



AUSKF 2008 IAIDO CAMP REPORT

Date: November 8, 2008

To: AUSKF Board of Directors and Officers

From: Takeshi Yamaguchi, Chairman, AUSKF Iaido Committee

Subject: AUSKF 2008 Iaido Camp Report

The 2008 AUSKF Iaido Camp was held on the campus of Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr (near Philadelphia), Pennsylvania on June 5 through June 9. This event was organized and hosted by the Japanese Swordsmanship Society from the EUSKF.

Two instructors from the Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei (ZNKR), Iaido Section attended the camp: Masahiro Yamasaki sensei, 8 dan Hanshi Iaido and 7 dan Kyoshi Kendo and Takaharu Saiki sensei, 8 dan Hanshi Iaido and 7 dan Kyoshi Kendo. Yamasaki sensei had previously attended the AUSKF 2007 Iaido Camp in Council Bluffs, Iowa. This was Saiki sensei's first visit to the camp.

The following instructors from the AUSKF were in attendance:

Takeshi Yamaguchi sensei (SCKF/SCIA), 7 dan Kyoshi, Iaido (Camp Head Instructor)

Yoshitsugu Murosako sensei (PNKF), 7 dan Renshi, Iaido

Shozo Kato sensei (GNEUSKF), 7 dan Kyoshi, Iaido

Tatsuhiko Konno sensei (PNKF), 7 dan Renshi, Iaido

Ichiro Murakami sensei, (SCKF/SCIA), 6 dan Iaido

Thomas Hooper sensei (AEUSKF), 6 dan Renshi, Iaido

Over 125 participants attended the camp, except for the sensei, including a few Iaidoka from the Canadian Kendo Federation (CKF). The camp consisted of two days of seminars, the AUSKF 2008 National Iaido Taikai and a promotional examination (shinkyu shinsa). Yamazaki sensei and Saiki sensei led the instruction during the two days of seminars and performed various demonstrations of and explained the concepts behind the ZenKenRen Iaido and koryu kata. Saiki sensei also conducted an Iaido Shimpan seminar for 4 dan and above on Friday, June 6.

Due to the increasing number of participants in the National Iaido Taikai, a new division was created and named in honor of Yoshitsugu Murosako sensei and his contributions to AUSKF Iaido. The results of the AUSKF 2008 National Iaido Taikai held on Saturday, June 7, are as follows:

(Place: First Name, Last Name, Dojo, Federation)

Mudansha Cup (2 kyu and below)

First Place: Tomoyuki Hirasawa, DFWKIK (SWKIF)

Second Place: Brian Beckford, Iaido Miami (SEUSKF)

Third Place: Andres Cabrera, Shidogakuin NY (GNEUSKF)

Third Place: Peter Maenner, Princeton Kendo and Iaido (EUSKF)

Fighting Spirit: Craig Bell, Doshikai (AEUSKF)

Murosako Cup (1 kyu and 1 dan)

First Place: Jonathan DeSousa, Doshikai (AEUSKF)

Second Place: Michelle Gay, Ken Zen (AEUSKF)

Third Place: Yuta Kusakari, Shidogakuin NY (GNEUSKF)

Third Place: Thomas Petchel, Musokai (PNKF)

Fighting Spirit: Arthur Cain, Japanese Swordsmanship Society (EUSKF)

Yamaguchi Cup (2 dan and 3 dan)

First Place: Paul Shin, Shidogakuin NY (GNEUSKF)

Second Place: Jason Hankins, Zen Bu Kan (RMKIF)

Third Place: Gordon Hall, Ken Zen (AEUSKF)

Third Place: David Bressler, Ken Zen (AEUSKF)

Fighting Spirit: Koji Kurohara, Shidogakuin NY (GNEUSKF)

Nakanishi Cup (4 dan and above)

First Place: Mark Uchida, Mushinkan (SWKIF)

Second Place: Pam Parker, Ken Zen (AEUSKF)

Third Place: Russell Ichimura, DFWKIK (SWKIF)

Third Place: Thomas Hooper, Ken Zen (AEUSKF)

Fighting Spirit: Samuel Okuno, Norwalk (SCIA / SCKF)

The promotion examination was held on Sunday, June 8, with candidates testing for kyu up to 6 dan. The promotion success rate this year was 77.4% (48 out of 62 passing) compared to the pass rate of 86.3% from the examination held in Council Bluffs, Iowa in 2007. The following individuals received new ranks:

(First Name, Last Name, Dojo, Federation)

4 Kyu

Nobukazu Miura, North VA Budokai (SEUSKF)

Daryl Williams, Princeton (EUSKF)

3 Kyu

Andrew Fiorentino, Doshikai (AEUSKF)

Michael DeRosa, Princeton (EUSKF)

Andrew Southworth, DFWKIK (SWKIF)

Robert Banas, Princeton (EUSKF)

Mark Norton, Washington Kendo (GNEUSKF)

Donald Roland, Ken Zen (AEUSKF)

Terry Sewell, DFWKIK (SWKIF)

David Fitch, Ken Zen (AEUSKF)

Samuel Rivier, Syracuse Univ. (GNEUSKF)

Chuck Caffarella, Doshikai (AEUSKF)

2 Kyu

Louis Carreras, Doshikai (AEUSKF)
Craig Bell, Doshikai (AEUSKF)
Charles Howell, Omaha (SWKIF)

1 Kyu

Brian Beckford, Iaido Miami (SEUSKF)
Peter Maenner, Princeton (EUSKF)
Andres Cabrera, Shido NY (GNEUSKF)
Sean Smith, Ken Zen (AEUSKF)
David Haas, Sei Shin Kan (GNEUSKF)
Tomoyuki Hirasawa, DFWKIK (SWKIF)

1 Dan

Jiyoun Ni, JSS (EUSKF)
James Konrad, Baltimore-Annapolis (SEUSKF)
Jocelyn Wright, Shido DC (GNEUSKF)
John LiButti, JSS (EUSKF)

2 Dan

Jonathan DeSousa, Doshikai (AEUSKF)
Aeree Chung, Sei-Zan Kai (AEUSKF)
Shauna Toh, Norwalk Kendo (SCIA/SCKF)
Jason Willey, Doshikai (AEUSKF)
Arthur Cain, JSS (EUSKF)
Michelle Gay, Ken Zen (AEUSKF)
Robert Maddux, Meitokukan (AEUSKF)

3 Dan

Hideki Rose, GW Univ. (GNEUSKF)
Don Crittenden, Memphis (SWKIF)
Suzanne Rancourt, Sei Zan Kendo Kai (AEUSKF)
Rob Tranchin, DFWKIK (SWKIF)
Kazuhiro Kawashima, Shido CT (GNEUSKF)
Rod Faghani, Shido DC (GNEUSKF)
Loren Nishimura, Alaska Kendo Club (PNKF)
Eunice Chan, San Francisco (NCIA/NCKF)

4 Dan

Jason Hankins, Zen Bu Kan (RMKF)
Atsushi Miyamoto, Berkeley (NCIA/NCKF)
David Bressler, Ken Zen (AEUSKF)
Brian Blomquist, Everett Kendo & Iaido (PNKF)
Sachiko Prough, JSS (EUSKF)
Gordon Fisher, Doshikai (AEUSKF)
John Prough, JSS (EUSKF)

5 Dan

Barry Poitras, Doshikai (AEUSKF)

The AUSKF 2009 Iaido Camp is currently scheduled for June 11-14, 2009 in Boise, Idaho and will be hosted and organized by Robert Stroud sensei and the Idaho Kendo Kai from the PNKF.

The 2008 camp was a great success which is attributed to the cooperation and hard work of the camp hosts and head organizers, John and Sachiko Prough (EUSKF) and co-organizers, Isabella Church (GNEUSKF) and Dennis Ralutin (SCKF/SCIA). Special thanks also go out to Loren Nishimura (PNKF) for his translating duties and all the volunteers from the Japanese Swordsmanship Society, Princeton Kendo Club, friends and family. Pictures from the camp are available on the Internet from the following individuals and their websites:

Dennis Ralutin: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ocbpictures/collections/72157605633531714/>

Cheuk Tang: <http://picasaweb.google.com/ny.jss2/2008IaidoCamp>

Shauna Toh: <http://picasaweb.google.com/shaunatoh/IaidoCamp2008>

David Chin: http://s256.photobucket.com/albums/hh167/DCChin/2008_AUSKF_Iaido_Taikai

Paul Shin: http://picasaweb.google.com/paulhbshin/AUSKF_Iaido_Nationals2008

Corwyn Miyagishima: http://photobucket.com/2008_AUSKF_Iaido_Camp

Any photos downloaded from the websites above and posted in a public forum must be credited back to the individual who took the photo and are not to be used for commercial purposes.

TWY:dmr