

Sports

Editor: Dustin Perry dustin.perry@bliss.army.mil

Team Bliss judo slams into new season

SPECIAL TO THE MONITOR

The Team Bliss Judo Team performed well last year, winning a total of 38 medals in local, state, regional and national level tournaments. The team picked up where they left off in their first tournament of the 2005-2006 season by winning more medals.

The team traveled to Texas A&M University, College Station, on Oct. 8 and competed in the 11th Annual GoShibata Invitational Judo Tournament, winning four medals – two gold, one silver, and one bronze – with only seven team members. This was the first competitive tournament seen by five of the seven team members. There were over 250 competitors in attendance at the tournament.

Eric Roberts, HHB, 3-6 ADA, won the gold medal in the Novice Men Division 100 + kilo. As the smallest player in his weight class and in his first tournament, Roberts used superior throwing and ground techniques to win all his fights with a full Ippon (one point instant win earned by throwing, pinning or submission).

Cesar Luna dispatched every opponent for a full Ippon winning the gold medal in the Novice Men Division 100 - kilo. He demonstrated some outstanding throwing techniques

while fighting his way to the top of the division.

Erick Clark, Patriot Training Detachment, was the only member of last year's team able to compete at this tournament, and he won a silver medal in the Senior Men Open division 100 + kilo. He showed dominance from the very opening of his first match by slamming his opponent within seconds for an Ippon. However, he lost in the final match when he was caught in a powerful shoulder throw for Ippon.

Hector Rivera, C Battery, 2-43 ADA, fought his way to a bronze medal in his first tournament appearance. He sparred in the Novice Men Division 81- kilo, the largest division in the tournament with 14 competitors.

Three more team members distinguished themselves during their first tournament, but failed to place: Scott Kovanda, A Battery, 3-6 ADA, Novice Men Division 81 - kilo; David Parsons, HHB, 3-43 ADA, Novice Men Division 81 – kilo, and Miguel LunaOrtiz, HHB, 1-56 ADA, novice men 90 - kilo.

The next tournament for Team Bliss Judo is the Dallas Open during Thanksgiving weekend. The Dallas Open is a national level event that



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Team Bliss Judo pose for a photo during practice

usually draws 400 to 500 competitors.

The Team Bliss Judo Team is coached by Randy Leatherwood who also coaches the 2005 Armed Forces

Judo Team. Training is held at Bldg. 60 and anyone can try out, no experience is necessary.

All-Army boxing trials scheduled for January

MASTER SGT. STEVE MILLER

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The All-Army boxing tryouts are scheduled for Jan. 3 through Jan. 24, 2006, at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. The application deadline for qualified boxers is Nov. 15.

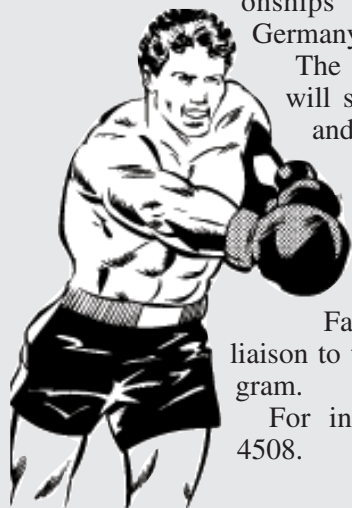
A maximum of four applicants per weight class will be selected. Boxers should see the post Sports Office for an application and certificate of amateurism. Fighters will also need a medical exam and verification of a dental-fitted mouthpiece.

Boxers must be current members of USA Boxing and have a valid USA Boxing passbook. Boxers may apply for the \$35 membership at the trials in January.

Boxers must have a minimum of four registered sanction bouts to compete at the Armed Forces championships Feb. 6 through Feb. 10, 2006, at Naval Air Station Ventura, Calif., five bouts to compete in the USA Boxing national championships March 11 through March 18, 2006, in Colo., and a U.S. passport for selection to the U.S. Armed Forces team competing at the CISM world championships in Sept. 2006 in Germany.

The Army coaching staff will screen all applications and make recommendations for selection to the chief of Army Sports and Fitness, and the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center liaison to the Army boxing program.

For information, call 568-4508.



TIM HIPPS

Iris Smith (top), seen here defeating Ali Bernard for the 2005 women's 158.5-pound freestyle national championship at Las Vegas, won a world wrestling championship in her weight class Sept. 30 at Budapest, Hungary.

Army wrestler wins world championship

TIM HIPPS

Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Sgt. Iris Smith won a gold medal Sept. 30 in the women's 158.5-pound freestyle division of the 2005 World Wrestling Championships at Budapest, Hungary.

Smith, a wrestler in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, defeated five-time world champion Kyoko Hamaguchi of Japan, 3-1, 1-1, 1-0, to become the new world

champion in her weight class.

WCAP wrestlers Staff Sgt. Dremiel Byers and Sgt. Tina George also competed in the tournament but did not advance into the medal rounds.

The lone American female to win a gold medal in the world championships this year, Smith became the fourth U.S. woman wrestler to win a world crown. She joined her teenage idol, four-time world champion Tricia Saunders, along with Kristie Marano and Sandra

Bacher.

“My first coach, Anthony White, always told me I could do it,” said Smith, 25, who wrestled for the boys varsity team at Darsey Private School in Albany, Ga. “At the time, I had posters of Tricia Saunders. Now it is my turn.”

To reach the championship match, Smith grappled to victories against Bulgaria's Stanka Zlateva, 3-1, 1-0; Poland's Angnieska Wiececzek, 2-0, 6-0;

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