

# First Karate tournament a big success

The Canadian Karate Internationals held at the Georgetown Memorial Arena Saturday, were a huge success from both a competitive and spectator point of view.

Tournament director Bill Pickells said that approximately 350 competitors, from throughout Canada and the United States, competed and about the same number of spectators were there to watch the action. One third of the competitors were from the United States.

"For a first-time held tournament it was a big success," Pickells said. "It is unusual to have such a big turnout at a tournament being held for the first time."

The biggest action of course was in the black belt Kumite (sparring) division. Some of North America's best fighters were on hand to try and claim the free week's trip to Florida which went to the winner of the division. The winner is also automatically seeded in the United States Open in St. Petersburg

Florida.

Many of the fans were anticipating a final featuring Tokie Hill and Keith Vitali. Both of the competitors have won major events.

## NUMBER ONE

At present Vitali is the number one rated fighter in the United States. Hill is the reigning all-Japan champion and captain of the United States Karate team.

The two have never met in combat before although both have been travelling to tournaments throughout the world. A clash between the two top-notch competitors would have been a classic.

However, the match was not to be as both Hill and Vitali were eliminated in the first round of the nine-man final.

Hill was the first to fight and his foe was Don James. James built up a two-point lead early in the three-minute match. In the final minute Hill, desperate to score, moved in and opened up. James took advantage of the open-

ings and scored a couple of more points.

Vitali went up against Canadian champion Robert Loyer and he too fell behind early in the match. Vitali is much taller than Loyer. When Vitali threw his high kicks, Loyer stepped under and scored to the body.

Neither of the United States stars was happy with the officiating after the matches. They felt that they had scored points that were not awarded them.

Meanwhile the fighting continued. Eventually James, Harry Villeneuve, the Quebec champion, Luc Maison Neuve, the Ontario champion, Dino Hennings, who had won the lightweight division of the day, and John Setore, the middle-weight champion, were all eliminated.

That left Loyer and Alfonse Gambion to battle it out for the championship. Gambion was the heavyweight champion in the day and his advancement to the final was

a surprise.

## CAUTIOUS

In the final Loyer and Gambion were both very cautious. In the three minutes of fighting there were no points scored. They had to go into extra time and with the first man scoring a point winning.

Early in extra time Loyer, avoiding a flurry by his opponents, fell off the platform and sprained his ankle.

They were ready to award Gambion the match as Loyer's ankle appeared in no shape to finish the match.

However, the gritty Quebecer limped back on the platform to finish up. He was basically fighting on one leg and it did not take Gambion long to find an opening and score the match's first and only point with a side kick.

So the man who had travelled least of the nine finalists, Gambion is from Toronto, claimed the top spot in the premier division.

In all there were approximately 100 black belts in the

tournament competing during the day portion of the program.

## GRANT WINS

In women's black belt fighting Oretta Grant, who went into the competition the heavy favorite, survived a couple of tough matches to take the diamond pendent. Along the way she defeated Mylene Bouchard, who is the Canadian and Ontario women's grand champion.

Grant, one of the United States' top competitors, proved to be too much for Bouchard to handle in their match. Grant, the shortest woman in the final, utilized her quick hands and feet to score points in her two matches.

The easiest winner of the night came in the black belt kata division. There Sonny Onowo of Iowa performed a flawless form program to take the diamond ring over four other competitors.

Onowo is scheduled to fight for the world full-contact karate championship and he is in tip-top shape. The 125-pound competitor dazzled the crowd with his speed and grace during his kata.

It was not a great day for local competitors in the

championships as only little Troy Cordingly, of the Northern Karate Club, could manage to finish third or better.

Debbie Danard was busy helping out in the organization of the tournament. The lack of training time hurt in the Internationals as she did not place in kata or fighting. She had been on a hot streak heading into the competition.

The club with the most participants was Master Moore's of Ohio. They also claimed the most trophies.

## SIX-FOOTERS

Six-foot trophies went out to all the first place finishers in each of the 24 divisions. Second place finishers also received trophies and a plaque went to third-place finishers.

"The participation by the Americans is what made the tournament a success and truly an international event," said Pickells. "I really appreciate so many of them coming up to take part."

Ted Kresgie, who runs the U.S. Championships, was up to help Pickells in the organization and also to officiate a

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Some of the top martial artists in North America were at the Canadian Karate Internationals held at Memorial Arena Sunday. The competitors from left to right in the grand championship sparring division are

Tokie Hill, Don James, Robert Loyer, Harry Villeneuve, Luc Maison Neuve, Dino Henning, John Setore, Alfonse Gambion, and Keith Vitali. Gambion was a surprising winner in the division.



## STAR TREKKER

Bruce McIntyre, shown crossing the finish line above, finished second in the junior boys division at the Star Trek held at the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo Sunday. McIntyre, who has never run more than 10 kilometres, said his goal was to finish the 20-kilometre event in less than 70 minutes. He made it by 18 seconds.

(Herald photo)

## Squash squad stays hot

The Georgetown Squash Club's "B" team continued its hot play last week by downing Hamilton four matches to one in away action.

The victory gives Georgetown three wins for the season with only one loss. They are in third place in the league.

Boyd Hoddinott and Rod Eastwood each won their matches 3-1. Al Kogon and Norm Hertz took 3-2 decisions while Rod Presswood dropped a close 2-3 match.

The "D" team lost two matches to three against Milton. Doug Farrugan and Andy Deruchie each won 3-1, Graham Smith lost 1-3 and Dave McEwen and Paul Duval were shutout 0-3.

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