

Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter

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Professor Okazaki Versus the Boxers

by

Professor Bryan Stanley

Many years ago a conversation came up in the Westminster BBK Dojo about who would win in a fight, a boxer or a jujitsuka. A lot of theories bounded about until someone mentioned that really, no one would, because they would each be waiting for the other to make the first move.

That answer was theoretically fine, until the advent of the UFC. For the first time that many people had been aware of, in that first UFC, a boxer and a jujitsuka squared off to see whose art was better.

Royce Gracie won that fight. He took Art “King Arthur” Jimmerson, who came to the ring with a boxing glove on his left hand and an ungloved right hand, to the mat one-minute into the bout and, a little over a minute later, Jimmerson tapped out. Jimmerson never threw a punch, Gracie never put on a submission, Jimmerson just tapped because he saw no hope of victory. For many in the jujitsu world it was proof positive that boxing was no match for jujitsu.

The Gracie/Jimmerson fight was not, in any way shape or form, the first fight between a boxer and a jujitsuka. These fights have been occurring since the turn of the century around the United States, Hawaii, and Europe.

Reader’s Digest ran a story in January 1943, about such a match that occurred in Japan in 1923. In the story, the American boxer, a United States soldier named Captain Warren Clear, was getting beaten by the Japanese jujitsuka, Captain Kitamura, rather handily until the third round of the fight when Captain Clear knocked out Captain Kitamura with a solid right.

The history of Danzan Ryu has reference to Professor Okazaki fighting in a match against a boxer. All the evidence exists that the match did take place. The boxer was an Englishman named K.O. Morris. He went to Hawaii and fought three matches against jujitsuka. The first was against a Japanese martial artist from Denver, Colorado, named Takahashi. On April 8, 1922, K.O. Morris knocked Takahashi out in the first round of their first bout in roughly a minute-and-a-half.

The story about how Professor Okazaki got involved is that the Japanese community on Hawaii was so upset at the loss and the insults that Morris made, that they asked Professor Okazaki to step in and save face for all of them.

Here is the part of the story that gets left out. On May 6, 1922, Takahashi fought K.O. Morris a second time and won. He threw Morris to the mat and essentially pinned him until the match was over. Takahashi saved face and avenged any disgrace that may have been brought upon the Japanese and jujitsu.

So why did Professor Okazaki get involved? The other two fights took place in Honolulu, between an Englishman and Japanese fighter brought in from Colorado. Neither of them had any tie to Hawaii.

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Yudansha Notes

Shoshin Ryu on Facebook

It may have taken a while for the ryu to get involved in social networking, but Shoshin Ryu does finally have a page on Facebook. Go ahead and friend us. We'll make sure you are part of the fun.

For those of us without Facebook pages, we'll spend our time practicing.

We Didn't Even Know He Was Sick

Professor Mike Chubb sent out a message saying that Professor Norman Carl Nelson, a member of the Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame class of 2002, passed away on June 6, 2010.

Literature Update

Professor George Arrington has put together another book about Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. *Danzan Ryu Essentials* could make a fine Christmas gift for the Danzan practitioner in your life. You can get a copy at the following link:

<https://www.createspace.com/3678933>

The Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame

Professor Lee Eichelberger Inducted 2005

Professor Lee Eichelberger was promoted to black belt by Professor Wally Jay. He is a Kudan in both Danzan Ryu Jujitsu and Small Circle Jujitsu. He has earned the following awards as a part of Jujitsu America: 1981 Instructor of the year, 1982 Black Belt Hall of Fame, 2011 Patriarch Award.

For many years, he has been Professor Wally Jay's Assistant Instructor at the Island Judo and Jujitsu Club in Alameda, California.



American Jujitsu Institute – Camp Kokua 2011

By Professor Kevin Dalrymple

The Camp Kokua in Carson City, Nevada, was an excellent event. Prof Carlos Gallegos, Sensei Randy Carrasco and I had a great time. We spent most of our time on the Therapy Mat (Some people may say that we need something more than just therapy), where we worked on healing arts, massage, and Ibuke/Chingung. Many thanks, to our hosts Mark and Susan Ramsey, Prof Zane Graham, Prof Danny Saragosa, and Prof Ken Eddy for the great time and for their warm hospitality.





Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai



Membership form

Please check one: _____ New member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthdate _____ Sex: M / F Phone(s) _____

e-mail address _____ Dojo affiliation _____

Instructor _____ Your current rank _____

Dues/ fees are per year. Membership dues include mandatory liability and supplemental medical insurance. Memberships are for the current calendar year from January through December 31.

_____ \$25.00 General Membership Dues (for Adults & Juniors)

_____ \$30.00 Black Belt Membership Dues

Signature _____ Date _____

Parental consent if under 18 years _____

Mail to: **Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai**
C/O Prof. Kevin Dalrymple
5547 E. San Juan Dr.
Orange, CA 92869

Phone: 714 - 538 - 4622

Please enclose your check payable to: **Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai**

For more information, visit us at www.Shoshinryu.com

10th Promotion at Kaito Gakko Orange, California dojo

By Randy Carrasco, Sensei

On September 29, 2011, ten Menehune Class students and five Adult Class students of Kaito Gakko Orange advanced at the dojo's 10th promotion. That night, everyone on the mat enjoyed a vigorous workout and performed various demonstrations. Visiting Kaito Gakko member, Professor Kalani Akui, performed the belt slap ceremony on the one person who earned a new belt, Angelina Tran. Assistant instructor Louie Iligan helped tie the new belt on. After all promotions, Professor Akui's brief speech illustrated a few key points from Professor Okazaki's esoteric principles as silent cross-leg seated students eagerly listened.

Afterward, the customary pot-luck feast started without delay. As usual, there were goodies like somen salad, fried rice, pasta salads, chicken wonton salad, chopsuey, lumpia, sandwiches, brownies, cookies and other pupus, pizzas, fried chicken, Hawaiian short bread cookies and fruit platters.

The following individuals were promoted:

-Menehune Class-

White belt 1-stripe

Eusebio, Jacob
Gonzales, Kennan
Iligan, Robby

White belt, 2-stripe

Ramirez, Jessica
Ramirez, Jayden
Ramirez, Josh

Yellow belt

Tran, Angelina

Yellow belt, 1-stripe

Carrasco, Malia

Yellow belt, 2-stripe

Colton, Parker

Orange belt, 1-stripe

Carrasco, Garrison

-Adult Class-

Purple belt 2-Stripe

Rodriguez, Gerardo
Binsol, Rit
Bui, Khanh

Brown belt 1-Stripe

Do, Kevin
Ramirez, Al

(Versus the Boxers cont' from page ONE)

Professor Okazaki was living in Hilo at the time. He had not seen the fights. In his defense history says that he scheduled the fight against Morris before Takahashi's second fight. So now what? Honor had been restored. All Professor Okazaki could do was go through with it.

He fought K.O. Morris on May 19, 1922, in Hilo. The fight was scheduled for six rounds. The rules were that Morris had to return to his corner if he knocked Professor Okazaki to the mat. Professor Okazaki could do jujitsu if he got Morris on the ground. Morris wore six ounce gloves and a sleeveless jacket. Professor Okazaki could not do any two handed chokes, kicking with his toe, or knife-hand strikes to the face.

Conflicting stories say the match went two or three rounds. One account says that Professor Okazaki got his nose broken in the first round. One thing did happen, Professor Okazaki won the fight. In the second or third round, he threw Morris to the mat and applied an armlock that appeared to break Morris's arm. The news of Professor Okazaki's victory went around Hawaii.

At this point two Japanese jujitsuka had defeated Morris. Certainly now Professor Okazaki could go back to teaching jujitsu and put all this behind him. He did. Until he fought "Kid" John Morris on December 12, 1925, in another match that pitted jujitsu versus boxing.

(See **Versus the Boxers** on Page **SIX**)



AMERICAN JUJITSU INSTITUTE

Presents

Ohana 2012

Ala Moana Hotel

Honolulu's Landmark Hotel
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Mention the "American Jujitsu Institute 2012 Seminar"

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\$ 109.00 Double - Single Bed
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Rates available 3 days prior to and 3 days after event

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Dates: July 6-8, 2012

Featuring Clinics and Instructions, Jujitsu Kata Tournament, Karate Kata Tournament, Pupu Party, Awards Banquet, Okazaki Gravesite Visit, - also Shopping, Nightlife, Beaches, Luaus, Authentic Hawaiian Shows and much more.

Website: ohana2012.americanjujitsuinstitute.org



The AJJF Annual Convention

The AJJF is going to celebrate their 64th Annual Convention on March 16, 17, and 18, 2012, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815.

Sacramento is a convenient travel location and the airport is a short shuttle ride away from the convention hotel. See old friends and make new ones! We'll have plenty of mat time with the AJJF Professors and Senior Instructors.

For more information, contact Nerissa Freeman and Katie Stevens, at the following e-mail address: sensei@makotokaihealingarts.com

(Versus the Boxers cont' from page FOUR)

“Kid” John Morris claimed to be the younger brother of K.O. Morris. He went to Hawaii to avenge the loss his brother suffered at the hands of Professor Okazaki. During the fight, “Kid” John Morris was getting the best of Professor Okazaki. The fight went three rounds. When the bell rang for the fourth round, Professor Okazaki refused to fight because he said he signed a contract for three rounds. The audience was upset, but Professor Okazaki left the arena and John Morris left moments later. One account says that Professor Okazaki won the fight, that opinion would be hard to defend.

The other aspect that would be hard to defend is Professor Okazaki’s fighting a challenge match all together. He wrote in the Esoteric Principles, “One should never use these arts against anyone without sufficient justification.” Are challenge matches sufficient justification? Was Professor Okazaki justified to fight because someone called him names? Would not it have been better if he used the “I’m rubber, you’re glue” technique? How about the “Sticks and Stones” defense?

Maybe he fought those fights for honor. Perhaps Professor Okazaki decided he was not going to be insulted, and he wanted to defend his good standing. He wrote in the Esoteric Principles that “...the primary objective of practicing judo is perfection of character.” Is fighting a professional boxer a way to show character? Even if the boxer goaded him into fighting?

One thing for certain, his first fight against a boxer got him wrapped up in the second fight. Which illustrates that fighting is never the answer to a problem.

Professor Okazaki created Danzan Ryu, and what he chose to do with what he knew was his decision. In 1922 he was thirty-two years old. What would possess a thirty-two year old man to get involved in a fight that really had nothing to do with him? The answer would appear to be simple, he wanted to find out if what he knew worked. He wanted to put his art to the test. In 1925, at the age of thirty-five, he had just come back from Japan with a head full of new techniques, and he wanted to use them. “Kid” John Morris offered the opportunity.

Professor Okazaki was no different from Royce Gracie or any other martial artist who wanted to find out if what they knew really worked. Like anyone who may have used their art at the wrong time or for the wrong reason, Professor Okazaki did the same. He was, after all, a human being with the same faults and personality flaws as the rest of us.

Sources:

http://christianjijitsu.com/Historical_Perspectives/historicalperspa.html

<http://www.pacificjijitsualliance.com/challenge-anders.pdf>

* The Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter welcomes any responses to its articles. Send them to SRYNNewsletter@aol.com

* A personal thank you to Professor Ron Jennings who sent me the story that started me thinking about matches between jujitsu and boxing.

Words of Wisdom

“The heights by great men reached and kept were not obtained by sudden flight. But they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.” -- *Thomas S. Monson*

“Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship.” – *Buddha*

“It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.” -- *Unknown*