56th Annual North South Kendo Tournament

May 4, 2014
Dee Hardison Sports Center Wilson Park
Torrance, California

Sponsored by Southern California Kendo Federation
Hosted by Torrance Kendo Club
Special Thank You to:
Mazkiya USA
Kendo Style
Maruyama Kendo
Mr. Dave Dills and the Staff of the Dee Hardison Sports Center
PROGRAM
(The taiko sound will officially open the tournament)

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. James Yamasaki, Secretary of SCKF Board of Directors
Playing of the National Anthem
Welcome Address : Mr. James Yamasaki, Secretary of SCKF Board of Directors
Introduction of Guests : Mr. James Yamasaki, Secretary of SCKF Board of Directors-
Greetings: Mr. Brian Olson, SCKF, 1st V.P. , Dale Hatakeyama, 1st Vice President, Northern California Kendo Federation
Pledge of the Competitors : Mr Hideki Imai, Sho Tokyo Dojo
Rules and Regulations : Mr. Jae Wook Park, Chief Judge
Kendo Kata : Uchitachi- Mr. Tomoji Kato Sensei, 7 Dan, Covina Dojo
Shitachi- Mr. Masataka Sakaue, 6 Dan, Covina Dojo
Iaido Demonstration : Mr. Dennis Ralutin, Iai 4 dan, OCB Dojo, Muso Shinden Ryu

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:
All kyu groups: the tsuki point will not be considered valid. Any point attempted from kamae positions other than the standard chudan kamae will not be considered valid. The nito form shall not be used.
womens, seniors, and yudansha groups do not have the restrictions listed above for kyu divisions.
Hidari do (gyaku do) will be considered a valid point in all divisions (kyu and yudansha).
participants are to bring and be responsible for their own set of "mejirushi".
SCKF will not be responsible for lost or stolen mejirushi.
kyu 10 and under
kyu 11 to 13
kyu 14 to 17
adult kyu (18 and over)
women's (14 and over, any rank, yudansha rules apply)
1 to 2 dan
3 to 4 dan
5 dan and above
Senior Yudansha (50 and over)

Teams
- -Kodansha x5 kenshi
- -Mens x7 kenshi
- -Womens x5 kenshi
- -Youth x7 kenshi

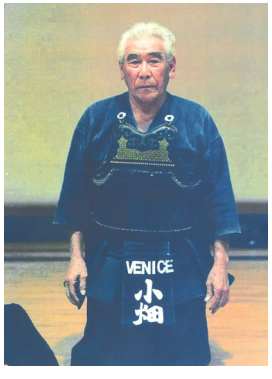
Return of Perpetual Trophies
Youth-Daiki Kumagai, Torrance Dojo
Yudansha-Teppei Makiuchi, Sho Tokyo Dojo
Womens-NCKF
Kodansha-NCKF

Toban
Court setup 7:30am, coordinator Kato Tomoji sensei
Please provide at least 3-5 volunteers per dojo as listed below:
PCI Dojo
Norwalk Dojo
Yun Kum Jae Dojo

Photograph by Dennis Ralutin

Brawley High School Kendo Club, 1934

L to R: unidentified, Masato Uyeno, Hajime Obata, Takeshi Sato, Rev. Taiyu Tominaga (advisor), Shichiji Kikuchi (instructor), Suekichi Shimokawa (advisor), Shigenobu Shiba, Isamu Myose, Noboru Myose, Shuichi Obata (pictured far right)



Shuichi (Switch) Obata sensei was born on January 28, 1923 in El Centro, CA. Obata Sensei graduated from Brawley High School in 1941. After high school, he attended Brawley Junior College. During that time, the war had started. His family was interned to Poston Camp in Arizona. Sensei was granted a "Seasonal Leave" to work on a sugar beet farm in Idaho. After that, he went to work in Cleveland, Ohio at the Phil-Mar Products Company. He worked there until the war ended in 1945. He and his family were allowed to return home to Brawley, California. Years later, he met Emie Sakakura in 1952 and were married in Los Angeles in 1954.

He worked as the Grounds Keeper for the City of Los Angeles Police Academy. He retired in 1989 at the age of 66 as the Senior Grounds Keeper. His hobbies were kendo, golfing and bowling. Switch and Emie loved to travel. They've traveled to Japan, Europe, Canada, China, and Alaska. They even liked dancing and took dance lessons.

Obata Sensei started learning Kendo in the Imperial Valley at about 14 or 15 years of age while also learning Judo but found he loved Kendo more. In the late 30's, he had been practicing Kendo at Terminal Island. In November of 1956, he traveled with Torao Mori sensei and 17 other Kenshi from the Kendo Federation Group to Japan, where they took part in a series of Goodwill matches with some of the Universities in Japan.

During the 60's Obata Sensei was teaching Kendo at the Denker playground in Los Angeles, from 1969 to early 1971. He was a assistant sensei at West Los Angeles Kendo Dojo under the late Nakabara Sensei. In 1971, the Venice Kendo Club was formed under Tokuji Matsuda Sensei. He began teaching at Venice Kendo Club and was active in the Dojo until 2009 until because of health problems made it difficult to practice full time. Obata Sensei stayed active with the Dojo as the Dojo advisor, often visiting and coming to the Venice Matsuri.

Obata Sensei passed away on March 17, 2014.

Top Photograph Courtesy of Japanese American Gallery, Imperial Valley Pioneers Museum