

6th Triennial Yutaka Kubota Memorial Kendo Tournament

January 22, 2023

West High School, Torrance, CA



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Sign In: 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Divisions: (Participant can only enter ONE division)

Jr. Youth Kyu (ages 10 years and under)

Youth Kyu (ages 11-13 years)

Sr. Youth Kyu (ages 14-17 years)

Adult Kyu (18 and over)

Women's (all rank, ages 14 and up)

1-3 Dan

4 Dan and up

Senior (50 and over)

*All divisions will apply the AJKF Provisional rule on tsubazeriai.

*Mask will be required for everyone at this event.

Tournament Time Limits

Kyu: 3 mins, 2 mins, encho. Hantei (except semi finals and final)

Dan: 4 mins, 2 mins, encho. Hantei (except semi finals and final)

*Jodan, nito, tsuki are not valid in the kyu divisions

Chief Judge

Mr. Masashi Shikai (7 Dan)

Sportsmanship Pledge

Mr. Hugo Mizuhashi (1 Kyu)

Kata Demonstration

Ms. Mio Shimizu-Nakashima (4 Dan) Uchitachi

Mr. Clark Ono (4 Dan) Shitachi

Iaido Demonstration

Ms. Jean Kodama (Iaido 5 Dan)



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 his dedication to the community, Kubota sensei had helped to establish Kendo in Southern California. 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.