

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

Volume XIV, Number 9. The Flash is published by the Academy of Martial Arts, Inc. Your letters, contributions and articles are welcome. Offices at 752 Lake Shore Road, Grafton WI 53024. E-Mail: fmvh@execpc.com. Check out our website <http://geocities.com/amatkdf/>.

A Referee Clinic will be conducted in Charlotte September 27.

The North Carolina U.S.T.F. TaeKwon-Do Tournament will be held in Huntersville on September 28.

On September 7 Mr. VH will conduct a Seminar, "Won Hyo, Yul Gok and Sequels-- Bein' Green Could Make You Blue (or Better)" starting at 11:30 a.m.

A testing will be held in Mooresville on September 21.

The Council of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts will meet September 7 at West Bend upon completion of the Seminar to be conducted by Mr. Van Hecke.

Mr. Jeremy Kempka and Mr. VH are visiting South Korea August 23-September 3.

On August 11 20 students tested at the Academy of Martial Arts, West Bend. Presiding were Mrs. Lubner, Mrs. Karpinsky, Mrs. Oestreich, and, weighing in for the boys' team, Mr. Manresa.

Martial Arts Jewelry Sale: we have access to some very nice solid silver pendants on 24" chains. Item one is the Manchurian Dragon, for \$19.95. Another is the Silla Dragon of the Hwarang, a finer, simple smaller piece, for \$15.95. Finally, we have a TaeKwon-Do Fist for \$19.95. All prices plus \$3.00 S&H. Write, call, see, or email Mr. VH.



The Flash is distributed early this month due to the editor's absence from the U.S.

Learning from Lil Dragons
by Julie Berglund, 2d Dan pending,
U.S.T.F.-I.T.F.

[Editor's note: Miss Berglund submitted this work as part of her Second Dan requirements.]

When I was asked to work with 4 through 6 year old students in a new program at Eastern Sun Martial Arts called Lil' Dragons, I got something I never expected: I learned more from them than they did from me.

I had taught a few classes prior to taking on this responsibility, but nothing had prepared me for this group of students. And, I do mean that in a good way.

Working with students with more energy, ideas and questions than you can shake a stick at really forces one to find new and interesting ways to approach teaching techniques in TaeKwon-Do. Much of what I did or said was usually taken quite literally. So, I really needed to stop and think through what I said or did and, especially, how I taught.

I had a variety of students: some learned quite quickly and easily; others had difficulty with the concept of left/right and some just didn't want to be there. So each and every class was a test for me in keeping the classes fun and interesting to each of these students.

Some of the most important lessons I learned that affected how I taught were:

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

- Never assume one knows their left from their right
- Never assume one is not telling the truth when they raise their hand to use the bathroom... even if they already went before class!
- Always expect a minor injury in class... even if only opening the class
- Always expect to be snickered at by watchful parents: They know what you are going through and are happy it's not them.
- Expect to get down on the floor with the kids and not just tower above them.
- A young child isn't good at standing for an entire class.
- Pokemon really CAN be mightier than the teacher. Well, in other words, be able to relate to the interests of the students if you want to keep them interested.
- And, especially, expect to learn more from them than they do from you.

Each one of those little lessons helped me. (Yes, even the snickering parents.) I won't get into all of them, but I will mention a couple of notable ones.

Never assume one knows their left from right. This is an important rule. I had many students just starting

preschool who still weren't sure which hand or foot to use when I called out a technique. For this I came up with some activities to practice left and right skills. To keep them interested, a student could earn a 'badge' to wear on their uniform to show off their newfound knowledge. This went over well, and made classes more interesting for the students.

Expect to get down on the floor with the kids and not just tower above them.

I had a few students who were quite shy and I had some difficulty, at first, getting them to spar other students. They were either afraid of getting hurt or afraid they wouldn't 'win'. So, I decided to give them a chance to 'get in the ring' without a fearing either. I became their sparring opponent. Now, remember, these are 4 through 6 year olds and I'm a 5' 9" tall instructor (age not necessary to mention). I had to make a few adjustments. Namely, get down on my knees to spar. A bit difficult, to say the least, and it made walking difficult for the next day or two, but it worked. The kids enjoyed it and eventually got over their fears. And, as a bonus, I managed to amuse many of the watching parents.

Pokemon really CAN be mightier than the teacher. I noticed that many times younger children aren't always trusting of adults, especially instructors who are booming

out rules for them to follow. One of the best things I learned was to find ways to relate to each of the kids. Find what types of things they enjoy and take an interest in it, too. Being a kid-at-heart myself, it wasn't difficult for me to do this. To coin an older commercial 'I'm a Toys-R-Us kid'.

At the time I was teaching, one of the biggest things for kids was Pokemon. A 'game-turned-cartoon-turned-phenomenon' that had almost every kid in America in a trance. So, I sat down and watched a show here and there. By doing this, I could talk to a student about something they were interested in and I saw a twinge of interest in what I said spark in their eyes. It really helped me to get through to a few of the students I had and keep them interested when they wanted to give up.

And, finally, expect to learn more from them than they do from you. I do believe, or at least hope, that many of the students left my class a little better off than when they came in. Something every instructor would like for their students. But, truly believe that I came out of this class with even more. For, I believe that Lil' Dragons helped me to become a better instructor. And, for that, I am grateful.

Coming in the next Flash: **Keeping the Art Alive** My Inspiration for instructing, by Mr. Mark Johnson.

North Carolina State Tournament

Referee Meeting

Covering rules for the Tournament
Friday, September 27, 2002
7 pm-9 pm
Instructor: Mr. Kempka IV Dan

Saturday, September 28, 2002
9:00 am Registration opens
10:00 am All Competitors line up
10:15 am Bracketing begins

ITF/USTF/KATU Tournament

Contact Personnel:

Academy of Martial Arts
c/o Jeremy Kempka
PO BOX 25809, Charlotte NC 28229
704-563-6800

e-mail amatkd@yahoo.com
Web <http://geocities.com/amatkd>

Tournament events:

- Individual Patterns- Judging criteria as set forth by the USTF Rules handbook
Bracketing by belt color and age.
- Individual Sparring- Judging criteria as set forth by the USTF Rules handbook
Bracketing by belt color, age, gender and size.
- Team Patterns- Judging criteria as set forth by the USTF Rules handbook
Color belt team of 3-5 members, Black belt team of 5 members
- Specialty Breaking children and adult divisions
Color belts- flying sidekick for distance
Black belts- flying sidekick for distance

Tournament site:

Conveniently located off of I-77 between Charlotte and Mooresville at the Huntersville Elementary Gymnasium, 200 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC 28078. I-77 exit # 23 turn east and the elementary school will be on your left. Signs will be posted.

Referee meeting site

Academy of Martial Arts, 6445 Albemarle Road, Charlotte NC 28212. Directions may be obtained via www.mapquest.com or Mr. Kempka amatkd@yahoo.com

Hotel Information:

- Ramada Limited Huntersville 16825 Caldwell Creek Dr., Huntersville NC 28078
704-892-6597 \$53 nightly, 2.5 miles away
- Hampton Inn Cornelius 19501 Statesville Rd, Cornelius NC 28031
704-892-9900 \$59 nightly, 5 miles away

*****Detach and return lower portion with payment to above contact personnel*****

Events, please check those which apply

- Individual Pattern, Belt color _____, Pattern Name _____
- Individual Sparring, Belt color _____, Age _____, Weight _____ lbs.
- Team Pattern
- Specialty Breaking
- Referee meeting, FREE
- Total Amount paid; \$30 for one event, \$5 more for each additional event (Checks to "AMA")

Competitor Printed Name: _____ Age: _____
Complete Mailing Address: _____
Competitor Signature: _____ Date: _____
Guardian Signature if needed: _____ Date: _____