

SPORTS

Tae Kwon Do kickoff held



photo Bill Ingles

The U of A club dominated a reduced field of competitors in the U of A Tae Kwon Do championships held this weekend at the Butterdome.

Only half of the 12 clubs invited were in attendance. Confusion and disagreement over the system of weight classification and contact limits kept six clubs away.

Members from the U of A club, their affiliate the D K Chun Club of Edmonton, the J Park of Edmonton, the J Lee Club of Calgary, Kees Tae Kwon Do of Saskatoon, and an Ontario club competed in two events: Sparring and Patterns.

In Tae Kwon Do sparring punches to the head are not allowed and kicks only score if they are judged to be at 80 per cent of the competitors strength.

The winners in the black belt divisions of the sparring were all from the D K Chun Club. Ross

Cook won in the heavyweight class, Nelson Silva was the top middle weight and Mark Siros was lightweight champ.

Arthur Tsen on the U of A club was third in the lightweight divisions. Over 30 black belt fighters competed.

In the other colour divisions of the sparring competition the U of A club proved strong. Ron Dziwenka took second in the red belt class. Sweeping the blue belt group for the U of A were, first to third, Dwane Romansky, Rob Androschuk and Gil Dubrule.

In green belt sparring Ian Brown took third for the U of A. The yellow belt group was divided into lightweight and heavyweight classes. Frank Imbrogno and Marlin Horon of the U of A took first and third respectively for the U of A in the lightweight class. Krent Kereluk was second as heavyweight.

Randy Shantz and Blari Martin were first and third in the white belt class. Diane Roy of the U of A placed second in women's sparring.

The patterns competition is the equivalent of forms or kata in Kung Fu or Karate. Competitors are judged on how well they perform an intricate series of Tae Kwon Do movements.

Arthur Tsen took the men's black belt patterns event, for the U of A club. Teammates Agnes Tsen and Linda Kwan were second and third in the women's black belt section.

Other U of A finishers in patterns were Ron Dziwenka who was first in the red belt class; Rob Androschuk, second in blue belt; and Tim Lafrance, second white belt. U of A swept the yellow belt section; Barney Gutacco, Marlin Horon and Brent Kereluk were the top three.

Wrestling with a problem of understanding

by Kent Blinston

To a novice spectator, wrestling can often look like a three-ring circus.

Starting with the misleading image of professional wrestling's buffoonery, someone watching the intense competition of Olympic-style wrestling might find the action a bit hard to understand. And might not watch at all.

"Most people are afraid to watch wrestling because they think it's too complex," according to U of A wrestling coach John Barry.

This Saturday, Barry and his team are the host of the Canada Wrestling Championship. The Golden Bears will be battling wrestlers from the U of Calgary, the U of British Columbia, and the U of Saskatchewan to decide who will go to the national championships in Saskatoon, February 24 and 25.

While first time viewers may not grasp (excuse the pun) the intricacies of wrestling im-

mediately, Barry suggests ways that they can still enjoy the sport.

"Look for the aesthetics... the sheer athletic ability of the competitors," says Barry.

Just as the ultimate victory in boxing is the knockout, the ultimate in wrestling is the pin - holding your opponent's shoulder in contact with the mat for three continuous seconds.

Only about 25 per cent of matches are decided by a pin, however. The rest are decided by points, according to Barry. A "take-down" - putting your opponent on the mat with a controlled throw - is worth one point. Exposing an opponent's shoulders to the mat is worth two. If a wrestler exposes his opponent's shoulders on a take-down he can get three points, and four points can be awarded for a particularly spectacular throw.

The score of wrestling matches range widely. A fight between two equally matched wrestlers can result in a counter-wrestling contest where only a few points are scored. In a less balanc-

ed match, a wrestler may win with 16-20 points.

One of the closest matches Saturday will be in the 95 kilo class between Golden Bear Blake Dermott and Blake Neill of Calgary. Besides sharing the same name, they share the same record against each other - 3-3 - and each is the other's strongest competition for the national title.

Further, they both have the same off-season job: CFL football player. Dermott played with the Eskimos this year, and Neill with the Montreal Concordes.

The U of A's strongest contender in the meet is 57 kilo Mike Payette. Payette, last year's outstanding wrestler at the U of A and now team captain, was national champion in his weight class last season.

In the team standings, the U of A will likely be in a close battle with Saskatchewan for first place. "On paper, Saskatchewan should win, but U of A teams always seem to wrestle over their heads at the Western Championships," said Barry. He also said that if his team can win six of the 12 weight classes the Bears should win the meet.

Besides Dermott and Payette, the Bears have two other wrestlers who finished first in the Western Championships last year - Brad Chestnut (86 k.) and Steve Hibbard (61 k.). With the strong perfor-

mances from freshman Carl Soderstrom (76 k.) and Phil Spate (54 k.) who have done well earlier this year, the Bears could win the championship for the year in a row.

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