

USJA

**MARCH
1997**

Nudgings from the Southwest

by Deed L. Vest, Yodan, Nassau Bay Judo Club

A few weeks ago I journeyed to Colorado Springs on a business trip. It was my first time there in quite a while, so a visit to the USJA was in order.

Let me set the stage. I'm one of the "old guys" in judo, running a small club of mostly other old guys out of my garage in Houston, Texas. My approach is private, non-commercial tutoring, drawing on 38 years of judo/jujitsu experience. The focus is non-competitive jujitsu (we older folk have come to embrace the "gentle way" definition of our art), and we don't like injuries, heal rather slowly, but still love to enhance our repertoires. However, from time to time we do launch some young "turk" into local competition just for the heck of it. There are three former Marines, two Army Vietnam vets, and one Navy BUD in our membership, and occasionally they need to vent. Other than this letter, if the USJA does publish it, you will probably never hear of us again, since neither fame nor fortune is our goal.

So why am I writing? Well, I am one of those fellows who was taking a "wait and see" attitude following the top level changes that took place in the USJA during late 1995. Based on what I saw during my recent visit to National Headquarters and the wonderful staff I talked with, my previous "wait and see" demeanor was wrong.

I need to qualify this position by stating that the prior USJA leadership built a great organization, and was absolutely instrumental in my personal continuation of this art. Each of the existing national organizations is a credit to the art, but in my opinion the USJA has clearly been the pro-active leader in marketing and promoting judo, particularly at the junior levels. And I personally believe that given a little time and some innovative thinking, the jujitsu, as well as

the other martial arts divisions, will be successful.

But the future of this fellowship now appears at risk—there is a shortage of cash

flow, and although they will make it, the USJA is clearly struggling. New membership is growing, but the core of older supporters simply must join in just as we did ten and

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Senior Nationals in Ft. Lauderdale, FL May 1-3, 1997

*Stop by the USJA table and say
hello. Good luck to all USJA
competitors!*

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Message from the President

Greetings:

In any organization, membership is the vital base that creates the activity which enhances its continued growth. The USJA has become much more than just membership. It is a large family of people with a growing interest in the expansion of technical skill knowledge, character development, and being able to contribute to the efforts of providing a championship team to represent the United States in international competition. These are the activities and goals which the USJA will continue to address while remaining at the leading edge in supporting the membership.

These goals and activities place great responsibility on your National Office to ensure that all active members are provided protection from risk. Anyone who participates in any level of judo activity is exposed to risk—risk of injury and various liabilities. Your Annual and Sustaining Life Membership provides the funds to transfer that risk to an insurance carrier. Of course, most of our members are covered by some kind of health insurance coverage, and therefore your membership offers the coverage of excess sports injury over and above your own health insurance. For those who do not have their own personal health coverage, their USJA insurance can be their primary source for risk protection.

Equally important is the liability protection portion of the USJA insurance. Covered members include judo players, referees, coaches, or anyone actively



Jesse L. Jones

involved in the development of the sport. If you receive a promotion or any of our various certificates, the USJA is certifying that you have the skills to perform at that level. Our insurance coverage carries an extensive amount of liability when these certifications and promotions are endorsed. The liability portion also provides risk protection from claims when a member may be accused of negligence in the practice of safe judo. All of this coverage is necessary when participating in activities which bear these risks.

The USJA is not in the business of selling insurance. The coverage offered is negotiated annually with an insurance carrier, and the fee (which is included as part of the USJA membership fee) is transferred to the carrier. Active Life Members are required to have this protection as well. Our obligation, as a Class "A" member of the governing body, is to insure that all active members are protected by this insurance. Therefore, the Sustaining Membership fee was established to provide this protection to USJA Life Members. "Life Membership" status guarantees that you will not be subjected to any increases in basic membership fees. This does not include risk protection however. The USJA has no control over insurance costs, but we do attempt to negotiate the best possible coverage each year at the most reasonable cost.

Your coverage, which is included with your current active membership status, provides sports accident coverage of

\$25,000 and \$1,000,000 of liability. All of this for 6.9 cents a day! This means that every time a USJA member is involved in judo, this coverage will apply. I must also add that there is much comfort in knowing that this liability coverage is available to you. Those of you who have ever been exposed to the unpleasant experience of a law suit will certainly appreciate our concerns about this risk protection.

Any coach, or any participant who steps onto the mat without this coverage, is placing his or her personal assets on the line, and in some situations, placing their careers in grave jeopardy. Therefore, I encourage coaches to ensure that all of their participants, on and off the mat, register with the USJA and avail themselves of this protection. Membership support of this much needed and required program is essential in order for the USJA to maintain the low-cost premium it enjoys.

I would like to discuss another important issue with you. I am a "grass roots" coach four days a week, and still find time to spend an average of over 70 hours per month at the National Office in Colorado Springs. Of course, my chief executive duties and responsibilities follow me 24-hours a day whether I'm in the National Office, in my *dojo* in San Diego, or at work.

It is my hope that every coach prides himself on having the character qualities of dedication and loyalty. If you do, then you are certainly appreciated for the high standards you employ as well as the many hours you invest in teaching. You are entrusted with the character development of your young students and skillful competitors, and to many of them you are very special. In some instances you spend

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From the Executive Director

Soon summer will be here, and it is my hope that many of you and your students, are considering attending one or more of our summer camps.

This summer our camps will include *jujitsu* and *aikido*. Ben Bergwerf, Chairman of our Jujitsu Division, and Lou Perriello, Chairman of our Aikido Division, felt the need for national camps. Instructors and students from various parts of the country will gather at the USJA National Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Camp flyers are included in this package. The dates are:

Camp Bushido Jujitsu Camp: July 24-27, 1997

Camp Bushido Aikido Camp: August 6-10, 1997

And the dates of our judo summer camps are:

High Sierra, Strawberry, CA—June 15-21

Glass City, Toledo, OH—June 25-29

USJA Junior Nationals, Spokane, WA—July 3-5

Bryn Mawr, PA—July 13-19

Tomodachi, Boca Raton, FL—July 20-26

Camp Bushido, Colorado Springs, CO—July 27-Aug. 2

Starkville, MI—August 6-10

Coaches, please don't forget that we have technical talent available for clinics in the areas of competitor training, coaching, *tachi-waza*, *ne-waza*, referees, examiners, and all *katas*. Call me and let me know who you would like to have for a clinic, what subject, where, and when. We have scheduled ten clinics from now



Edward N. Szejter

through May 10, but we can certainly add one more at your club!

I am pleased to report that at the end of March, 1997 our membership count was 23,823, which includes 18,671 Life Members, and there are 1,370 registered USJA clubs. The USJA continues to flourish and is growing steadily. Since December 31, 1996, when we had 23,181 members, we have grown to 23,823 members; our Life Members then were 18,126 and we now have 18,671. Beginning January 1997, our total USJA club count was 1,351 and the total now is 1,370. While I'm on this subject, special recognition must go to Ray

Marquez of the Vineland Judo Club in New Jersey. In two years, his club's membership has grown from 130 to 355 members. Thank you, Ray.

The National Judo Institute (NJI) has been retained, and has been renamed the USJA National Training Center (NTC). However, the building has seen no

improvements or renovations since it was built in 1983. Only repairs of a "band aid" nature have been done throughout these fourteen years. To help fund an upgrade of the facility, we have instituted a program of "stewardship" whereby our members can sponsor one or more square feet of the *dojo* area. They will receive a

beautiful Stewardship Certificate, and their names will be inscribed on a permanent plaque that will be placed in the *dojo* area of the NTC. All donations to this program are of course tax-deductible, and will be applied to Life Memberships. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

Please tell us how the new book *Illustrated Judo Techniques* is being received. A similar book for *ne-waza* is now in the planning stages, and if possible, a book with graphic illustrations for all the *katas*.

Just one more thing. The USJA National Office receives many requests for sanctions for camps, clinics, and tournaments, as well as mailing lists to advertise. On many occasions, attempts are made to schedule activities on conflicting dates. Before setting the dates for your event, please check the USJA Events Listing on the Internet (<http://www.csprings.com/usja>), or give us a call here at the National Office.

USJACOACH

Pop Quiz!

Which states boast the largest number of USJA members?

1. California (2,955 members)
2. Florida (1,560 members)
3. New York (1,492 members)
4. Ohio (1,147 members)

Answer:

A White Man's Epiphany

by Edward H. Byers, Piedmont Budokan Association, North Carolina

Like a stubborn skin rash, race relations in Charlotte erupt to the surface periodically. People blame others of a different shade for their personal troubles or professional difficulties. Theoretic arguments involving events that happened years ago (sometimes literally hundreds of years ago) are presented as if the offending actions happened yesterday.

The ultimate responsibility for bringing slaves to the new world or the state of current events if the South had won succession is far too complex for my simple mind, and I find the arguments academic since their outcome was determined before I was born.

So it pleases me to leave this confusing world a few times a week by dressing in a judogi, tying a black belt around my growing waist, and bowing into a *dojo* at Central Piedmont Community College. I am one of the *sensei* for the Piedmont Budokan Association, a group of people learning jujitsu and judo in Charlotte, and sometimes the teaching responsibilities fall to me. As with many instructors, I am the first to admit that I usually learn more than I teach to this talented group of individuals. Usually I pick up a new series of techniques or refine a specific technique that one of the "students" has perfected. However, one Monday night in December, I had a major awakening.

As I stood watching the members practice, I realized that many different nationalities and cultures were at work in front of me. I watched a Swahili-speaking member of the 1996 Zaire Olympic Team interrupt the honing of his black belt international competition techniques to help a ten year old yellow-belted Vietnamese boy work on his beginner's hip throw. About ten yards away, a green-

belted Korean was showing a white-belted Japanese man how to unbalance an opponent for a shoulder throw. An American girl with a brown belt was showing an African American man how to perform a beautiful sacrifice throw, and a few feet away from me, a green-belted muscular Puerto Rican male was talking quietly in Spanish to an eight year old boy, a beginner from Columbia. In some cases, the two *judoka* did not share a common verbal language. To communicate, they used motions and the rudimentary Japanese names of techniques.

My epiphany shook my world. As long as there is a common goal, then all people can unselfishly work towards attainment. Each of these *judoka* knew that the knowledge they had been given needed to be passed on, and to do so they increased their abilities and stepped closer to their goals of becoming future black belts. They know that they will be judged, not by their nationality or color, but by their ability and

commitment to their art. No one will *give* them anything in this *dojo*; they will have to earn it as each black belt before them has earned it. Nor did they request favors due to color, disabilities, or other factors beyond anyone's control—to do so would be to admit defeat before trying.

Perhaps this is what Dr. Kano meant when he spoke of individuals making positive contributions to society. As long as the goals are common to all and of equal benefit, then different people can work together to accomplish miracles. We as a society must realize that to promote or degrade any person due to a factor beyond their control, results in our being doomed to repeat the errors that seem to erupt periodically in Charlotte.

When a black belt bows off the mat at the end of each session, it is a local tradition for them to make a comment. I used to say "*domo arigato gozaimashita*" (thank you very much). Since that night, and probably forever more, I will say "*domo wakarimasen*" (thanks, now I understand).

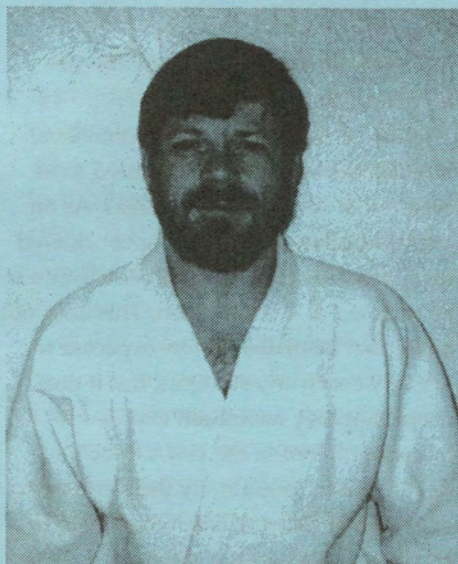
USJACOACH

Coming Soon!

Get a grip on your credit!

Watch for information on the new USJA judo MasterCard, just one more way you can benefit from your USJA membership!

Profile of a Judo Leader



Dr. Chris Dewey
Starkville Martial Arts Academy
 213 Main Street, P.O. Box 1365
 Starkville, Mississippi 39760

Dr. Chris Dewey, Godan, began his judo training in 1968 with the British Judo Association under the tutelage of the British Olympic Coach, Roy Inman. In 1979, Chris moved to Canada, trained in Newfoundland with Yves Gal, and then with Al Few in Saskatchewan. Chris accepted a permanent teaching position in the Geology Department at Mississippi State University (MSU) in 1984, and for a while, trained with Wayne Sykes. Chris was actively involved in all facets of martial arts training at MSU until the program folded in 1988, at which time he co-founded the University Budo Club. Dewey Sensei acted as the chief instructor and faculty advisor at the club, which began with nine members. By the end of the 1996 Fall semester, membership count had grown to ninety!

Over his long career, Chris has acquired rank in judo, jujitsu, hapkido, and tae-

kwondo. He continues to compete in all but jujitsu. Chris is now affiliated with the Starkville Martial Arts Academy, a Bronze Star Chartered Club of the USJA. He also offers a credit class in taekwondo at MSU, a judo class for academically gifted high school students at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, as well as a judo/jujitsu class at the Mississippi Governor's School each June. He has been a valued member of our USJA Summer Camp staff, and has a special passion for teaching and learning about coaching and *kata*. Chris is a permanent member of the USJA Jujitsu Committee, and a member of the USJA Coach Certification Committee. He is certified by the USJA as a Coach Instructor (one of a handful in the nation) and a Regional Referee. He is also USJA certified in seven *katas*, with "A" level in *nage*, *gatame*, *ju* and *goshin-jitsu no kata*. In addition, he holds "A" level *kata* judge certification in *nage* and *gatame no kata*. Chris is a Senior Rank Examiner in both judo and jujitsu, the USJA State Development Director for judo in Mississippi, as well as the Regional Director for taekwondo and hapkido for the American Martial Arts Sports and Education Association.

Chris believes in a well-rounded approach to martial arts training; firmly believing that technical proficiency, an understanding of the principles, involvement in competition, *kata*, coaching, and officiating are all parts of the meal, and that good nutrition requires a balanced diet. Furthermore, Chris also believes that learning a second art teaches you a lot about your base art, allows a deeper understanding of the martial arts as a whole, and teaches a person to respect diverse views.

Editor's Note: The USJA would like to say a special thank you to Dewey Sensei for his

valued involvement and many contributions to the programs and goals of the USJA. We applaud his energy (some of us are amazed by it), and his devotion of time and effort to the future of American Judo. USJACOACH

Nudgings from the Southwest

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twenty years ago when the whole thing first got started.

Following my visit to Colorado Springs, my little band took a hard look at our recent support of the USJA. The majority of active member insurances had expired. Several jujitsu promotions had been processed "in-house" (my jujitsu heritage is from an outside school) and not registered with the USJA. Two new fellows were practicing, but without membership, etc. etc.

We have now put this back in proper order! We purchased a used mat through the help of Ed Szejter and Judy Barrett of the USJA staff. Total checks written to the USJA just to get caught up were in the neighborhood of \$1,000. This was not a gift, but simply payment for value added and services rendered. If our remission was any indication, then it's not hard to understand why the USJA is struggling a bit.

We sincerely urge every coach and senior player to help step-up to this challenge. The USJA is a business. This is okay, and the way it's supposed to be in a free, capitalistic society. Our organization needs a stable and dependable cash flow to prosper. In Colorado, I met an administrative team of sincere, hard-working professionals and they need our help. I see no other organization with this potential. It would be a tragedy to allow it to flounder.

Deed L. Vest, Yodan
 Don McDaniel, Shodan
 Jon Boykin, Shodan
 J. D. LeLoach, Shodan
 Ed Valdez, Sandan

New USJA Senior Rank System

by Gregory Fernandez

For those who may not be aware, the USJA is preparing to release a major revision to the junior and senior rank system in a new handbook later this year. As the author/editor of this undertaking, I thought I would take this opportunity to preview some of the major changes you will see in this latest revision, as well as the reasoning behind many of them.

The first major change is the format for determining which techniques are required for each rank. Traditionally, specific techniques/skills were required for each rank. Now, with the publication of this new handbook, a specific number of techniques/skills from a range of different categories will be required. This is a revolutionary concept in judo. Although this is how judo was always taught in the *dojo*, it was never reflected in the rank requirements. We therefore now leave it to the expertise of the instructor/examiner to decide which of the techniques/skills is best suited to the individual. Thus, each student can, with the assistance of their instructor, learn the techniques of judo in an order that is best suited for them.

To this end, the instructor will consider such relevant factors as 1) the skill level of the individual or group involved, 2) the ease of teaching and learning the specific technique to be presented, 3) the intended use of the technique in subsequent prac-

tices or competitions, 4) the foundation that it will provide for the learning of subsequent techniques, 5) progression from the easiest to the more difficult techniques, 6) inclusion of the technique in a personal attack system, 7) sufficient variety of techniques to maintain motivation and interest in further learning, 8) sufficient number of total techniques required for rank promotion, 9) historical or

traditional factions, and 10) other significant factors.

The throwing techniques have been expanded to include all 65 *nage-waza* of Kodokan judo. There is an emphasis in aspects of *ne-waza* (additional techniques and categories such as freeing an entangled leg), and gripping techniques that reflect new requirements for the modern *shiai* player. *Kata*, *atemi-waza*, and *kappo* are also addressed in the new rank system for the higher ranks.

For many years, the USJA has offered voluntary certification in many "judo related" areas such as coaching, refereeing *kata* proficiency and judging, etc. It has always been my belief that as a person progresses in the rank system, their knowledge and expertise in *all* the various aspects of judo should also increase. Unfortunately, this has not been the case. Most *judoka* will focus on a favorite aspect (refereeing, coaching, *shiai*, etc.) of judo at the expense of remaining almost com-

pletely ignorant and/or inept at other aspects of their judo training.

Now, to be promoted to certain levels of black belt, you will be required to be certified in several of these areas. As an example, an individual being considered for promotion to *yodan* will be required to be certified as a USJA coach. This does not mean that he or she will be expected to actively coach any students, but it does mean that they have been exposed to the material offered in the USJA Coach Certification Program. By the same token, everyone at *godan* will be required to be certified as a referee, whether or not they ever referee a match.

The principle is to ensure that as a person progresses through the rank system, they have a basic core knowledge and experience that is perhaps greater than the area in which promotion points will be earned; gaining some expertise in many aspects of judo other than their "specialty" or primary area of interest. The purpose of the certification will be to insure some minimum level of exposure to the material in the various certification areas. The USJA Board of Examiners is emphatic that there will be no promotion for anyone to any rank if they are not examined by a qualified examiner(s), and can demonstrate the required techniques at a level of proficiency commensurate with the rank level being considered. *The days of sending in your money and being automatically promoted are gone.*

This has to do with accountability. There is no point in having rank requirements if they are not adhered to. What difference does it make if the requirements stipulate you must demonstrate X and Y if no one

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A Message from Ronald E. Hansen

by Ronald E. Hansen, Chairman, USJA Promotion Board

It is the position of the USJA that appropriate Certified Examiners and coaches can recommend black belt promotions, but that these promotions must be finalized and recorded at the National Office. It is my responsibility to coordinate the promotion requests for the rank of *yodan* and above.

Our philosophy, when reviewing high dan rank promotions, is to consider the total commitment to our organization. To that end, we take into account every aspect of a candidate's technical knowledge and ability, as well as their service to our organization. It is important to note that when our association honors an individ-

ual with rank, we expect that individual to return that trust to the organization. In short, if you are not supporting the goals of the USJA and cannot demonstrate that effort along with technical proficiency, your request for promotion will not be viewed as a quality candidate. The Board takes a dim view of individuals who tend to jump organizations in pursuit of rank. As Chairman, I watch for indications of this type of activity.

The USJA promotion system allows for the advancement of individuals who have been overlooked. We are sensitive to our judo contributors who work at the grass-roots level to start students on their judo

careers. Those who, for the most part, donate their time and energy are not forgotten by the USJA. High ranks are *not* reserved for a special few, but are reserved for those who work; those who can demonstrate their efforts, have the technical knowledge, and, most importantly, we look for an individual's total contribution to our association and to our art. **USJACOACH**

Coaches...

Are your students' ranks registered with the USJA?

No Such Thing

by Charlie Robinson, Chairman, USJA Board of Examiners

In the USJA's continuing program of technical expansion and update, coaches and examiners must do all they can to increase their knowledge of current as well as old standard techniques. The more each of us can share ideas, the greater the store of knowledge will be in the USJA.

It seems that almost every week new skills appear in a tournament, clinic, or practice. These are the things that should be shared with other coaches, examiners, and competitors. What you do well may not be effective at all for someone with a different physical makeup than yours. We need to provide options to all our USJA members.

The 65 Kodokan throws are only the foundation of *tachi-waza*. Any basic skill may have seven or eight variations to both sides. These may require as many or more set-ups and entries. Think it over. How many variations of some basic throws do you execute? Say *seoi-nage*?

When we consider *ne-waza*, the variations of *osae*, *jime*, and *kansetsu-waza* become countless. Insure that your knowledge and reasonable demonstration of several versions of application, defense, and escapes of basic *ne-waza* skills are solid, and then share them.

Several years ago, a few of us gathered on the mat at the National Training Center. *Ude-garamé* became the subject of study.

Before we had finished exploring this basic skill, 84 variations had been demonstrated. On the tape *Secrets of Ude-garamé*, I believe 62 or 63 of these variations are recorded.

If you want to share, do it. If you want some new input, invite an examiner or coach to come for a clinic. This past November, I had the privilege of attending a two week clinic conducted by The Wolverhampton Judo Club from England, and led by the former National Coach. The club also hosted a ground-work clinic conducted by Willie Cahill, the many-times National USA Coach. In both of these clinics, I learned *new* techniques.

So, don't try to master everything at one time (take one, or a few basic techniques and gain as much skill with them as you can), be open to the numerous opportunities to share or learn something new, and remember, there is no such thing as the "only way" to do a technique. **USJACOACH**

Skill Range of the Elite

by George Weers, Chairman, Coach Certification Committee

What is the skill range of the elite judo player? In other words, how many different skills do the best players use during competition?

Through the magic of video, I observed thirty-nine World and/or Olympic Champions in competition. I wanted to observe the best and most frequently used skills of the best players against the best opponents. I wanted to see how many skills each champion used.

Throws were very easy to count. They varied from just three throwing techniques, by super heavyweight World Champion Masaki, to nine different throws from middle heavyweight Olympic Champion Yoshida. *Ne-waza* on the other hand, presents a different situation. Should I count a switch from *kesa-gatame* to *kuzure-kami-shiho-gatame* as two *osae-waza*, or is the champion using a generic skill of holding an opponent so that he/she can't get away? I chose to record *ne-waza* under the generic headings of *osae-komi*, *shime-waza*, *kansetsu* and *sankaku*. Use of *ne-waza* skills ranged from three types of *ne-waza*, used by Fairbrother, Kosorotv, Solodukin and Saito, to **no** *ne-waza* skills used by lightweight Olympian Champion Goussainov. (I spent extra time on him to verify that he did not pursue *ne-waza*. In fact there was one incident where he threw an opponent for *yuko*, fell right into a hold down, and walked away. The man does not pursue *ne-waza*!).

Clearly, the champions in this research choose to specialize their *ne-waza* skills just

as they do their throwing skills. We, as coaches, need to recognize that a player's choice of *ne-waza* skills is subject to the same type of idiosyncrasies as their choice of throwing skills. We

also need to learn how to help our players choose the best *ne-waza* skills for their personal integrated attack systems.

As I watched the competitions on video, I catalogued the skills being used. A catalog of championship skills provides an opportunity to analyze frequently used skills at the World/Olympic Championship level. Interestingly, the most frequently used throwing skill was *kouchi-gari*. It was used by seventy-two percent of the champions, and was used in all weight divisions.

Another important skill used by fifty-six percent of the champions in this research was a twist-down. Twist-downs are competitive versions of *uki-otoshi* and *sumi-otoshi*. Twist-downs are very simple counter throwing maneuvers where the defender gets out of the way of an attack, and pushes the opponent into the mat. *Kouchi-gari* and twist-downs were observed in all the championships that I reviewed from 1983 to 1995, as well as the 1992 Olympic Judo competition. Pick-ups, competitive versions of *te-guruma*, *kuchiki-taoshi*, *morote-gari*, etc. showed wide-spread use. However, pick-ups appear to be a recent development in competitive judo, and could indicate either a passing fad or a developing trend. Not surprisingly, *uchi-mata* and *seoi-nage* are the most fre-

quently used major skills, while *ouchi-gari*, *osoto-gari*, and *tai-otoshi*, are used by forty-nine percent, forty-six percent and twenty-eight percent of World or Olympic champions, respectively.

Results of the research on the distribution of *ne-waza* skills was surprising on two points. First, I was surprised to realize that the elite players would forego the opportunity to use one *ne-waza* skill in favor of something else, i.e. pass up a hold-down to work for an arm-lock. This should not really be so surprising! Players seek their favorite throws in spite of the opportunity for another throwing skill on a regular basis. Why shouldn't a player prefer one type of *ne-waza* skill over another? Obviously, each individual must stick with the skills that he feels most comfortable with. *Kansetsu-waza* and *shime-waza* share nearly equal popularity among the elite. Forty-nine percent of the champions used *kansetsu-waza* and forty-six percent were using *shime-waza*.

So, what is the technical range of an elite player? One may conclude from my research, that a World or Olympic champion is possessed of a technical range of six throws and two *ne-waza* skills. One of the throwing skills is likely to be *kouchi-gari* and one of the *ne-waza* skills is probably *osae-komi*. All of the skills in a champion's technical range, his/her personal integrated attack system, have been chosen to fit the personal talents and propensities of the champion. I also found that none of the champions used exotic maneuvers that caught everyone off guard. The skills being used by the World and Olympic Champions are the same skills

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Enthusiasm is Key

At many recent USJA camps and clinics, local clubs did not participate. This is unacceptable. Not only is it a financial disaster because of the loss of expenses for instructor travel and advertising, it is downright insulting. If only five members from each local club were to attend a USJA camp or clinic, the entire club would benefit. The members would gain valuable experience that they can share, and interest in judo would be spread throughout the community.

Why is judo such a minority sport? Simple. Club leaders don't attend clinics, and consequently their students don't attend either. These leaders adopt an apathetic attitude toward attending any function that is not related to their area. They have no respect for the people or club

hosting the event, no respect for the clinician, and only excuse after excuse for their lack of attendance. There are a few leaders in the country who take their students to as many events as possible, but when it comes time for reciprocation, the hosts of these events are "no shows." What a pathetic state of affairs. . .

If we as leaders don't attend these functions, they will cease to exist. Word of mouth information and enthusiasm will not be generated to the local area, and recruitment to the local club will suffer. There are over five hundred clubs registered with the USJA that have less than ten members, and it seems that the club leaders are content. With this attitude, judo will not grow in this country. France, with a much smaller population than the United

States, has over 800,000 registered *judoka*! The same is true for England, Germany, and other European countries. We only received one medal in the 1996 Olympic games—a bronze. We are a great nation, and have the capability of registering a million American *judoka* if only our "leaders" show their students more enthusiasm.

Twelve camps and over fifty clinics are scheduled in this next year. Will you be a leader? Will you attend at least one of these functions? Will you bring your students along? Will you encourage the natural enthusiasm of your membership? Will you help support the USJA in its mission to build American judo? Are you a committed *judoka*, or someone who just wants to hang a Black Belt Certificate on the wall and brag about it.

Wake up club leaders. We have been number thirteen in the world for a long time. What are *you* going to do about it?

—Anonymous

USJACOACH

Message from the President

(continued from page 2)

more time one-on-one with them than their parents do.

As a coach, you are expected to build trust, reflect a high standard of character, and display unblemished ethics. You are a role model. Your students will remember you for the rest of their lives, so it is important that you make a positive impression to help mold their character.

Another aspect of coaching is team travel and its unique responsibilities. When traveling, your team members will depend on you more than ever. You are a coach, father, mother, manager, friend, mentor, and counselor. Parents have entrusted you with their most prized possessions—their children, and you have a grave responsibility to maintain the high standards of a USJA coach while traveling. Always maintain the coach/student relationship; espe-

cially with adult competitors of the opposite gender. Be aware of the number of adult chaperons required when traveling with junior boys and girls, and wherever possible, and for reasons of liability, avoid this responsibility as part of your coaching duties. If you are traveling long distances requiring overnight lodging, I recommend that you employ the use of dedicated and concerned parents.

The coach is one of the USJA's main marketing resources. Your positive influence with students within your own club is a tremendous asset. Those who present a negative influence with their students are disappointing and well known to us. Students who are left in total frustration by comments made during class often call the National Office or send letters directly to the President or Executive Director. Always remain positive, and remember that your USJA has survived the impossi-

ble during the past eighteen months. The best is yet to come.

During the next year, you, as coaches, will be encouraged to focus on events that will enhance the global development of the USJA by training at least five referees, ensuring that you develop quality assistant coaches, and dedicating your support to the USJA Junior National Judo Championship each year, as well as the USJA camps and clinics. A priority issue will also be recruitment, retention, and your continuing efforts to increase Annual and Life Memberships during the year. More on this topic at a later date.

These are the challenges I propose to you, our dedicated coaches. It is you that make this organization a leader in the judo community, and as a USJA coach, you are our most valued asset. **USJACOACH**

Good Customer Relations

by Joseph Arkin

Have you ever walked into a store and received discourteous treatment from a salesperson? Or did a supplier that you telephoned ever give the impression he didn't much care if he got your business?

And, did you ever receive, in response to a complaint, a letter that implied that you didn't know what you were talking about? If so, then you were a victim of faulty customer relations. You got the feeling that your business wasn't appreciated. You were probably offended, and rightly so.

Customer relations can be defined as the art of cultivating and perpetuating the goodwill of established customers. After you land a customer, let him know that you are grateful to have him with you. It pays to be attentive, even after you've made the sale.

Good customer relations means perfor-

mance, not only of products, but of managerial methods and policies—all the things that go into affecting attitudes toward a business or organization, from within and from without. People admire efficiency, progressiveness, and

achievements, but far more important in building good customer relations is simple everyday courtesy. Courtesy is no substitute for efficiency, but it takes nothing away from it and adds to it enormously.

When any situation arises to prevent your doing what the customer expects, use appropriate methods to tell frankly and forthrightly why the situation exists, what you are doing about it, what you plan to do, and what, if anything, the disappointed customer can do in the meantime. In short, put your cards on the table. You'll find customers will be reasonable and fair, and

will like your candor. The customer gives high marks for trying. People will be more patient and more understanding if they know what you are planning to do about a given situation.

People do not improve their relations with other people in a few days or weeks, because goodwill, confidence, and friendship require time to mature. Good customer relations is a lot like making friends; it takes effort, but the rewards are well worth it.

Editor's Note: In the preceding article, the word member or student can be easily substituted for customer. As we have mentioned in the past, your club is a satellite of the USJA—a part of the whole. Your club's member relations policies reflect on your Association and vice-versa. We strive to make friends and be as efficient as possible in our handling of your Association's administration. We hope that you try to do the same. It is to our mutual benefit, and any suggestions or comments are always welcome.

The whole idea can be summed up by this: Never forget a member, and never let a member forget you. USJACOACH

New USJA Senior Rank System

(continued from page 6)

is forced to do it? It is not for the student to dictate to the organization or instructor what they will or will not do, or what is important/unimportant for them to be promoted. We can amend the requirements in the future as needed; if the membership wishes to do so. In the meantime, the USJA is stating in writing that "these things" are what our members will know at the various ranks. If an otherwise "qualified" member (by virtue of points and time-in-grade) cannot or will

not demonstrate their knowledge and proficiency of the required material, they will not be promoted! This is the only way to ensure the integrity of USJA ranks.

Also, the concept of "minimum" time-in-grade has been replaced with "suggested" time-in-grade. It was getting to the point that everyone was submitting applications for promotion once "minimum" time-in-grade was achieved. Originally, this was to be reserved for "the truly deserving."

In summary, although the vast majority of members will probably like the

requirements and the new format of the USJA Senior Rank System, it won't be any better than the past system if the administrative aspect of the rank system is not adhered to. This will be the real test for the USJA as an organization.

Editor's Note: The USJA would like to take this opportunity to thank Greg for taking on this tremendous responsibility in addition to his continuing efforts as Chairman of the USJA Kata Committee. We will keep you up-to-date on the availability of the much anticipated new USJA Senior Handbook. USJACOACH

Dear Coach

I enjoyed your article "A Little Self Examination" on the cover of the December issue. My old injuries (a broken back) do not permit me to use my judo skills nearly as much as I would like. My problem is that I love judo like some guys love football. About four years ago I started a judo club from scratch with all beginners. This is the third club I have started in my judo career; my work has forced me to leave the others behind. The point that I'm heading for is that you can run a club without being proficient in judo as long as you have a good knowledge of the art.

In the beginning, I talked the beginners through the moves. I was able to demonstrate some techniques, but not nearly enough. We now have a club of about thirty people, and I can use the older members to demonstrate moves. We attend *shiai* regularly, and I exhort the value of clinics

and camps to our members. When invited, I try to get them to practice with other people and other clubs. We have hosted two clinics ourselves, and last month we hosted our first *shiai*, much to the credit of my old *sensei*, Reggie Heefner. Our club is growing, and would do so faster if we had a better *dojo*.

My second point is that I believe I am not fit enough to walk on the mat, but if I did not, all these people would not be enjoying judo. There is one other black belt listed in our town. I approached him to see about running a club, and he just did not want the problems, which I must admit are many. There are soon to be two black belts among our own ranks, and having them will make me feel much more at ease.

There is a lot more to running a club than demonstrating moves. I do what I do best, and my more advanced students do

the rough and tumble. Together we can have a pretty good judo club. This is the goal. I do keep as current as possible, and I do some practice. Making adjustments, especially for self-defense classes, has allowed me to maintain training. I believe we need more training for people with injuries and handicaps, since they are most likely to be victims and the most often overlooked by the martial arts community. Sincerely,

Roger Pryor, Nidan
Coach, Bushido Judo Club, York, PA

P.S. We have found another judo *shodan* in York who left judo years ago because of knee injuries. We are trying to persuade him to begin again and help with the juniors. There are people out there like him that have the skills, and if we can get them, we want them. Because of my injuries, I know that I will never be a Certified Examiner, Referee, or much else in judo that I have not already attained, but I can produce people who will be.

USJACOACH

Colored Judogi?

The debate about the "colored" *judogi* continues throughout international judo. Concerns on each side of the issue are being discussed, and as this will be a major change to a sport that is over 100 years old, a ruling will require careful consideration.

The advent of media coverage of our sport contributes greatly to the proposed change. Spectators in the stands, as well as on television, will obviously benefit from a definite distinction between competitors. The more attractive judo competition becomes to the viewer, the more in demand it will be. This can only increase interest and the growth of our sport. The cold

reality is that if television ratings remain at the bottom level, our position as an official Olympic event may be in jeopardy. Presently there are many events just waiting in the wings for the "weaker" ones to fail so that they can replace them. The development of sports has come about through the strength of commercialism, and good or bad, we cannot disregard the power of the media. Also, research conducted at Halle University in the former East Germany, concluded that colored *judogi* reduced referee error.

There are also two major reasons for opposition to the change: the loss of tradi-

tion or the spirit of judo, and secondly, the economic burden it will place on the competitors. To address the first objection, Japan strongly insists that the *judogi* remain white due to the noble and clean characteristics attributed to the color. They believe that it is a symbol of the spirituality of judo and therefore the tradition must be preserved. The spirit of judo of course must be preserved, but rather than being encompassed by the color of the *judogi*, perhaps it should be found in the teachings of its founder, Jigoro Kano, and the other traditions that set our sport apart. Secondly, the introduction of the colored *judogi* may put a financial burden on many competitors. It is expected to impact the third world countries especially. Presently, *judoka* take two *judogi* with them to competitions. If

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Judo Down Under

by Ray Silverstrand, Yodan, Silverstrand Dojo, Lincoln, Nebraska

Terry Kelly, Rokudan, Santa Rosa California Judo Club and I began the New Year with the trip of a lifetime. We spent two weeks in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia. The USJA's Australian representative, Gerry Hays arranged some incredible workouts involving Australian National Champions, and Olympic team members and medalists. In Sydney, the Aussies were very friendly and had a strong sense of teamwork. Their technique was equally strong on the mat as well as standing, and it seemed that there were no "paper tigers" among them. In other words, every dan rank was a fighting dan.

Aussies are readily accepting of Americans, but if you go, be sure to take along a good attitude—they take their judo very seriously. The boys down under also know how to have fun, and after a

grueling workout and a first class *randori* session, we were taken to a classic Aussie pub where they guided us through a variety of beers and ales, and treated us to some world-class fellowship!

On to Melbourne via a ten-hour Interlink Train System ride. Our host in Melbourne was Detective Dale Yule of the Victoria Police. He is a paragon of hospitality, and opened his home to us for the duration of our stay. Accompanied by him, we experienced casino operations, where in the world of high rollers, it was not unusual to witness a three or four million dollar loss on one hand of cards. Dave deals with International "Baddies" (bad guys) on a daily basis. His world is filled with high-tech surveillance and combat awareness; his defense tactics must be second to none. He took us to the Melbourne Police

Academy where we met and trained with members of the Special Operations Group (SOG). They are nicknamed the "Sons of God." Training is very realistic because the lives of the group and the lives of the people they serve are on the line. They must also always be ready, as they deal with international terrorism, and rely on tire-house training and hostage rescue using weapons equipped with paint ball rounds for practice. Their close-quarter combat includes every style, from Brazilian *jujitsu* to *aikido*. The training is hard and intense, and their timing seems almost magical . . . kind of spooky.

Terry and I highly recommend Australia as a rich and fertile training ground for the martial artist who is interested in learning, and for fellowship with high quality technicians with good hearts. **USJACOACH**

On a Personal Note...

This is a new regular column beginning with this issue. We hope it will add a touch of human interest to our quarterly newsletter and bring our diverse community of American judo a little closer together. Please let us know of any personal achievements and/or newsworthy snippets from your neck of the woods! Address them to the Editor, USJA COACH, 21 North Union Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909.

George Harris, Past President of the USJA, 1964 Olympian, and many times over all U. S. Champion, suffered a heart attack

during the 1996 Thanksgiving holiday, and then a week later suffered a stroke. George had undergone back surgery in August 1996. He was prescribed medication for a period of time, and apparently, after the medication was stopped, his heart attack and stroke occurred. We are happy to say that George is back home in Virginia Beach, and has returned to his job with the Navy Exchange System. Good health to you George from all your friends and admirers.

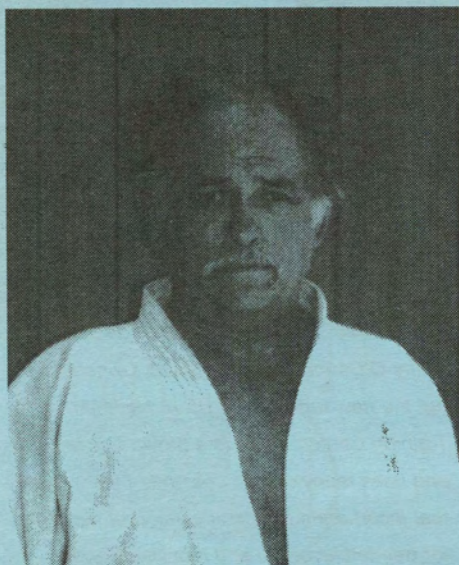
Congratulations to Buddy Clark, USJA Rokudan. Buddy was recently appointed as judge pro tem of Kerin County,

California. Pro tem (the abbreviation of pro tempore) is defined by Black's Law Dictionary as "for the time being," and it is quite an honor for an attorney to be selected to act as "judge for the day," with all the powers and responsibilities of the office, when the court system and judges are overwhelmed by the caseloads on their dockets. Coupled with this honor, on January 1, 1997 Buddy entered into law partnership with the Honorable Jason Brent, a former judge in the same county. Best of luck in the "big time" Buddy!

Our condolences to the families and friends of Elmer Heilman of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Robert Alexander of Raleigh, North Carolina, Stanley Reed of Yulee, Florida, and Ronald Onkst of New Castle, Indiana.

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Vineland Judo Club Number One!



Raimundo Marquez, III

Vineland Judo Club of Vineland, New Jersey just went roaring to the top of our USJA Club list. Vineland's total of 354 members as of this date, is made even more impressive because their roster is made up of *all* Life Members of the USJA! The number one spot was held by Ron Egnor's New

London Judo Club in Connecticut, and it has been the uncontested leader for as long as we can remember. Sometimes, two or more clubs will combine their membership, and the totals in our daily and monthly reports jump dramatically, but this is not the case with Vineland. The steady growth and success of this club is due in large part to its coach, Raimundo Marquez, III. Ray decided that he wanted to be number one, and voila!

Just saying that Vineland is number one though, hardly tells the whole story. The population of the city of Vineland is only 55,000, and the surrounding area, defined as Cumberland County, is only 138,000. The club *dojo* encompasses the top floor of a converted church with leased office space below, and because Ray owns the building (and we believe because of his personal generosity and dedication to the sport of judo) he charges his students a mere \$6 per month for instruction. He has been a major contributor to the sport of judo as well as to the USJA. Ray's experience in judo goes

back thirty-five years. He holds the rank of godan, and was the Senior Masters Champion in his weight class for five years running. Ray is a USJA Royal Life Member, was chosen as the 1994 Outstanding Life Member Contributor by the USJA National Awards Committee, and is currently the number one contributor to the 1997 USJA Winners Circle. USJA Executive Director, Ed Szrejter has this to say. "Ray is a great guy. He always invites our participation at his club functions, and it is always a wonderful experience when I can attend."

Ray's loyalty to the USJA, his recruitment skills on behalf of the Association, his generosity, and his dedication to keeping kids off the streets by teaching them the values and skills that will contribute to their successful futures, makes Ray Marquez and the Vineland Judo Club more than the number one club in a computer database in Colorado Springs. Thanks Ray, and congratulations to the Vineland Judo Club. You are definitely ichiban in our book! **USJACOACH**

Skill Range of the Elite

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you and I practice and teach our players every day. Since champions use the same skills we do, it seems to me that everyone has an equal chance to get to the elite level. It could be that the only difference between them and everyone else is a little talent and a lot of hard work. What do you think? **USJACOACH**

Colored Judogi?

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the new rule is adopted, this will increase to four (two of each color). However, the idea of a "reversible" judogi may alleviate this problem, although certainly the initial purchase cost must be addressed.

We believe that except for major tournaments, the blue or "colored" judogi will be optional. Whichever decision is made; whichever side you may support, change does seem inevitable in everything, and rather than let it separate us, let's remember that a house divided is weak, and that we must all pull together in the interest of our sport. **USJACOACH**

New Merchandise



Ippon's newest addition to its renowned Masterclass series is now available from USJA Supply Division for the

low price of \$22.00 plus shipping & handling.

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Coaches, this is *your* newsletter! We gladly accept your thoughts and input. Feel free to contact us at the National Headquarters.

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The United States Judo Association is headquartered at 21 North Union Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909 and can be reached by calling 719-633-7750, faxing 719-633-4041, or by corresponding with this address. The USJA is also accessible via email at usja@csprings.com and on the world wide web at <http://www.csprings.com/usja>.

USJA Status Report

Thanks to our Systems Administrator, Bud Williams, each day we receive a USJA Status Report. At a glance, we can compare figures, study the demographics, and view the whole picture of the health and growth of your association. Below is a sample of some of the information contained in the report from March 31, 1997.

Total Member Count: 23,823
Annual Memberships expiring at the End of the
Month: 465
Senior Male Members: 14,897
Senior Female Members: 2,766
Junior Males: 4,789
Junior Females: 1,371
Total Club Count: 2,816
USJA Clubs: 1,370

Top 25 Clubs

Top 25 Clubs	Member Count
Vineland Judo Club.....	354
Tremont Judo Club.....	343
New London Judo Club.....	325
USJA National Training Center.....	310
Jundokai Judo & Jujitsu Club.....	273
Omaha Public School Judo Club.....	269
Ohio Judan Judo Club.....	258
Samurai Judo Association.....	233
Fayetteville-Ft. Bragg Judo Club.....	168
Tarheel Judo School.....	165
Cahill's Judo Club.....	165
Goltz Judo Club.....	160
Epizoundes Martial Arts.....	155
Harrisburg Judokai.....	151
Tomodachi Judo Club.....	150
Unidos Judo Clubs.....	150
Virgil's Judo Club.....	148
Desert Judo Club.....	147
Yukon Kuskokwim Judo Club.....	144
Yellowhill Judo Club.....	143
Roanoke Judo Club.....	139
Carolinas American Judo Association.....	139
Starkville Martial Arts Academy.....	129
Martin County Judo Club.....	122
Rendokan Dojo.....	120

The information in our USJA database is very important to our ability to administer to the needs of our membership. As Bud keeps telling us, "G.I.G.O.—garbage in, garbage out." Please help us to maintain the integrity of our information by keeping us up-to-date, in writing, of any changes or modifications to your individual or club status.



Kathy O'Connell and her coach, Gene Hall try out the new ramp at the USJA National Training Center. Kathy is a brown belt in jujitsu, and uses many moves designed by her coach that incorporate her chair instead of her legs for needed leverage and mobility. Gene designed and built the removable ramp to the raised mat area knowing it would give Kathy more freedom during practice.

On a Personal Note...

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The community of American judo will miss these four dedicated USJA members.

Robert Spraley, coach of Miami County YMCA Judo Club in Ohio, recently underwent surgery to have a kidney removed. He seems to be spending his recuperation period getting his club paperwork in order, and we hear from him often these days at the National Office. We are happy to hear that all went well with the surgery, and know that he will be back on the mat soon.

Best Wishes to Justin & Rebekah Scott on their recent wedding. Justin is the Graphic Designer at USJA National Headquarters and Rebekah works in Card Services at a local bank. After their honeymoon in Disneyworld, they set up house-keeping here in Colorado Springs, and we hope that they will stick around for a long and happy future together. **USJA COACH**