

2003 Mori Hai Tournament



Torao Mori, 1914-1969

*Sunday, January 26, 2003
Wilson Park Gymnasium, Torrance CA*

2003 Mori Hai Kendo Tournament

Sunday, January 26, 2003
Wilson Park Gymnasium
2200 Crenshaw Blvd
Torrance, California

*Sponsored by the Southern
California Kendo Federation,
Hosted by Torrance Kendo Club*

Program

*(The sound of the taiko will officially open this tournament)
Master of Ceremonies: Mr. John Yamamoto, 1st VP SCKF*

National Anthem

Welcome..... Mr. Masashi Shikai, President SCKF

Introduction of Guests..... Mr. John Yamamoto, 1st VP SCKF

Return of Perpetual Trophies

Sportsmanship Pledge Mr. Steve Yoshimura, Norwalk Dojo

Rules and Regulations Mr. Maki Miyahara, Chief Judge

Kendo Kata..... Uchitachi: Mr. Takeshi Yamaguchi, 7 Dan, Norwalk Dojo
Shitachi: Mr. Morihei Henmi, 7 Dan, Norwalk Dojo

Tournament

Kyu matches: 3 Minutes, 2 min extension, hantei (except semifinal, final)

Yudansha matches: 4 Minutes, 2 min extension, hantei (except semifinal, final)

- Women's Kyu (14 and over)
- Women's Yudansha
- Senior Yudansha (50 to 59)
- Senior Yudansha (60 and over)
- 1-2 Dan
- 5 Dan and above
- 0 thru 6 Kyu
- 5 Kyu thru 4 Kyu
- 3 Kyu thru 1 Kyu
- Adult Kyu
- 3-4 Dan

Presentation of Awards Mr. Masashi Shikai

Closing Address..... Mr. John Yamamoto

(The sound of the taiko drum will officially close this tournament)

Tentative Schedule of Divisions

Court A	Court B	Court C	Court D	Court E
0-6 kyu	Women's kyu	Women's Dan	Senior	5-4 kyu 1
Adult kyu 1	Adult kyu 2	3-1 kyu 1	3-1 kyu 2	5-4 kyu 2
Exhibition: Mohan Keiko				
1-2 dan 1	1-2 dan 2	3-4 dan 1	3-4 dan 2	5 dan above

Note: actual court assignments will be based on tournament flow

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all the dojos performing toban duties.

Special thanks to Mr. Carl Kaemerle
and Torrance Parks and Recreation Staff Members

Tournament Officials

President: M Shikai, SCKF President

Vice Pres: J. Yamamoto, SCKF 1st VP

Chief Judge: M. Miyahara, 8 Dan, PCI

Court Judges: 7 Dan and Above

Referees: 4 Dan and Above

Treasurer: A. Kim, SCKF Treasurer

Bento & refreshments: M. Sakae, SCKF 3rd VP

Tournament Preparation

Tournament Chair: T. Kato, SCKF 2nd VP

Tournament Preparation:

J. Kurokouchi, Covina

T. Yuge, Torrance

J. Kodama, Norwalk

T. Yoshimura, Norwalk

Court Duties:

Yudansha

Kenshi 14 and older

Volunteers

About Mori Sensei

A passion for kendo and fencing made Torao Mori sensei not only a legendary swordsman, but the father of modern kendo in the United States. A champion kendoist, Olympic-caliber fencer/coach, and actor, Mori Sensei promoted kendo in many forms. The Mori Hai Tournament, held every three years, honors his dedication, spirit, and love of kendo.

Born in Kiryuguma-ken, Japan, on June 21, 1914, Mori Sensei began studying kendo in the second grade and eventually became captain of the school's kendo team. He won the Japan National Kendo Championship while in his teens. At this time he also began studying fencing, concentrating on the sabre due to its similarity to the kendo katana. His dream was to become a member of the Japanese Olympic fencing team in the 1940 games.

Mori sensei came to the U.S. in 1939 as a reporter for the Rafu Shimpo newspaper. Tirelessly promoting kendo, he taught and performed demonstrations all along the West Coast. In 1940 he returned to Japan to prepare for the Olympics, but World War II shattered his Olympic dreams. Mori sensei actively pushed to remove the ban on kendo and other martial arts in Japan after the war. Saying "there is nothing wrong with kendo," his efforts were instrumental in helping lift the ban.

Returning to the U.S. in 1948, he met the challenge of reviving kendo in the U.S. with the same determination. As a technical director for films and television, he prepared actors like Peter Ustinov, Claire Bloome, and Rod Steiger for their swashbuckler roles. He appeared on the Johnny Carson Show and worked on films such as *House of Bamboo* and the Broadway production of *Rashomon*.

An accomplished swordsman, Mori sensei's fencing skills led a ladies fencing team to a national title. His Olympic dreams were finally realized when he coached the U.S. Olympic fencing team to victory in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

In 1950 he and others established the Kendo Federation of the United States (KFUSA), and later Nanka Yudansha Kai, which was renamed the Southern California Kendo Federation (SCKF) in 1959. In 1957 he was awarded hanshi, a special title for individuals who have attained the rank of 8 dan or higher. At the time of his award, Mori sensei was the youngest person ever to receive the honor. Mori sensei passed away on January 8, 1969 at the age of 55. His wife Eunice, daughter Jeannie, and son Chris still reside in Southern California. Mori sensei's dedication and spirit remains the foundation of American kendo. The SCKF strives to perpetuate his memory with the Mori Hai Tournament.

SCKF Dojo Listing

Dojo	City	Contact	Schedule
Chuo	202 N. Saratoga St. Los Angeles (East Side)	M Shikai 323-261-6501	Mon 7:30-9:30 Thu 7:30-9:30
Costa Mesa	610 W. 18 th St. Costa Mesa	P. Vieillemaringe 909-460-9123	Wed 7:30-10:00
Covina	1203 W. Puente Ave. West Covina	T. Tew 909-599-4325	Tue 7:30-9:30 Thu 7:30-9:30
Cypress	10602 Walker St Cypress	J. Park 714-952-1790	Mon-Fri 9am-9pm Sat 10:30a-12p
Gardena JCI	16215 S. Gramercy Pl. Gardena	L. Hada 310-324-1303	Fri 7:30-9:00
Hi Desert	Cathedral City Comm Ctr (Tu) 55666 Yucca Tr, Y.Valley (Th)	T. DeHart 760-365-0530	Tue 8:00-9:00 Thu 7:00-9:00
Joshua Tree	6171 Sunburst Av Joshua Tree	D. Yamaguchi 760-366-0236	Tue 7:00-9:00
Monterey Park	4360 Dozier Los Angeles (East Side)	A. Murakami 562-692-4943	Wed 7:00-9:00 Fri 7:00-9:00
Norwalk	14615 S. Gridley Rd. Norwalk	M. Yoshimura 949-349-0294	Mon 7:00-8:30 Iaido Mon 9-10 Fri 7:30-9:00
OCB	909 S. Dale St. Anaheim	Y. Takeda 714-847-8777	Tue 7:00-9:00 Thu 7:00-9:00
Seishin (Oxnard)	1426 E Santa Clara St Ventura	G. Urata 805-988-8876	Mon 7:30-9:30 Wed 7:30-9:30
Pasadena Cultural Institute	595 N. Lincoln Ave. Pasadena	J. Yamasaki 626-795-4437	Fri 7:30-9:00
San Diego	541 East 24 th St. National City	J. Yamamoto 619-479-4231	Tue 7:00-9:00
San Fernando	8850 Lankershim Blvd. Sun Valley	W. Asakura 818-360-1775	Mon 7:30-9:30 Wed 7:30-9:30
Santa Barbara	1015 E. Montecito St. Santa Barbara	S. Timbrook 805-682-4207	Thu 7:30-10:00
Sho-Tokyo	815 E. 1 st . St. Los Angeles (Downtown)	M. Sakae 323-269-5324	Wed 6:00-7:30 Fri 5:00-7:00
Torrance	3340 Civic Center Dr. Torrance	T. Yuge 310-655-0302	Tue 7:30-9:00 Fri 7:30-9:00
Tustin	580 W. 6 th St. Tustin	P. Kim 714-296-2633	Mon 7:30-9:30 Tue 7:30-9:30 Thu 7:30-9:30 Sat 6:00-7:30
Venice	12448 Braddock Dr. Los Angeles (West Side)	A. Yoshida 323-937-2709	Wed 7:30-9:00
Westside	Mar Vista Recreation Center 11430 Woodbine St. LA (West)	C. Mizobe 310-532-2196	Mon 7:30-9:30