

UNSW Judo News

September 2019

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TOKYO 2019

SPECTACULAR...A WEEK of EXCITEMENT and DRAMA

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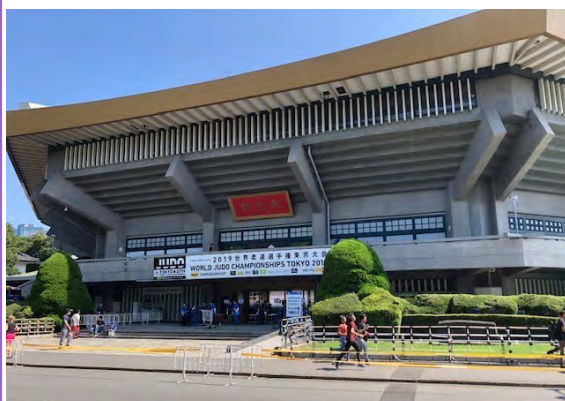
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The 2019 World Championships in Tokyo was an odyssey for several current and former UNSW members. Warren, JB and Adony made the trip, and joined up with Heidi and Angus. In Tokyo we teamed up with Hitoshi Kimura, who spared some time from his duties with the AUS team. Michael Penkov also came down from Sapporo to spend the week with us.

It was like "old home week", catching up with old friends and visitors...from Japan there was Norio, Miyuki, Aki-masa and Atsushi. Then there were our many friends from Europe, some of whom we hadn't seen for quite a while. A feature of judo is that it really is a worldwide family, and it's as though we hadn't been apart at all...

And the Worlds...? In a word...no, not possible! They were awesome, dynamic, exciting, dramatic, unpredictable... Here we'll try to capture some of the highlights.

48/60kg No-one was ever really going to challenge Bilodid (UKR) - she's sooo tall, when she gets her high grip she just hops in and belts them. 60's was hard to pick and a bit of a surprise gold to Georgia.

52/66. This was supposed to be the "dream" day for Japan with the two Abe's fighting. They were a bit unlucky to have both the Japanese men on the same side of the draw, and Maruyama knocked Hifumi out, even with some sort of knee injury, then went on to gold. Uta Abe was in a class of her own to easily take the 52kg, from the evergreen Russian Kuziutina.

57/73kg An amazing day...firstly, Deguchi (CAN...but really JPN) beat Yoshida. Very emotional, and Canada's first worlds gold. Then it was the Ono show...without doubt he is the most dynamic fighter on the scene today. Five wins, all by ippon - Uchimata, Taiotoshi, Osotogari, Jujigatame. Unstoppable!



63/81kg. This was by far the most dramatic day. The 63 final between no1 seed Agbenenou of FRA and Tashiro of JPN will probably be remembered as the best final of all time (surpassing the 73kg epic in 2001 between Makarov and Kanamaru). The two women smashed it out for TEN minutes before the French girl scored with makikomi. They both collapsed in tears into each other arms. Incredible!



If possible, even that drama was overshadowed by the twists and turns in the 81kg...would we see the much-awaited final between Saeid Mollaei of Iran and Sagi Muki Israel? Despite having recently reached an agreement with the IJF to "comply with the rules" the Iranian Federation

withdrew their team in order not to face Israeli athletes. Showing great courage, World Champ Mollaei defied the edict and turned up. Seeded one and two, he and Muki were drawn on opposite sides, and could have met in the final. The script was spoiled when Mollaei was surprisingly beaten by Casse of Belgium in the semi final. So many questions... did he deliberately "throw" his fights? What of the future?



70/90kg Another women's gold to France, and a surprise win to Van T End of NED. In the women, highly fancied Arai of Japan could not get past the third round. Completely unseeded, the Dutchman ploughed through the field to defeat Mukai JPN in the final.

78/100kg France gets their third women's gold, with Malonga smashing newaza specialist Hamada JPN with osoto in the final. Portugal's Jorge Fonseca broke through for his first major win, disposing of everyone with his drop seoinage.

+78/+100kg Apart from the performance of Lukas Krpalek, who became the first man to win world gold at -100 and +100, the day was rather lacklustre after the earlier excitement. The absence of Teddy Riner robbed the category of much interest, and far too many fights in men and women were won by hansoku-make.

...More Worlds & pics P 4



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INTER-UNIVERSITY COMPETITION

The third inter-university judo competition was held in the Unigym dojo on Sunday 4 August. It proved to be a very popular event, designed to introduce newer athletes to judo competition, and to prepare them for the Australian University Games coming up in September on the Gold Coast.

UNSW members organised the competition, and were rewarded with a good line up of entries from UNSW, Sydney Uni and UTS. It was particularly pleasing to see the number of women competing. The competition was spirited and revealed lots of new talent. Referees on the day used the occasion to educate new judoka to the rules of competition, and the draws were designed to maximise the number of fights for each competitor. UNSW athletes did well on the day, taking the lion's share of placings, so we are looking forward with confidence to the AUG, where our full team will take to the mat.



The competition provided a real opportunity for the Universities to come together in preparation for the Australian Uni Games



UNSW had a big contingent...organising, refereeing and competing



Some lively warm up games to prepare for the fighting

JUNIORS AND KYU GRADES COMPETITION

This proved to be a popular event, and UNSW was well represented across all the age and grade categories from mons through to senior kyu grades, with several members making their competition debut, in their fresh new orange belts! It was a long and demanding day for our coaches.

Our athletes had a wonderful day, the newer competitors gaining lots of experience. At the end of the day, UNSW came away with six gold medals, six silver, 2 bronze. Congratulations to everyone who took part.



UNSW PEOPLE AND EVENTS

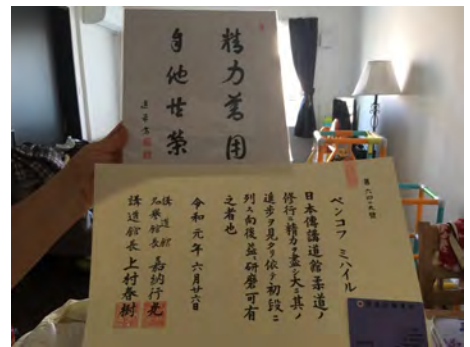


The club's fund raising BBQ at Tempe on 18 Aug was a popular success...lots of hard work and great snags by Indra, Sarah, CK, Brendan and others who helped out on the day. Our pic above shows the team hard at work...

Asia Pacific Cadet and Junior Championships Taipei. Dylan Katz represented Australia in this event. The standard of the competition was very high. Dylan unfortunately didn't place, but has learned a great deal from the experience.



Congratulations to the large group who successfully completed the senior graduating on 18 July. Lots of bright new belts on display! We now look forward to seeing some new faces in competitions...



Michael Penkov gets his shodan. Many members will remember Michael as a long time member of the club. Michael has been living in Japan for several years, and at long last has been successful in gaining his shodan. Congratulations! Worth waiting for... Here's proof!

Maxine Germes drops in! Wonderful to see Max after a number of years. Now in the final year of her medical degree in Paris, she was in Sydney for a brief holiday, so of course took time off to catch up with her judo mates.



Maxine and good pal Nina



Former UNSW member Jason Goddard recently competed in the World Police and Fire Games in China. Rob Maurency went along as his coach, with Ray Abela making up the group.

BILL SHAW PAYS A VISIT

Bill is one of the pioneers of UNSW Judo, having been a member back in the 50's and 60's... Bill was also a teammate of JB when they formed part of the first Australian team to participate in the World Championships...in Salt Lake City USA, way back in 1967! A good chance to reminisce about the old times and meet some of our current members.



At left, Bill fighting in Salt Lake City

Right...with team mates JB and Alex Bujkerk

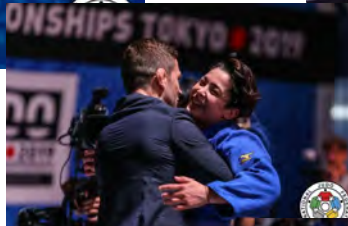


...WORLDS cont'd

The first combined team event (3 men and 3 women) took place on the final day, with fifteen countries entering. It came down to Japan v France in the final, where we saw a titanic tussle, Japan emerging victors. Heroes for France were 57kg Sarah Cysique, and 90kg bronze medallist Axel Clerget, both of whom took wins against the favourites. Clerget had a massive TEN fights over the few days, all of them physical and bruising affairs.

Throughout the tournament, it was pleasing to see the referees allowing newaza situations to progress, resulting in some skilful wins. Australia's Lubo Petr was one of the outstanding referees.

In a fine effort by the Aussie team, three made it through to the third round: Josh Katz in 60kg, who had a great win over the Israeli, Aoife Coughlan in 70kg, and Harrison Cassar in 90kg (who lost out to the eventual gold medallist.) Other members to win fights were Tinka Easton and Calvin Knoester.



UNSW WORLDS ODYSSEY...

Aside from the judo, there was plenty of time for sightseeing, catching up with old friends and visitors to the club... and partying. As Adony was having his first taste of Japan, he set out to do as much as he could, savouring the food (heaps of it!), seeing the sights, and generally terrifying the locals in a Mario Kart... In the week following the Championships, he and JB took time out in Osaka and Kyoto, then returned to Tokyo for a Sumo tournament.



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