

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

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The first Association Test was held for Gup Levels at the American Martial Arts Center, Middleton WI, on February 8. Presiding were Mr. VH assisted by Mssrs. Love and McDaniel. Testing were Matt Dedrick, Becky Lamboley, John Hoskins, Helen Wu, Jimmy Storck, Megan Sisson, Megan Schmid, Stacy Berman, and Mariah Clark; David Piper tested early. All students passed.

A Black Belt test was held at Huntersville NC on February 23. Mr. Jeremy Kempka and Mr. VH presided and the Corner was Mr. Anthony Yodice. Promoted to **Second Dan** were Mr. Nick Popowicz and Ms. Anastasia Mariotis. Promoted to **First Dan** were Mike P. Fowler, Mahlon T. Ellis, Patricia L. Wagner, Ronald J. Grant, Michael Tucci, Jr., Helen Schirazi, Steven T. Abernathy, Brendan A. Pope, Luke A. Linker, Tommy P. Ryan, Nasir Khatri, Matthew E. Altamira, Hina Khatri, Christian Adams, Jerry W. Kiser, and Alexander Woodie. Awarded high test score was Ms. Helen Schirazi. Congratulations to all these new Black Belts! Mr. VH taught a course,

"Pressure Points: A Matter of Nerve" at the Academy of Martial Arts, Charlotte, on February 22. He was ably assisted by Mr. Jeremy Kempka.

A new Academy of Martial Arts is born! The Academy of Martial Arts, Monroe, will hold its classes at the Monroe Aquatic Center. The four-Black-Belt Wagner family will lead the charge! Congratulations to the Wagners and welcome to the Association.

On March 8 2003 USTF Nationals will be held at Jacksonville FL. Those with questions can inquire of either Mr. VH or Mr. Kempka. On June 12-15 the Senior World Competition will be held in Warsaw.

Thanks for Helping
At the Grafton Elementary
Demonstration on February 11, 2003:
Mrs. Lubner
Mr. Brauer
Mr. Mattias
Mr. J. Pals
Harley Pals
Brian Nusslok
Tony Mattias
Alexandra Mathusek
Zach Jason
Stephanie Brudnak
Haele Jasen

A seminar, "Forms Update," was held at Middleton WI on February 8. Mr. VH taught.

A test was held in Green Bay

on February 18. Presiding were Mrs. Karpinsky and Mr. VH and cornering was Mr. Goddard. A total of six students tested, Tyler Zack, Carolyn Gassen, Ann and Ron VanDenBusch, and Susan and Frank Gattuso.

A test will be held in Huntersville on March 22.

On May 24 there will be a testing in Charlotte.

The Defiance of Admiral Yi Sun-Sin

By James K. Pals

Yi Sun-Sin was born in 1545 in Korea, Choson at the time also known as the Yi dynasty. He died in 1598 at the age of 54, in battle. He was struck by a stray bullet while standing on the bow of his flagship as the Japanese fleet retreated. His last words were reported as "Do not weep, do not announce my death. Beat the drum, blow the trumpet, and wave the flag for advance. We are still fighting. Finish the enemy to the last one". Little is known of Yi Sun-Sin's youth, other than he enlisted in the navy at an early age. Historically, Admiral Yi Sun-Sin is among the world's top military leaders. His life was anchored on principle, integrity and service to his country both on and off the battle field. Among Admiral Yi Sun-Sin's achievements were the Kabukson or "turtle boat" built

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in 1592. It is known as the first iron clad battleship, and also the fastest of its era. He also invented the smoke screen and the "flame thrower", cannon fired incendiary charge. These were all used in the six year war against Japan (1592-1598).

The defiance of the admiral is most notably marked by an incident which took place later in the war. Japan knew that they could not overtake Korea with Admiral Yi Sun-Sin in charge of the navy and having complete control of the sea. A soldier "spy" named Yosira was sent to the Korean General Kim Eung-Su's camp during a lull in the war. For months he traded information and gained the trust of the Korean courts. These actions were all taking place during a time of extreme political unrest and rivalry within the government between political parties. After a period of time Yosira convinced General Kim a great fleet was coming and Admiral Yi Sun-Sin should be sent to defend against it. Kim convinced the king, who intern gave him the OK to send Yi Sun-Sin to the rendezvous.

The conflict was to take place in a very dangerous area, laden with sunken rocks. Admiral Yi Sun-Sin, knowing the great danger to his fleet and his men, and apparently realizing no threat from a Japanese fleet being able to cross through the area, declined to take the order. By doing so, he enraged

General Kim and the king. He narrowly escaped death, after being beaten and tortured as punishment. He was nearly put to death, but his allies in the court were able to have his sentence reduced to demotion. Yi Sun-Sin was demoted to a common foot soldier. Admiral Wan Kyun was given charge of the naval fleet. Yi Sun-Sin's defiance was further shown here. Within an era when power, rank and status were highly valued. Yi Sun-Sin held his integrity, not wanting revenge, not seeking to be a martyr; he carried on in his new capacity as a common foot soldier, doing his duty for his king and country with pride. Not long after Wan Kyun took over the fleet, a great Japanese offensive was made. Kyun lost a bitter defeat and was killed. Yi Sun-Sin's allies begged for his reinstatement and it was given. Several historic naval battles ensued there after with the remnants of the great fleet, now again lead by the Admiral Yi Sun-Sin.

Within Admiral Yi's war diary and memorials to court, he wrote that a warrior must master three roads, four obligations, five skills, and ten keys to security. "The three roads are knowledge of the work; understanding of things as they are; and the wisdom toward humanity. The four obligations are to provide national security with minimal cost; to lead others unselfishly; to suffer adversity without fear; to offer solutions without laying blame. The five skills

are to be flexible without weakness; to be strong without arrogance; to be kind without vulnerability; to be trusting without naiveté; and to have invincible courage. The ten keys to security are purity of purpose, sound strategy, integrity, clarity, lack of covetousness, lack of addiction, a reserved tongue, assertiveness without aggression, being firm and fair, and patience".

It can readily be seen that the defiance of the admiral was by no means selfish or petty. He is remembered by his countrymen and the world as a tactical genius and a man of integrity, hence his title "Choong Moo", given to him in 1643, meaning "lord of loyalty and chivalry". This is also the title of the third highest military honor, The Distinguished Service Medal of the Republic of Korea. His defiance was of a kind, seen only in great men. Standing on his principles, his morals and his beliefs, Yi Sun-Sin was willing to sacrifice rank, power and greatness for the good sake of his country, his king and his men. There was no room in the "being" of Admiral Yi Sun-Sin, to give in to the wiles of any man, to further himself, or for that matter. To keep the presence he had spent his lifetime achieving. This type of defiance is found in few men. Those, in whom it is found, are destined for greatness. Be it in their world, their country, or their home.



Students at the American Martial Arts Center, Middleton WI
From left, back row: Stacy Berman, Mariah Clark, Mr. VH, John Hoskins, Becky Lambole, Matt Dedrick, Helen Wu
From left, front row: Jimmy Storck, Megan Schmid, Megan Sisson

THE
SPRING

CLASSIC

SPRING 2003

Saturday, MAY 10th, 2003

Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School
3399 Division Rd.
Jackson, WI 53037



SANCTIONED
EVENT

Point Rated Divisions

Weapons, Forms, Point Sparring, Self Defence,
Special Needs, & One Black Belt Continuous Sparring Division.

UPCOMING MATA EVENTS:

June: Walworth

Sept: Manitowoc

Oct: Sheboygan

Tournament Highlights

All Mothers receive a flower for Mothers Day
(while supplies last)