

YUTAKA KUBOTA MEMORIAL KENDO TOURNAMENT

January 26, 2014
Dee Hardison Sports Center Wilson Park
Torrance, California

Tournament sponsored by:
Kubota Nikkei Mortuary
Hosted by Torrance Kendo Club
Special Thank You to:
Mazkiya USA
Staff of the Dee Hardison Sports Center

PROGRAM

(The taiko sound will officially open the tournament)

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Brian Olson, SCKF 1st V.P.
Playing of the National Anthem
Welcome Address : Mr. Tim Yuge, SCKF, President
Introduction of Guests : Mr. Brian Olson, SCKF, 1st V.P.
Greetings: Mr. Hiro Suzuki, Kubota Nikkei Mortuary
Pledge of the Competitors : Mr. Jeff Park, Irvine Kendo Dojo
Rules and Regulations : Mr. Kazuharu Arima, Chief Judge
Kendo Kata : Uchitachi- Mr. Satoshi Tauchi 4 Dan, Costa Mesa Kendo Dojo
Shitachi- Mr. Emil Ngyuen 4 Dan, Norwalk Kendo Dojo
Iaido Demonstration : Narbeh Bagdasarian, 1 dan, Pasadena JCI Kendo Dojo
Levon Sukiassyan, 1 dan, San Fernando Valley Kendo Dojo
Korhan Tekin, 1 kyu, Norwalk Kendo Dojo
(Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei iaido set)

TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

TIME LIMIT:

Kyu groups: 3 min., 2 min. extension, Hantei (except semifinal & finals.)
Dan groups; 4 min., 2 min. extension, Hantei (except semifinal & finals.)

GROUPS:

(**Not Allowed in all Kyu groups: Jodan, Nitto, Tsuki. Hidari-do will be allowed in all Kyu Groups)

**0-6Kyu (13 & under)
**5-4 kyu Group 1 & 2
**3-1 kyu Group 1 & 2
**Adult Kyu 18 & over, Group 1 & 2
**Womens Kyu 14 & over
Womens Dan
1-2 Dan Group 1 & 2
3-4 Dan Group 1 & 2
5 Dan & up
Senior Group (50 and over)

Perpetual Trophy Categories

Junior Youth Kyu (5~4 kyu & 0~6 kyu)

1st & 2nd place winners from 0~6 kyu will compete against winners of 1st & 2nd place winners from Group 1 & 2 of 5~4 kyu

Senior Kyu Perpetual Trophy

1st & 2nd place winners from Sr. Youth will play 1st & 2nd place winners of Adult Kyu for Sr. Kyu Perpetual trophy

Womens Kyu & Womens Dan Group

1st & 2nd place winners from group 1 & 2 will compete for trophy

Yudansha Group

The following will compete in special final tournament:

1st & 2nd place from 1-2 dan group 1-2

1st & 2nd place from 3 dan & above group 1-2



Yutaka Kubota Sensei
1898~1990

Yutaka Kubota sensei was one of the pioneers of Kendo in the United States. Through his love of Kendo and through his dedication to the community, Kubota sensei has helped to establish this martial art in Southern California and, through his legacy, continues to support Kendo for the benefit of future generations.

Kubota sensei was born in November 1898 in Shizuoka, Japan. He immigrated to America as a teenager and attended Inglewood High School in Los Angeles. After graduating from high school, he sought higher learning and attended the University of Southern California in 1922. Kubota sensei became proficient in Kendo as a teen. In 1917, he attained the rank of shodan in Kendo in Japan.

He continued his Kendo training after immigrating to the U.S. In August 15, 1924, he won first place in Kendo at the Los Angeles YMCA sponsored Los Angeles-Japan Championships featuring a variety of sports and martial arts. He received his 2nd dan in 1925. He showed his leadership skills when he organized a Kendo team in Southern California in June 1927. In 1928, he received 3rd dan. He attained 4th dan in 1931 and 5th dan in 1935. In June 27, 1936, he participated in the First Japan – Southern California Kendo Tournament.

When World War II broke out, Kendo was banned in the United States. In 1942, Kubota sensei joined the U.S. military and was sent to Santa Fe, New Mexico. That year, his family was sent to a relocation camp first to Santa Anita, then to Colorado. After the war, they moved back to Los Angeles. Several years after the war ended, Kubota sensei was again allowed to practice Kendo. He continued to rise in rank: in 1952, he achieved 6th dan. In August 10, 1953, he helped organize and participated in the Nisei Week Kendo Tournament. One year later, in November 1954, he became a U.S. citizen. In 1958, he received kyoshi 7th dan.

Kubota sensei was ambitious not only in Kendo, but also in business. He worked in the areas of agriculture and in insurance through the years. In May 1956, he joined a partnership of an enterprise which later became the Kubota Nikkei Mortuary. In 1968, Kubota received the degree of hanshi, and in 1970, he received 8th dan. Kubota sensei's long and continuous service to the Japanese American community was recognized in Japan in April 1973, when he received Japan's prestigious Fifth Class Order of the Sacred Treasure. In August 1973, he became a Nisei Week Pioneer Awardee for his dedication to the community. Also, in December 1978, he received the All Japan Agricultural Red and White Medal of Honor. In 1984, as one of the Little Tokyo Pioneers, he participated in the celebration of the Little Tokyo 100th Anniversary. Kubota sensei passed away in November 1990.

Through his estate and through the Kubota Nikkei Mortuary, Kubota sensei has provided generously for the continuous support of the Southern California Kendo Federation.