



COURTESY PHOTOS

A referee keeps close watch on two Soldiers competing in the 2007 Fort Bliss Modern Army Combatives Post Championship held Thursday at Stout Physical Fitness Center. Soldiers competing in the event were placed into one of seven weight classes and fought for one six-minute round.

Soldiers compete in post combatives championship

HEATHER WILBURN

Special to The Monitor

Of the 68 Soldiers who entered the 2007 Fort Bliss Modern Army Combatives Post Championships, seven walked away with first-place honors, while one brigade secured the team title and 60 Commander's Cup points.

Fewer Soldiers than last year participated in the event, held Thursday at Stout Physical Fitness Center, but the quality of the fighters has not diminished, said Joe Fedak, director of varsity and intramural sports at Fort Bliss.

"Our participation is down a little from what we have had, but right now everybody is coming and going, they're out in the field on exercises; the military job comes first, and we know that," Fedak said.

"It was still a fun tournament," he said. "We still had quality combatants. A lot of the Soldiers participating were returning champions from previous combatives events – and a lot of them were beaten."

Soldiers competing in the event were placed into one of seven weight classes. Matches went for one six-minute round. Points were awarded to establish good fight habits and emphasize the importance of dominant body position; a submission ended fights, regardless of score.

In the 125-pound-and-under weight class, John Michaels of 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense



Two Soldiers compete in the Fort Bliss Modern Army Combatives Post Championships held Thursday at Stout Physical Fitness Center.

Artillery, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, took first place. Jeremy Eckenrode of C Battery, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, took second.

In the 140-pound weight class, Branden Byrd of A Battery, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, 11th ADA Bde., won first-place honors. Jesse Brinkley, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 31st ADA Bde., came in second, while Danny Rodriquez, 1-44 AMD Battalion, 11th ADA Bde., finished in third place and Paul Turner, F Battery, 1-43 ADA, in fourth.

In the 155-pound weight class, Jamil Winfield, D Battery, 3-2 ADA, took top honors. Donte Burney of C Detachment, 230th Finance Battalion, earned a second-place finish. Joshua Self, A Company, 3rd Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, won third-place honors and Nathan Beal, E Battery, 3-2 ADA, took fourth place.

In the 170-pound class, Eric Blewett, A Battery, 3-2 ADA, finished in first place, while Raymond Biller, U.S. Marine Corps, finished in second. Anthony Wyatt, 3-2 ADA, and Vincent Houk, 3-2 ADA, took third and fourth places, respectively.

The 185-pound class saw Guillermo Rodriquez, 402nd Field Artillery, take first place. James Steele, 286th Signal Company, 11th ADA Bde., won second-place honors, while Cory Shouse, USASMA, took third place. Mario Nunez, C Battery, 1-43 ADA, came in fourth.

In the 205-pound weight class, Patrick Kearney and Frank Whitmore, both of A Co., 3-36 Inf. Reg., 5-1AD, took first and second places. Jorge Miranda, USMC, earned third place and Jonathan Lopez of William Beaumont Army Medical Center finished fourth.

In the 206-pound-and-over class, Adrian Liptrot of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-43 ADA, won first-place honors. Andrew Reif of A Co., 3-36 Inf. Reg., 5-1 AD came in second and LaMonte Rigmaden of 5035th Garrison Support Unit finished third. Eric Roberts, B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, took fourth place.

The 31st ADA Bde. took first place in the team standings, while 11th ADA Bde. came in second and 1st Armored Div. earned a third-place finish.

Overall, Fedak considered the tournament a success.

"The championships ran smoothly, everyone had a good time and it met people's expectations," he said.

Sports Briefs

Long Drive Championship

The George Underwood Golf Complex will host the MWR Long Drive Championship Friday at 6:30 p.m. This one-day event is an official Long Drivers of America qualifier. The cost is \$10 per try. Only active-duty servicemembers, Reserve and National Guard, both active and inactive, are eligible. Women who enter the competition will be spotted 65 additional yards on their qualified drives. Official rules and registration are available on www.blissmwr.com. For more information, visit www.longdrivers.com or call 562-1273.

Memorial golf tourney

Isaac Camacho Chapter IX, Special Forces Association, is sponsoring the second annual John McLaughlin Golf Tournament to raise funds for their projected Thanksgiving and Christmas food and toy drives. This event is Saturday at the Underwood Golf Course. Registration is from 6:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. Shotgun starts at 8:00 a.m. Sponsors are welcome. For information, call Ike Camacho 591-1560 and Greg Brown 525-4492.

Mini golf tourney

Fort Bliss MWR-Sports will hold the Mini Golf Post Championships Tuesday at Kelly Park. Registration begins at 5 p.m. This team event is open to all active-duty military assigned to Fort Bliss. For more information, contact Joe Fedak at 568-5995.

Flag football league

2007 Fort Bliss flag football leagues will begin the week of Sept. 4. This league is open to active-duty, Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers in active status assigned or attached to Fort Bliss. Team rosters are limited to 12 players and one coach from the same unit, with no limit to the number of teams per unit. The coaches' and officials' clinic will be conducted at the bowling center 6 p.m. Aug. 29. MOIs and rules can be found at www.blissmwr.com. For more information, call Joe Fedak at 568-5995.

Oktoberfest Night Run

The 14th German-American Oktoberfest Run will be Sept. 8, from 4 to 9 p.m. at Kelly Park. There will be pre- and post-race events and entertainment. For more information, call 568-0259 or 568-4508.

Civilian fitness program

Applications are being accepted for Civilian Fitness Program No. 9. All packets must be complete and submitted no later than 4 p.m. Sept. 14. A packet may be downloaded from www.blissmwr.com or picked up from Stout Gym or Tennis Club. For more information, call Doug Briggs 568-6458 or Caitlin Smith 568-5995.

Biggs Water Park

Biggs Water Park hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. The park is closed Tuesdays. Biggs Water Park has slides, a mushroom waterfall and a patio area with umbrellas and lounge chairs. The wading pool features animal statues, slides and sprinklers. For more information, call 568-8087 or 569-7733.

Family member discounts

The Fort Bliss Bowling Center and George V. Underwood Golf Complex are offering special discounts on services. The Bowling Center is offering a \$1 discount for up to three games of bowling in one day. This discount is valid from Friday to Sunday. The Golf Complex is offering a \$10 discount on daily green fees and lessons by appointment only. For information, call 562-6272, 568-1685, 562-2066 or 568-1273.

Tango Tower

Try your climbing skills on the 50-foot climbing walls, brave the Cargo Net, or test your limits on the Bead Climb. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday to Sunday, climbing fee is \$10. For more information, call 568-8087.

Paintball team forming

Are you interested in playing on a beginner/rookie-level paintball team? We are looking to put together one or more teams for competitive play. Practices will begin at 10 a.m. Aug. 18 at Biggs Park Paintball Field. For more information, contact Coach Daniel Frisby at soldier_friz@yahoo.com or (931) 220-2468.

Pool hours

The Community Pool, adjacent to the Officers' Club, is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, including holidays. Replica Aquatic Center is open 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday and holidays.

Patrons may swim at either pool at a cost of \$1 for adults, 75 cents for children 6 to 12 years and free for children younger than 5. Guests are \$2 per person.

For more information, call 568-7431.