

June, 2005

Newsletter from Prefectural Headquarters of Gifu District

Nonprofit organization approved by Japanese government
Official web site of Karate Shoto League - <http://www.fsinet.or.jp/-jks-gifu/>

Publisher: Prefectural Headquarters of Gifu District of
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"Karatedo - Legend of Monsters", this showy title of the book with "Mysteries of Karate presented by Masters called Monsters" was conspicuous in the shelves of the book store. There will be no doubt this book published from Fukushoudo as an independent volume of June issue of <Monthly Karatedo> becomes a must for the members of Shoto Federation.

We can find the articles in the book about Mr. Tetsuhiko Asai, chief master of Shoto Federation, and Mr. Masao Kagawa, technical director of the Federation, described in over twenty pages respectively. I wish I could introduce the articles in detail but it's obviously difficult to make even a summary because each phrase and sentence contain so much in the context.

Shippu Jinrai (like a whirlwind)

<Mr. Asai's karate differs from others. He, who has trained several hundred thousand of disciples so far, is one of the leading masters of traditional karate (text partly omitted), and is unequally strong in the Shoto Federation style. It is suggested every reader should dismiss old ideas and continue reading the text> (extracted from Karatedo - Legend of Monsters). The section titled "Shippu Jinrai" starts with Mr. Asai's turbulent life and the introduction of the process and the theory of his present karate style. It also shows the method of practice of technique with illustrations and photo breakdowns. After reading the book and going into the training as a member of Shoto Federation, we can hold better understanding of Asai method and easily accept the meaning of our own actions.



Yakusoku (promised) Kumite to Create the Strongest



The next article is about our technical director, Mr. Kagawa, the director of Teikyo University Karate Club and the coach of National Team since 2001. He introduces a number of important practice patterns for the acquisition of necessary actions and intervals for a match under the title of "Promised kumite to create the strongest". Mr. Kagawa is significant in the promised kumite (basic kumite) through which he trained such as Takusen Matsuzaki, All Japan Kumite Champion, Hideto Tsuchiya, All Japan Kata Champion, and Yasuhisa Inada, Asian Championship Kumite

Winner, and steered Teikyo University to win the national championship. Since things are valued as result-oriented in these days, his basic training method looks indirect, but the key of victory is always hidden in it. Starting with general kumite style at grading test and taking various attack patterns, kaeshiwaza and series of techniques into the method, a lot of variations are invented and unexpected discoveries are found as well. Myself, who actually practiced it at adults training course, observed the trainees' attitudes hotter than in normal basic kumite practice. This book is strongly recommended for trainees as well as teachers.

<Available Information>

Publisher: Fukushoudo Co.

Phone: 03-3326-5039

Price: ¥1,000 (¥952 before tax)

Japan Karatedo Federation - Qualification of Official Regional Referees for Heisei 17th Year (2005)



The qualification jury of official regional-judges by Japan Karatedo Federation took place in Biwajima Sports Center of Nagoya, Aichi prefecture on June 4 Saturday. With the growing popularity of karatedo worldwide the fractionation of rules such as to keep the safety of players and the impartiality of matches has been a real headache to the judges. A single judging

error could result a significant win and loss in a match and elicit huge criticism such as in international games that are flared with nationalism. Karatedo is a martial art originated in Japan and spread worldwide. Due to the outbreak of numerous schools the standardization of rules has been the biggest problem with the Federation. The approval in Asian Games as an official event, however, has prompted Karatedo to get a chance of this art being officially selected at the upcoming Olympic Games. It now doesn't look so difficult for the international karate masters to have their dreams come true. As the rules have been revised annually and if we take this move as a progress, we are more united to keep steps internationally. As the rules have been often revised internally under



Japan Karatedo Federation (Zen kuu ren), the qualification standard has become more serious. As introduced in March issue of Gifu Prefectural Head Office Report there have been a number of lectures delivered so far for the qualification of judges in this district as well.

Examinees from Tokai area, who took lectures and practical techniques from 9 a.m. on this particular day, challenged a written test and a physical skill test in the afternoon. Just before the written test, one examinee covered his ears to shut out the noise with the rule book at his side, and another was still trying to memorize the pages of his notebook that was filled with underlines. I felt nostalgic for my past days as I heard the noise of pens moving on the papers in the quiet room. During the physical skill test a couple of examinees were so nervous that they failed in showing the outcome of their hard training and contrarily some could do so well that they couldn't help but smile. The physical skill test that was performed in front of 6 judges and 100 qualified masters presented the scene that was heavy enough for them to understand the importance of getting the title of an official judge. Many teachers from Gifu Shoto Federation challenged the test. Rules are much different from the usual Shoto rules so the test was quite risky, but three teachers passed it proudly. This should not be only a level up of teachers but also for the trainees. As the president Hirotaka Hayashi advocated "Level-Up of Teachers Selves" at the board of directors this past January, teachers must go forward to promote themselves to be the qualified judges.

Physical Skill Lectures in Gifu



Gifu Shoto Federation Grading Test took place at the municipal gymnasium on Sunday June 12. As Junro Kata was introduced for this test, not many color-obi holders attended, but we could hear the big and cheerful voices of the testes under a clear and blue sky of early summer. They finished at 11 a.m. and the room was still quiet, but was heated again around the noon. The judges themselves, who had examined the testes with fierce eyes in the morning, began to train for themselves covered in the uniform in the after-

noon.

Though these kinds of lectures were occasionally held under the support of prefectural head office, they were normally for learning the new styles and for the explanation about the orders and meanings. But this time a style was chosen among the kumite and kata (unsu, sochin, gojushihodai, gojushihosho) for the learners of unsu and continued for three full hours under the assistance of specialists. Countless jumps were repeated to get the timing and knack of the part of midair somersault. The lengthy hours of crawls with sochin dachi (hudo dachi) for the sochin learners made them hardly stand up during the intermission. Kumite practice of san-nin gake, yonin gake, and gonin gake, and free kumite practice of 2 vs. 3, 2 vs. 4, and 2 vs. 5 were performed under the command of Mr. Tanaka, director, at the

end of the lecture. Afterward every participant agreed they wanted that kind of lecture by all means. Though they teachers themselves however, it must take them a corresponding length of time to observe the knowledge and the experience as the technique of their own. We seldom see them train selves at dojo normally, but the huge drops of sweat they had are but for the children. These efforts are the potential energy of the firm Gifu head office.

In spite of that long practice, going back home in high spirit can simply be said as "well done". We really wish to have the second chance as soon as possible.