

**FIRST EDITION
FOR 2018**

UNSW Judo News

February 2018

ACT OPEN BEGINS THE 2018 TOURNAMENT CIRCUIT

UNSW ATHLETES TAKE A SWAG OF MEDALS

Once again this tournament over the weekend 17-18 February kicked off the major events circuit for the year. The venue was the Southern Cross Basketball Stadium in Canberra. In addition to most of Australia's leading athletes, the event attracted a team from Hong Kong, plus entries from New Zealand, Germany and China, with the added intrigue of the first local appearance of Australian born Japanese Kayhan Takagi.

UNSW was well represented, with some 25 entries across all age divisions...great to see the enthusiastic support. Our athletes were well rewarded, with many medals, also right across the board.



Our gold medal champions were Elijah Raif, Dylan Katz (above on the podium) and new member Ivan Samsonov. Close behind them came silver medal winners Aidan Miu, Elizabeth Goutzas, Josh Devine, Amy Meyer, Mel Budiarto and Maricarmen Wachter. Bronzes went to Angus Hutcheon, Josh Cook, and "adopted" member Alex Womersley.

The medal tally, however, does not tell the whole story of the battles, dramas, joys and disappointments...



Josh Cook and Paddy Kearney made a successful return to competition after long absences. Both boys were rusty, but fought well, Josh edging out Paddy in their bronze medal fight (above). Good to see them both back on the competition mat.

Despite a lack of training, big Shaun McDougall fought really well, to just miss a medal in the 100kg, where our new "Japanese" import showed his class to take gold, defeating former British international David Groom with a classic taiotoshi.



Maricarmen faces Aoife Coughlan 70kg

Sam Asher showed his determination, and the fruits of recent hard training, to take his first win in a major competition. (Thanks also to Sam for his "dual mel" as official club photographer!)

In the senior women Kiam Kelly was struck down by a mysterious stomach ailment that crippled her during her fights. In a gutsy display, she battled through four matches to just miss a medal. Without doubt she will be a force in her category this year. Maricarmen Wachter had a great outing, taking two good wins with some outstanding newaza and ending with a fine silver medal in 70kg, as did Mel Budiarto in 63kg. Amy Meyer looked sharp in making the final of 48kg, where she also took silver.



Maxime attacks with uchimata in 90kg

Dylan Katz just goes from strength to strength, adding yet another gold medal to his impressive tally, while Elijah Raif very successfully handled the transition from junior to senior boys to win his category.

Club newcomers Ivan and Roman Samsonov competed well in their first outing in UNSW colours. Ivan took gold in senior boys 60kg, ahead of Aidan Miu. Young Roman fought hard in the junior boys, including a disappointing loss after a marathon 5 min 30 sec golden score contest!



FOR ALL THE NEWS

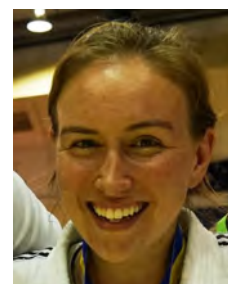
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www.unswjudo.net.au

NEW CLUB PRESIDENT

As Heidi Wright leaves us for an extended study period in Germany, the club presidency has passed to Maricarmen Wachter. Maricarmen's appointment creates something of a "dynasty" as her father Vince was president way back in the 1980's. History repeating...?

Heidi has done a great job in the role, and the club executive and members look forward to continued progress under Maricarmen's leadership.



ILLAWARRA TRAINING CAMP



2018 saw the 20th year of this traditional camp, giving a "kick start" to training for the year, and a wake up call to everyone after the xmas/new year break. This year the camp was extended to four days... Thursday and Friday evenings, then Saturday and Sunday. Despite the absence of several of our leading athletes due to overseas commitments, the camp attracted a large group from across the country. They came from far and wide – NSW, ACT, VIC, SA, QLD...even NT.

Unfortunately for UNSW we didn't have many of our juniors and cadets in attendance, but a hardy group of seniors made the effort over the weekend. The camp followed the usual pattern, combining technical instruction from some of the country's leading coaches, plus plenty of high quality randori.

NEW NATIONAL POINTS SYSTEM BEGINS

From 1 January a new National Points Ranking system came into operation. This is the first review of the system for many years, and recognises the need for our elite athletes to compete overseas in order to gain points on the World Ranking List (WRL). The new system gives proper recognition of results achieved in international competitions, and therefore does not penalise elite athletes where their international commitments clash with local events.

The system will reward athletes who place, or win a minimum of two fights in WRL events. On the local scene the major change is that all the major Australian Open competitions (ACT, QLD, VIC, SA) will attract the same points value. All athletes will start with zero points on the new system as at 1 January. The full document outlining the new system may be found on the JFA National website.



BBR KOSEN JUDO COMPETITION 4 FEBRUARY



Overall, there was good support for this novel tournament, with five men's and two women's teams. For UNSW, it was good to see Roman, Eamonn, Per, Nic, Sam and Mel fronting for the battle. Our boys had a tough draw in the teams event, and went down fighting against Zenbu and Willoughby. The men's teams final pitted Zenbu "A" against Willoughby, with Zenbu emerging the winner.

Then it was on to the individual event, with the draws designed to afford maximum opportunity for fights. Our boys once again gave a good account of themselves, but were outgunned, mostly by much heavier opponents.

Eamonn Briers had some good wins, picking up handy points towards his dan grade. The mens open individual event was won by Rob Vukovitch, who beat club regular Alex Womersley with a skilful strangle. The women's final was an all Japanese affair between two girls from Sydney Uni.

TURNING HEADS AT O-WEEK

Thanks to Maricarmen, Ivica, Isabelle, Rachel, and everyone who helped out on the club's O-Week stall. Some lively and spectacular demo's once again put judo on the campus map and helped gain lots of interest among new students.



UNSW PEOPLE AND EVENTS



Coach Rob Maurency's "dicky" shoulder finally packed it in, necessitating surgery. Hope to see his seoinage firing again soon.



IJF Referee Rules Seminar

In the two days following the ACT Open, the IJF conducted a seminar on the new contest rules. The seminar was attended by participants from across the Oceania and Asian Regions. We were fortunate to have Ivica nominated by his home country New Zealand. He reports that the seminar was valuable, and cleared up several areas of con-

New IJF Contest Rules Explained

Training is well under way for the year at the club, with good numbers at most sessions. It's especially pleasing to see most of our cadets back on the mat after the school holidays. An early feature of our sessions was a flying visit in January by two Japanese judoka, Yoichi and Yusuke, in Sydney for a business conference. We also had the pleasure of hosting a special explanatory session on the new IJF contest rules which came into effect on 1 January 2018. Giving the talk was Australia's leading referee, Lubo Petr.

JFA Futures camp at the AIS Canberra.

This camp was a new initiative of the National Federation, aimed at introducing the next generation of elite athletes to the discipline, challenges and rigours of training at a high level. Dylan Katz and Ryan Koenig were the UNSW representatives, and Kylie Koenig was chosen as head coach, supported by several developing coaches from around the country. Both our boys clearly enjoyed this taste of elite training with a group from all over Australia, and benefited greatly from the experience.



tention.

Welcome Matt Stephenson

Good to have Matt with us for the next few months during his studies at UNSW. A competitor at national level in Canada, Matt is proving a strong training partner.



Japanese visitors on 10 January



Dylan at the AIS

THIRD CLUB DOJO IN FULL SWING

Late last year Warren decided to expand the UNSW Kids Judo program into the Redfern/Surry Hills/Green Square area of Sydney. He settled on the South Sydney PCYC in Elizabeth Street Redfern. The program started off with just 2 classes in Term 4 last year, and it has now grown to 11 classes in Term 1 2018. With the hard work of coach Tatiana Ivanova the popularity of the classes is growing.

The current program is:

Monday 4.00-5.00PM (5-6yrs) 5.00-6.00PM (7-10yrs)
Tuesday 4.00-5.00PM (5-6yrs) 5.00-6.00PM (7-10yrs Graded)
Thursday 4.00-5.00PM (5-6yrs)
Friday 5.30-6.30PM (7-10yrs)

Warren reports that there is a lot of promise in this growing area. The PCYC has a great little Dojo of about 90 square metres. Plans are afoot in the near future to offer an adults over 35's class on a Thursday 6.30 - 8.00PM.



Tatiana and some of her young charges enjoying their judo

MORE FROM THE ACT OPEN...

A tough tournament, especially for those who missed out on podium finishes...everyone fought well and were a credit to the club. Judo is a tough learning environment! We hope to see everyone backing up in the competitions to come.

A final note of thanks to our coaching team for their dedication in supporting the athletes throughout the event, and also to our "cheer squad" of parents and other club members who made the journey to be part of the action.



Warren and Phil found something amusing



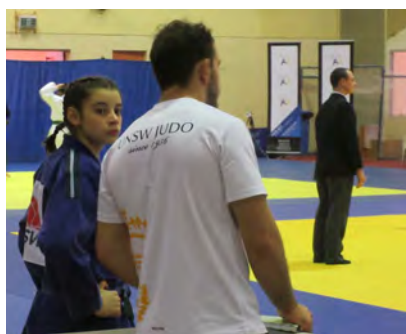
Mel vs Leung (HKG) in 63 final



The next generation of warriors



Phil and Elijah size up the opposition



Last minute advice for Elizabeth



Gold and silver for Ivan and Aidan



Josh Devine in full flight



Amy shows off her silver medal



Some of Ivica's boys show off their medals

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