partner for all our members. We look forward to welcoming him back next year. The pic above shows his last session on 4 August.

Australian Uni Games team preparation. Led by club president Heidi Wright and coach Ivica Pavlinic, a group of our AUG team took part in a "boot camp" in Kangaroo Valley as they prepare for the tournament to be held on the Gold Coast in September. Eamonn, Brendan, Angus Chris and Kevin all went through the agony (??). By all accounts a fun and productive weekend. Matt Peppas was also along...perhaps doing some spying for UTS?! Further special training sessions for the team are also being held on Wednesday mornings.



Nina Takenaka made the trip to New Zealand at the end of July for the Auckland Open as part of her preparation for the Sydney International. She competed at 57kg, and was untroubled to win the category. A good hit out for Nina as she returns to competition after a long absence.



The "She Can" program is an initiative of ARC Sport at UNSW. Designed to encourage and inspire women to participate in sport and fitness. Judo played its part with a session conducted by club president Heidi Wright. We're told that the girls who participated thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



JUNIOR POINTS AND KYU GRADES COMPETITIONS

The overall entries for these competitions were disappointing, meaning a financial loss for the Federation in hiring this expensive venue. If they are to continue it is essential that clubs support these event.

UNSW however had good contingents on hand and we saw some very good performances from our guys. All our youngsters in junior and senior boys fought well (see results summary below.)

In the first competition, the senior men kyu grades produced some great judo, and excellent performances by a couple of our competition newcomers, Shoma Kimura and Angus McDonnell. Both these guys fought with skill and determination, belying their inexperience, and pulling off some spectacular throws. Shoma emerged runner-up of the category, edging Angus into third place with a huge osotogari in their match. Our sole female entry, Nina Takenaka, was untroubled to win her category...a pity there wasn't more opposition for her hit-out.

JUNIOR POINTS AND KYU GRADES 9 JULY

Juniors

36kg Dylan Katz 1st Angus Hutcheon 2nd Tyron Valenti 3rd
45kg Hayden Fu 1st
Comb 50/55kg Aidan Miu 3rd
66kg Dylan Nguyen 1st
Comb +66kg Dylan Nguyen 1st

Senior Men/Women

4/3 Kyu 81kg Shoma Kimura 2nd, Angus McDonnell
1/2 Kyu 73/81 comb Per Tronnes 2nd
Open W 57kg Nina Takenaka 1st

JUNIOR POINTS AND KYU GRADE 5 AUGUST

Juniors

27/30 kg comb Elijah Raif 1st
42kg Reuben Brodie 1st
50kg Harrison Leech 1st
36kg Angus Hutcheon 2nd Tyron Valenti 3rd
40kg Dylan Katz 1st
45kg Iakov Ivanets 1st
66kg Dylan Nguyen 1st

MORE PICS FROM SYDNEY INT'L...



UNSW members going about their business, and receiving their rewards, at Sydney International 20 August.

AND FROM HERE & THERE...



UNSW Coaches and kids at Points competition 9 July



It takes a top group of coaches to handle our 3-4 year olds!

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