

UNSW Judo News

April 2019

NEW SOUTH WALES CHAMPIONSHIPS

BIG DAY FOR UNSW JUNIORS

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UNSW had a big presence in this event – some thirty athletes took to the mat, many of them for the first time at this level. Unfortunately our senior ranks were pretty depleted – something we need to remedy in future events.



Pietro Menga had a good outing in the junior men's 73kg, taking bronze with some stylish judo. Hayden Fu was a real surprise packet, fighting with skill and determination, losing a terrific battle with clubmate Josh Koenig in the final of senior boys 50kg.

Others to get amongst the medals were Iakov Ivanets, Aidan Miu, Ethan and Priya Carpenter. Along the way there were some courageous performances by youngsters such as Malachi Sharman, Roman Samsonov, Ellis Plant and Cormac Hickey. Congratulations to all those who competed.



However, it was encouraging to see many newcomers at this level, and to see Indra Sadeli (above) making a welcome return to competition. We saw some spirited fighting from all members and we came away with seven new state champions: Zaagi, Brendan Miu, Dylan Katz, Ryan and Josh Koenig (combining for a family double!) Ivan Samsonov and Egor Grachev. Our guys had some fierce battles... Indra vs Zaagi determined the outcome of the men's 66kg, Ryan Koenig (twice!) vs Jad Lee Reda, with the results shared. Brendan Miu had a terrific tussle with vs Alexander Ross, beating him for the first time. Elijah Raif wasn't at his best, but showed commendable grit and maturity to battle through for second place.



Refereeing standards on the day left a lot to be desired. Unfortunately there were some technical glitches, causing the tournament to drag on during the day.

UNSW provided many Volunteers and officials, and were the backbone of the event. Thanks to everyone who contributed.



FOR ALL THE NEWS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.unswjudo.net.au

BLUES DINNER HONOURS SPORTING EXCELLENCE

No Blue this year for Judo, but our teams efforts at the 2018 Australian University Games were recognised and celebrate by a small group of members at the annual dinner on 12 April.



SUCCESSFUL DAY AT ILLAWARRA KYU GRADES

This proved once again to be a great event for kyu grade judoka to compete and gain valuable competition experience. The organisers did a great job with a record number of entries, running through some 150+ contests during the day.

UNSW had a good group of eight athletes: Boris, Pietro, Pia, Sam, Charles, Ben, Haji, Jia, several of whom were taking part in their first tournament. They were supported by coaches Warren, JB and Rob, who were kept busy all day.

In the end, all our guys had a good day...all of them had some wins, which was satisfying, and most made it on to the podiums. In the lower grade division, Charles and Haji made it into the final pool of their 73kg category with some determined fighting. Jia took bronze in the "B" 60kg. Special mention must be made of Boris Amromin and Pia Nemanic. They were both unstoppable, winning not only their own weight categories, but the opens as well. Every match was won by ippon. A terrific effort...and some handy points towards his dan for Boris.



International Women's Day seminar

This historical day saw an amazing gathering of women judoka, spanning many generations over some fifty years. "Judo Royalty" was present, in the form of Sue Williams, seventh dan, our Seoul Olympic gold medallist and triple World medallist. Sue's sister, Julie Reardon, multiple national champion and Olympic bronze medallist was also there. The younger generation eagerly grabbed the opportunity to hear of Sue's journey, ask questions, and be pictured with her. Also on hand were Cate Corkery, JA chair and Angela Deacon, JA director, and our own Kylie Koenig, National coach.



UNSW PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Melbourne International 30-31 March

Day one saw some good results for our small team...Dylan Katz and Angus Hutcherson found themselves opposed (once again) in the cadets 50kg. In a strong category, our boys made it to the final where Dylan won out for the gold. Ryan Koenig had mixed fortunes, finishing just out of the medals in cadets 60kg, but backing up to take a fine silver in junior men. On Sunday, our sole entry Tom Azoury battled hard to take seventh place in 81kg. A good weekend's work for our athletes, and Ivica as coach.



"Get Active" day for schoolgirls 20 March. An initiative of Judo NSW, the day provided an introduction to judo and other sports to schoolkids. Heidi and Nina did the honours on the day, giving an introduction to judo to around 130 young girls.



Ivica holds coaching course for the State federation in Coffs Harbour 23-24 March Attended mainly by a group of younger students looking to gain their assistant coach accreditation. The weekend included sessions on club management and refereeing, conducted by Kathy Meyer and Ernie Wakamatsu.



RYAN'S EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

Ryan Koenig's first European tour In a major step in his judo career, Ryan was selected in a national squad for competitions and training camps in Turkey and Croatia. Ryan wasn't able to pull off a win in the competitions, but benefited greatly from the experience, especially at the training camps where had the chance to mix it with Europe's best young fighters. Ryan has returned a more mature athlete, and we look forward to seeing him in action again locally soon.



FAREWELL TAKA KOIKE

We sadly said goodbye to Taka as he left to return home. Taka had been with us several months, and was a wonderful asset and training partner while he was here. We'll miss him.



...more pics from State Titles



...and from here and there



Some of the kids who went through the huge grading on 31 March

...next generation... Adam Else, son of Athens Olympian Sonya Chervonsky, takes his first lesson



Nina and Maricarmen with their "she can" session on 6 March



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