



USJA Newsletter

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Jim Bregman invites you to...

produced by James Bregman, Rob Reilly and Pete Mantel

Jim Bregman won an Olympic Bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964 and a bronze medal at the World Championships in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1965. He won gold medals at the Maccabiah Games in Israel and the Pan American Games in Guatemala. He is the USA's first Judo athlete to win an Olympic medal. He was President and a Founder of the United States Judo Association. Sensei Bregman is a 10th degree Black Belt who continues to impact the world of Judo through his "*Jim Bregman Invites you to...*" series of presentations on various timely and important issues of the day.

Presentations in the series includes

[Rick Celotto: Basic Review of Prohibited Acts](#)

An in depth 2-part seminar presented by Rick Celotto (IJF-A Referee), Chair, USJA Referee Committee
Basic Review of Prohibited Acts.

PART1 (Oct 21, 2021) <https://youtu.be/zmYHnpZRYX0>

PART 2 (November 7, 2021) <https://youtu.be/31ZpAff9k4o>

[Referee Bobby Donaldson: \(IJF-A referee\) Perspective from My Position](#)

While reviewing his journey to becoming an IJF-A Referee, Sensei Donaldson's presentation also provided his very enlightening perspective on Judo from his point-of-view as a career member of the US Navy, a skilled Judo athlete, international traveler, and as an International Referee. Sensei Donaldson provided a number of well developed insights that will be of interest to all.

September 21, 2021: <https://youtu.be/J2npOecpMxU>

[Brian Money & Pedro Villa Jr.: A Special Needs Judo Primer](#)

This presentation includes an overall description of Special Needs Judo. Disabilities such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Down syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, intellectual disabilities, and other physical disabilities are included as part of special needs judo. We discuss how special needs judo differs from mainstream Judo, including specific rules, athlete levels (1 - 5), and training techniques. Learning and understanding the rules and training techniques used in special needs judo will greatly aide every instructor who has a special needs student in their club. It will also allow us to participate in and enjoy an international judo community that is wholly devoted to these amazing judo athletes.

August 17, 2021 <https://youtu.be/1up1WRZwANE>

All the previous presenations and details for all upcoming presentations appear on <https://www.facebook.com/rob.reilly.750>



February 2022 Promotion Board Committee News

USJA Judo ranks are a measure of a student's achievement in Judo. They are a testimony of skill, knowledge, and sportsmanship, attained through diligent study, practice, tournament participation and devotion to Judo.

Congratulations to the following January 2022 promotions:

Michael T. Pittman	Shodan	River City Martial Arts/Grants Pass
Aaron S. Burk	Shodan	Iron Forged Martial Arts
Tony Oliveri	Shodan	Bushido Kai Judo, Inc.
Steven Hernandez	Nidan	SOHK Judo Club
Eric Mott	Sandan	Samurai Judo Association
Ronald E. Chapman	Rokudan	Chikarakogeki
Hector M. Negron	Rokudan	San Yama Bushi Judo Club
Jon W. Sanfilippo	Hachidan	West Bend Judo Club

Certified Rank Examiner Program

The Certified Rank Examiner Program is up and running. If you are interested in becoming a Certified Rank Examiner, complete the CRE Application and forward to the National Office.

All levels of CRE are now required to renew their certification every four years. Be sure that your USJA Membership, Chartered Club Membership, Background Screening, CDC Heads Up and Safe Sport are all current.

<https://news.usja.net/certified-rank-examiners-2022/>

If you have lost or forgotten your sign-on to [USJA.net](https://www.usja.net), contact the National Office and they will assist you with retrieving your username and password.

Reinstatement of Junior and Senior KYU Promotion Fees

The Board of Directors met via a Zoom Conference Call on November 5, 2021. At that time, it was determined that the fees for Junior and Senior KYU promotions would be reinstated as of December 2, 2021.



On the trail with the Scholastic Committee

reported by Ronald Allan Charles, Ph.D., 8th dan,
Scholastic Committee member

Judo is a popular sport throughout in the world. In the US, it isn't as popular as it used to be. The USJA is working hard to increase judo participation with children and adolescents. Research shows that children and adolescents who play Judo benefit by becoming better students in many ways, with fewer encounters with law enforcement, and are less likely to be involved with substance abuse or bullying. The USJA Scholastic Judo Committee focuses on Judo in the lives of juniors. We work with recruitment and retention, including individual learning styles, instructional methods, the role of the family, and external variables that impact student interest. We particularly examine how we can develop partnerships with schools to incorporate judo into the academic system.

The committee is seeking black belt volunteers, especially those currently employed in schools, with experience teaching Judo to children. We reach out to teachers already in the system in our effort to build their skills and credentials to better enable them in their Judo teaching efforts.

Former USJA president and Scholastic Committee vice-chairman Jim Bregman, has professional experience as an advisor to tribal governments at the 2.8 million acre Great Sioux Indian Reservation at Pine Ridge, South Dakota. This region has been designated as one of poorest areas in the United States, a place with few natural resources and no industry. Judo has recently found a home there in their school system, thanks to guidance counsellor Dr. Dennis W. Dolezal. The Scholastic Committee has been working with him using a distance learning model utilizing Facetime, telephone, and email. The committee has been using this technical assistance model throughout the country for the last several years with all Judo teachers working at schools. The committee has been working with Dr. Dolezal for a couple of years. Last summer I was asked to make an assistance site visit as part of a trip around the country. I drove the Judo mobile 26 hours to cover 1,700 miles from my home in Goose Creek, South Carolina, to Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Only today did I discover that South Carolina has a Pine Ridge, too, only 92 miles, an hour and a half drive from my home.

My brief visit with Dr. Dolezal was productive. Cheryl Frances Ellis accompanied me. With Native American ancestry with the Nansemond tribe, she felt quite at home on the reservation. And as a longtime black belt, she offered extensive judo expertise. Though students were on summer break, we worked extensively with Dr. Dolezal covering many aspects of teaching, a sort of mini-coaching course, as well as stressing the importance of USJA membership and becoming a USJA chartered club.

Old timers will recall actor Richard Boone who starred as a hired gun called Paladin in the TV series *Have Gun - Will Travel*. In our case, it's *Have Judo - Will Travel!*

And that's precisely what judo, not just our committee, is all about: spreading the joys of the art through mutual benefit and welfare.



Cheryl Frances Ellis 2nd Dan, Dr. Dennis Dolezal 1st Dan, Dr. Ronald Allan Charles, 8th Dan



A taste of USJA and Judo history honoring the passing of Allan Coage in 2007 by James S. Bregman, Olympic and World Medalist, Dancer.

Allen Coage, My Hero, Our Hero

It was an odd set of circumstances that day so long ago in Philadelphia. The venue was alive with the excitement of the Judo Trials for the 1976 Olympic Games to be held later in the year in Montreal. The event was about 90% completed when the "tournament officials" made an announcement about a late breaking decision they had just made concerning the selection process and the tournament. The exact details, blurred now by time matter very little, but to these athletes who had spent their entire lives trying to make an Olympic team it was devastation, a crushing tsunami which meant that some deserving winners might indeed not be selected!



After the "official announcement", there was a long moment of stunned disbelief and silence. The ABC camera crews were baffled as were the directors and producers. This was to be the first time the Olympic Judo Trials were to be covered live by the media. Then the noise level rose steadily to a vibrating din and the athletes were milling around agitated, angry, hurt, confused, and astonished at this "stupid" last minute "switch" which would completely determine their future Olympic hope and dreams. An athlete's revolution was brewing and they were "mad as hell." They were not "going to take this crap" any more. But what on earth to do to rectify this "official blundering fiasco"? How do powerless athletes reason with "unreasonable officials" who are "dictatorial in their edits" and domineering.

Allen Coage and Jimmy Wooley were to fight next and though the confusion, milling around and the athlete's disgust and disappointment were being voiced now by shouting and jeering, yelling and screaming at the "tournament officials." Ben Campbell, George Harris, Paul Maruyama and I were dumbfounded, standing on the floor by the mats, completely taken aback by the announcement, and the loud "revolution" which was gaining momentum. We were approached by Coage and Wooley for advice and guidance and, as we were talking, the athletes gathered around and the boiling noise level began to simmer. Then it turned into dead silence. You could have heard a pin drop. Coage and Wooley asked us simply, "What would you guys do in a situation like this?" It wasn't Ben's, George's, Paul's or my Olympic berth that was on the line. It was Coage's and Wooley's and all the other Olympic Dreamers who came to fight that day. The four of us were awe struck at the question, at the dilemma and speechless. The five of us talked quietly and logically and explored options. All of which were, to say the least, not good. Finally, the call came from the announcer commanding Wooley and Coage out to the mat for the final match.

Coage and Wooley respectfully asked one more time, "What would you guys do?" A second call to the mat came with a threat of disqualification. Time had run out. We four told them "we" would not compete in this situation and we would demand other trials with consistent and fair selection criteria published at the start and immutable throughout the tournament. I said that the USOC/AAU will be sued by the USJA and that the four of us would work with the USJA Board to correct this mess and get a retrial under a court order if necessary! We also told Wooley and Coage that it must be their decision and their decision alone as to what course to follow because the personal stakes are too high for us to "tell them what to do," not that we ever really would have tried to do that. Coage and Wooley, two of the greatest American Judoka of all time had great senses of humor at this moment of "truth" and with rye, impish smiles on their faces they said "Just watch this!" The ABC cameras were rolling, the very nervous officials were all in their chairs and places of honor and the venue was hushed.

As they walked to the mat together, friends and competitor at the same time, they whispered quietly to each other and then took their respective places to compete opposite one another on the mat. They stepped onto the mat and bowed to the officials. Stepped up to the "line" to wait for the hajime. And then, it came, loud and clear from the referee, "hajime!". With dignified grace these two men of the mat, bowed and walked slowly to the center of the mat. They shook hands, walked back to the "line", bowed humbly and walked off of the mat. What followed can only be described as total chaos, a loud cheer went up from the athletes and the audience, flags were waved and cheering and yelling continued for a long time. Coage and Wooley made their way over to the four of us and we all hugged and jumped joyously.



The "athlete's revolt" which had been brewing for a long time erupted like a volcano. I quietly and slowly made my way through the crowded floor to an exit. I was cornered by four officials who said in essence, I was to blame for this and that I would pay for this "disrespectful behavior" smiled and excused myself. I needed to find a pay phone. Cell phones had not yet been invented! I called Michael Rosenberg, the USJA attorney in Washington, D. C., and related all the shocking events in detail. Michael said his firm would do everything possible to see that there was a retrial. A case was filed in the Federal District Court of the District of Columbia.

Long story short, they settled, agreed to a retrial under consistent rules and procedures. Coage and Wooley at the retrial entered separate categories and made the 1976 Olympic Team. I was in Montreal that day and watched Coage fight and win a Bronze Medal. After the medal ceremony, I called Michael at the law firm from a pay phone outside the arena in the hall. I told him Allen had won and let him listen to the applause. WE, American Judo Athletes, had won and Coage and Wooley showed the way with dignity and courage at a time of high crisis.

I can hear my youngest son, Matthew, calling me, as he often did as a child, "Hey, Dad, come on down and watch wrestling with me! Bad News Brown, aka, Allen Coage, is wrestling tonight. Hurry, you don't want to miss it." This was a ritual on wrestling night and I would sit with Matthew and we'd watch the latest saga of Bad News Brown unfold week after week. After the wrestling was over, I would tell Matthew many stories about the Olympic Trials events, the Montreal Olympics, the Camp Olympus stories, training trips to Europe with Allen and the trips to South Africa to have team judo matches with the South Africans during apartheid. Allen was the Captain of all of those teams. The South Africans loved him. WE all loved him. WE will all miss him. He was a courageous and honorable man, dignified, steady and had a great sense of humor. He was a tremendous DANCER. Matthew and I, like many millions of children and parents around the world, mourn the passing of the one and only Allen Coage, Olympian, and OUR hero. Our regrets and sympathy are with his loved ones.

Allen Coage started his judo career very late – when he was 22. But only two years later he won the AAU heavyweight championship. He repeated as AAU heavyweight champion in 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1975; and in 1970 he won the open division at that tournament. In addition to national titles, Coage won gold medals at both the 1967 and 1975 Pan American Games. With his bronze medal at Montreal, Coage, a 5th Dan,, became the first American black to win an individual medal in a sport other than track & field or boxing. Coage spent some time as a professional bodyguard for singer Aretha Franklin, and later wrestled professionally as "Bad News Brown".



Jimmy Wooley attended the University of Houston, graduating in 1974, between his two Olympic appearances. He also competed at the 1975 Pan American Games, winning a bronze medal in the open class. Wooley was a 4th Dan. He was US Champion in the open class in 1974 and 1976, and was second as a heavyweight in 1972 and third as a heavyweight in 1973. Wooley also competed at the 1973 and 1975 World Championships. He served as Team Manager for the US Judo Team at the 1983 Pan American Games and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Wooley later returned to school and earned a degree in Chiropractic in 1979 from the Palmer College of Chiropractic in Iowa, and then became a practicing chiropractor in Irvine, California.

All submissions to The *American Judo Newsletter* are carefully reviewed by the Editor. If you wish to submit material to The *American Judo* please send those articles, photos, regional, national or international tournaments/camps, or such items to the Editor at Amercanjudomag@gmail.com. If you are submitting a photo, please send it in digital format with a relevant caption; and please be sure that the photo is of high-quality (e.g., good contrast, action and line-up photos are welcomed, without shadowy faces that are unrecognizable, totally black backgrounds, etc.). **The copyright for all articles/photographs remains with the authors/photographers.**