

# USA JUDO

"ADOPT AN ATHLETE"

...DESTINATION BEIJING 2008 & BEYOND



USA  
JUDO

BODY MIND LIFE

# SUPPORT USA JUDO ATHLETES WIN MEDALS AT THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES!

## TAKE A QUICK TEST!

1. Do you enjoy Olympic Sports?
2. Do you take pride in watching the USA win medals at the Olympic Games?
3. Have you ever wondered how to directly support a potential Olympic athlete win a medal for the USA?

...If you answered YES to any of these questions, this brochure will tell how you can help USA athletes medal in the Olympic sport of Judo!

**You will make a difference... So, please read on.**

## WHAT IS USA JUDO?

All sports in the Olympic Games program have a National Governing Body whose mission is to develop the sport and create programs that will identify, select, train and support athletes with the potential to become an Olympian and win medals for the United States. USA Judo is the only recognized governing body for the Olympic Sport of Judo by the United States Olympic Committee.

**USA Judo** is headquartered at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado and is opening National Training Sites in cities throughout the United States where future Olympians will train. These National Training Sites also will develop grassroots programs in the region in order to find potential local talent.

## WHAT IS JUDO?

Judo is one of only two martial art sports in the Summer Olympic Games. It was first contested in the Olympics at the 1964 Tokyo Games and athletes now compete against opponents of similar size in 14 weight divisions (seven each for men and women). Thousands of competitions, ranging from local tournaments to the World Championships and Olympic Games, are held around the world each year, allowing athletes of all ages to test their skills against each other.

Judo was founded in Japan in the late nineteenth century and is one of the oldest and safest of all of the martial arts. Judo requires strength and stamina, but skills and experience are the two main ingredients required to win at the world level. Judo world powerhouses include Japan, Korea, France, Cuba and Brazil—to name a few. All of these countries receive direct government support and have a very successful grassroots program.

Judo is practiced by more people around the world than any other individual sport! Boys and girls as young as 5-years-old participate in Judo, which helps them learn self-confidence, discipline and other skills that will help them succeed not only in the dojo, but in all areas of life.

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO WIN AN OLYMPIC MEDAL IN JUDO?

In order to win medals at the world level, Judo athletes must not only train with the best, but they must also compete on a regular basis against the best. Here is where the importance of skill and experience comes into play.

The #1 limitation that our U.S. athletes face is the lack of adequate funding to train and compete. USA Judo and the United States Olympic Committee provide nationally ranked athletes with limited financial support for training and travel to competitions. However, the funding available is **no where close to what is really needed for USA athletes to properly prepare and win at the world level!**

Each year, an up-and-coming Judo athlete will spend in excess of \$20,000 traveling to competitions and training camps around the world. Because presently the best Judo athletes in the world are located in Europe, Asia or Brazil, our U.S. athletes find themselves having to travel great distances to find top-level training opportunities and competitions. European athletes have a great advantage over U.S. athletes as a four-hour drive might get them to two or three countries, where in the United States, for example, such a drive may not get you out of the state!

## This is why we need your support!



## HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND BE A PART OF USA JUDO OLYMPIC SUCCESS?

USA Judo is proud to present this new “Adopt an Athlete—Destination Beijing 2008 & Beyond” program. The program is meant to provide successful business people and companies, like you, the opportunity to directly support athletes in the Olympic sport of Judo.

You can be a part of USA Judo athletes' success in two ways:

1. Look at the roster of male and female athletes listed in this brochure and select one or more athletes to whom you would like to offer direct support.

OR

2. You may decide to donate your funds to a general athlete development account that would then be divided among all of the athletes on the Elite Athlete Program listed here.

Either way, your donations are 100% tax deductible and will be used to support the athletes' training and travel throughout the year.

## YOUR ANNUAL INVESTMENT TO THE PROGRAM!

The **tax deductible** investment needed from you to adopt a specific athlete is \$2,000 annually. Your commitment to that athlete is for this amount paid for 2006, 2007 and 2008. This amount may be paid to USA Judo in full once per year or in four payments of \$500 each quarter.

On the other hand, if you decide to participate in the program by donating to the general athlete development fund, your tax deductible investment in supporting the Olympic sport of Judo would be \$1,000, payable in one sum or two payments of \$500 every six months. This is a one-year only commitment, which you may decide to renew at the end of the year.

## WHY JOIN & WHAT DO YOU GET?

You may have heard the slogan “...Americans send the athletes to the Olympics.” This slogan is indeed even truer for Judo than any other sport in the Olympic program.

For the first time in the history of the organization, USA Judo has embarked on a promotional/fundraising campaign that will provide our athletes with a real opportunity to compete on equal footing at the World Championships and Olympic Games. USA Judo athletes can compete and win against the best in the world, but only if they have the necessary resources.

As a member of the “Support an Athlete: Destination Beijing 2008 & Beyond” you will receive monthly updates on the success of our athletes. If you decide to support one particular athlete you will receive a signed picture of the athlete and will be kept abreast of his or her performance and training via monthly emails directly from the athlete you are supporting.

Further, as a supporter of an individual athlete, you will be given an opportunity to travel to national championships, World Championships, Pan American Games and Olympic Games to cheer on your adopted athlete and the USA Judo team. Travel groups will be organized by USA Judo and discounted rates will be available to program supporters only.

Please take a minute to review the list of elite Judo athletes in this brochure and make a decision today to put USA Judo where it belongs! These athletes sacrifice every day to represent this great country but they need your support to win. Join us today and be a part of USA Judo Olympic success in 2008 and beyond!



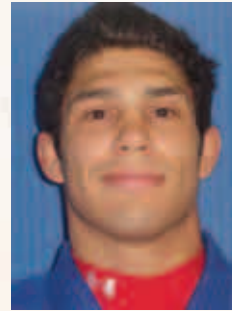


## CARRIE CHANDLER

**Weight Category:** 52kg (114.4lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** July 12, 1981  
**Current Residence:** Glenville, NY  
**Club:** Jason Morris Judo Club  
**Education:** Student at Schnectady Community College

PHOTO BY LOU DIGESARE/WWW.REALJUDO.NET

One would assume that with a father who ran a local judo club for more than 20 years, Carrie would have donned her first gi before she could walk, but it wasn't until high school that she had her first experience in judo. Looking for something to do one night to alleviate teenage boredom, Carrie went to the dojo and fell in love with the sport. Within just six years she had earned the top seed in her division and is now pursuing her Olympic dream. "I love judo so much that after I retire from competing I hope to become a successful coach," she says. In 2005, Carrie competed at her first World Championships and won several key international medals, including gold at the Pan American Championships and bronze at both the U.S. Open and Czech Open.



## JUSTIN FLORES

**Weight Category:** 66kg (145.2lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** December 5, 1979  
**Current Residence:** Menlo Park, CA  
**Club:** San Shi Judo Club  
**Education:** University of Nebraska—transferred to Menlo College

Justin started competing in judo at the age of eight along with his brother Jake in Southern California. The two grew up together on the mat, being coached by their father. By his teen years, Justin realized he had the potential to become one of the top judokas in the world, but after graduating high school he decided to put his judo career on hold and accept a full wrestling scholarship at the University of Nebraska. After three years of wrestling and considerable success at the national level, the love of the sport brought him back to judo where he has continued his success, being named as an alternate to the 2004 Olympic Team and competing at the 2005 World Championships in Cairo, Egypt.



## AARON COHEN

**Weight Category:** 81kg (178.2lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** September 28, 1981  
**Current Residence:** Buffalo Grove, IL  
**Club:** New York Athletic Club/  
Cohen's Judo Club  
**Education:** Completed sophomore year at Harper College

PHOTO BY LOU DIGESARE/WWW.REALJUDO.NET

Judo has been a part of Aaron's life for as long as he can remember. Aaron's father Irwin competed at the 1972 Olympic Games while his uncle, Steve, was a member of the 1988 Olympic Team. After their competitive careers ended, both went on to become Olympic coaches and are the owners of Cohen's Judo Club, one of the top dojos in the nation. In addition to his father and uncle, Aaron credits his brother RJ as being one of the most influential people in his life. "We have been doing judo together since we were little kids. RJ has always been there to motivate me. We were lucky to have Olympic level coaching from the beginning and quickly developed into the junior competitors," Aaron says. Aaron, the top-ranked athlete at 81kg, has won two national championships and is one of only two athletes to compete at both the 2003 and 2005 World Championships.



## VALERIE GOTAY

**Weight Category:** 57kg (125.4lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** November 5, 1973  
**Current Residence:** Temecula, CA  
**Club:** Judo America—San Diego  
**Education:** Completed junior year at San Diego State University

Valerie began competing at the international level by the age of 14 and qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team in 1992 at the age of 18. After the Barcelona Games she retired from competition to pursue a degree in psychology at San Diego State University. In 1996 Valerie got married and gave birth to her first of two children. She decided to return to competition in 2004 and finished second at the Olympic Trials in San Diego, Calif. Within a year of her return to the sport she had taken over the top spot in the 57kg division. "I am very proud to have made the 2005 World Championships Team after such a long layoff and look forward to more years of competition," Valerie said. "My goal was to make the 2005 World Team after my 10-year layoff. I've accomplished that goal and now my next goal is an Olympic medal."



## KAYLA HARRISON

**Weight Category:** 63kg (138.6lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** July 2, 1990  
**Current Residence:** Middletown, OH  
**Club:** Renshuden Judo Academy  
**Education:** Sophomore at Middletown High School

Kayla is hardly your standard high school student. Although only 15-years-old, she currently sits at the top of the junior roster as well as being the second ranked senior in her division. At the junior level, she has won every domestic event in which she competed in 2005, as well as winning medals at both Pan American and European events. In 2006, she is a top candidate for Junior World Championship Team as well as the Junior Pan Ams, to be held in Miami, Fla. At the senior level Kayla won a bronze at this year's national championships, dropping only one match in the process, and is currently training with her eyes on the 2008 Olympic Team.



## KIRK HOFFMANN

**Weight Category:** +100kg (+220lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** November 13, 1983  
**Current Residence:** Colorado Springs, CO  
**Club Name:** Olympic Training Center  
**Education:** Sophomore, University of Colorado—Colorado Springs

Kirk began his career in martial arts at five years old and found judo after years of kickboxing and tae kwon do training. He became involved in judo with the hopes of having a well-rounded sense of martial arts, incorporating standing striking with grappling. In 2002 this former high school football star chose to hone his focus entirely on judo, moving to Colorado Springs to train full-time at the U.S. Olympic Training Center at age 18. Kirk improved rapidly, winning a silver medal at the 2004 National Championships and placing second at the Olympic Trials behind Sydney Olympian Martin Boonzaayer. Although he didn't qualify for the Games, Kirk did get to experience Athens as a training partner for the team and is looking ahead to Beijing. Kirk says he considers qualifying for the 2005 World Championship Team to be "his greatest highlight yet."



## KENNY HASHIMOTO

**Weight Category:** 66kg (145.2lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** July 7, 1986  
**Current Residence:** Thornton, CO  
**Club Name:** Northglenn Judo Club  
**Education:** Sophomore, University of Northern Colorado

After several years of being one of the top-ranked juniors in the country, Kenny has steadily climbed the senior rankings and recently laid claim to the #3 spot at 66kg, winning bronze as the top American in his division at the 2005 U.S. Open. He took both junior and senior titles at the Irish Open where he won all of his matches by Ippon, the judo equivalent of a knockout in boxing or a pin in wrestling. Like many judo players, Kenny has excelled not only in judo, but in wrestling as well, winning two state titles in high school and posting a 19-3 record during his first year at the University of Northern Colorado.



## MARTI MALLOY

**Weight Category:** 57kg (125.4lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** June 23, 1986  
**Current Residence:** San Jose, CA  
**Club:** San Jose State University Judo Club  
**Education:** Freshman at San Jose State University

A Washington State native, Marti relocated to San Jose University where she balances training for the 2008 Olympic Games with pursuing a degree in journalism. A member of the 2000 Junior World Team, Marti first made a name for herself in the senior rankings as a 16-year-old when she claimed her a gold medal in her first senior international competition—the 2002 Rendez-Vous Canada—where she defeated a tough field, including both a 2000 Olympian and the previous year's U.S. National Champion, as well as top athletes from Canada and Great Britain. In 2005, Marti continued her success at both the junior and senior levels, winning a silver medal at the U.S. Open and becoming the only U.S. athlete to win gold at the Junior Pan American Championships.

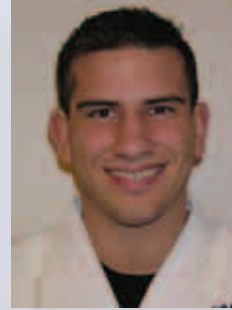


## SAYAKA MATSUMOTO

**Weight Category:** 48kg (105.6lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** December 5, 1982  
**Current Residence:** El Cerrito, CA  
**Clubs:** New York Athletic Club/East Bay Judo Institute  
**Education:** Junior at University of California—Berkeley

PHOTO BY LOU DIGESARE/WWW.REALJUDO.NET

Sayaka was born in Japan and raised in the Bay Area. She began studying judo at the age of five under the instruction of her father, David Matsumoto. Sayaka's love for judo has driven her to six consecutive national titles as well as a Junior World Championship silver medal and competition on three consecutive World Championship Teams by the young age of 22. Sayaka is a junior at Cal Berkeley majoring in communications and Japanese and continues to give back to the judo community by teaching beginning women's judo classes at her home club, the East Bay Judo Institute.



## MIKE PEDRO

**Weight Category:** 90kg (198lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** May 9, 1983  
**Current Residence:** Providence, RI  
**Club Name:** Pedro's Judo Club  
**Education:** Senior, Brown University

When your father (Jim Pedro Sr.) was an Olympic alternate and your brother (Jimmy Pedro) is the only U.S. judo player ever to win two Olympic medals, it could be said that judo is in your blood. For Mike, this certainly is true. He began judo at age six before ultimately training in both wrestling and judo. Mike's wrestling skills led him to competing at Brown University, from which he will graduate in May 2006. After watching Jimmy's success at both the Atlanta and Athens Olympic Games, Mike says he "began to burn inside for the same success." He recently got a taste of that success, winning his first major senior international competition at the Rendez-Vous Canada and taking a silver medal at the Irish Open to ensure a #1 ranking in the United States at 90kg. "The Olympic movement is powerful, especially after being there," he says. "Since then, I have set my goals high in hoping to be at the Olympics, competing and having my brother watch me as I sat there nervously watching him. With the help of my two coaches, Jim Pedro Sr. and Jim Pedro Jr., Beijing 2008 will hopefully be the beginning."



## KATIE MOCCO

**Weight Category:** 70kg (154lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** November 19, 1983  
**Current Residence:** Glenville, NY  
**Club:** Jason Morris Judo Club  
**Education:** Completed sophomore year at University of Iowa

PHOTO BY LOU DIGESARE/WWW.REALJUDO.NET

Katie spent her childhood tagging along to wrestling tournaments and practices, cheering for her older brothers, Joey and Steven. As a child she was taught that athletic ability and excellence were to be revered, but as a girl she was excluded from participation. Fortunately for the 2005 National Champion, Katie's father enrolled her brother Steven in judo to supplement his wrestling and Katie got her chance to compete as well. "Becoming an athlete changed my life in so many ways. Through judo I learned the value of hard work, focus and dedication, for which I am forever grateful. The best part is that Steven and I are now pursuing the same Olympic dream and will hopefully be together in Beijing come 2008," she says. Katie came one step closer to her dream in 2005, winning the U.S. Open and competing on her first World Championship Team.



## RYAN RESER

**Weight Category:** 73kg (160.6lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** April 16, 1980  
**Current Residence:** Colorado Springs, CO  
**Club:** U.S. Olympic Training Center  
**Education:** Junior at University of Colorado—Colorado Springs

Ryan was introduced to judo at the age of five by parents who were looking to keep Ryan and his siblings out of trouble. By age seven, he was competing in national events and ultimately chose to narrow his sports away from other sports and toward judo with the ultimate goal of competing in the Olympic Games. "My experiences have given me the goal of being America's first Olympic gold medalist in judo. This is what has driven me to the place that I am today," Ryan says. "I love judo and even though I sacrificed a lot to chase my dream, I have also gained a lot and wouldn't give that up for the world." Ryan continues to be one of the most successful male judokas in the United States. An alternate to the 2000 and 2004 Olympic Teams behind World Champion Jimmy Pedro, Ryan dominated his division in 2005, competing at the World Championships and winning the National Championships, Pan Ams and Pacific Rims.

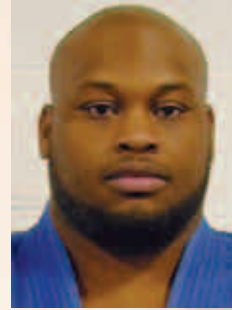


## RONDA ROUSEY

**Weight Category:** 63kg (138.6lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** February 1, 1987  
**Current Residence:** Santa Monica, CA  
**Club:** NYAC/Venice Judo  
**Education:** High school senior

PHOTO BY LOU DIGESARE/WWW.REALJUDO.NET

At just 17, Ronda qualified for her first Olympic Team, becoming the Team's youngest member and arguably one of the most promising female judo players in the world. The reigning Pan American and U.S. judo champion in the 63kg division, Ronda expected that she would compete in the Olympics, but never considered that it would be in Athens—she even named her cat Beijing after the 2008 host city. After claiming the top finish for the U.S. women at the Olympic Games (ninth), Ronda became only the second U.S. athlete ever to win a gold medal at the 2004 World Junior Judo Championships in Budapest, Hungary. In 2005, Ronda successfully defended her Pan Am and National Championship titles as well as won the U.S. Open and Rendez-Vous Canada.



## ANTHONY TURNER

**Weight Category:** +100k (+220lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** November 8, 1979  
**Current Residence:** Miami, FL  
**Club Name:** IntoCombat  
**Education:** Northwestern High School

After making his first podium appearance with a win at the 2000 National Championships, Anthony has always been a player to watch in the heavyweight division, finishing well in both domestic and international competition, including a bronze medal at the 2001 Pan American Championships. But in October 2005, he made an international audience take notice when he became the only American male to win gold at the U.S. Open. Through the assistance of 2004 Olympian Rhadi Ferguson and world renowned fitness expert Juan Carlos Santana, Anthony continues to be one of the best conditioned heavyweights in the nation and looks forward to future success.



## TAYLOR TAKATA

**Weight Category:** 66kg (145.2lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** April 6, 1982  
**Current Residence:** Brownsville, TX  
**Club Name:** Brownsville USA Judo National Training Site  
**Education:** Junior, University of Texas—Brownsville

Taylor, a native of Hawaii, staked his claim on the sport of judo first at 60kg, where he represented the United States at both the Junior and Senior World Championships as well as winning National Championship, Pan American and U.S. Open Titles. In 2004, he moved up to the 66kg division and has relocated to Texas where he trains at the Brownsville USA Judo National Training Site. He is coached by Israel Hernandez, a two-time Olympic bronze medalist in Taylor's division. In December, 2005, Taylor won a bronze medal at the British Open and moved up to the top rank in a highly competitive weight division.



## TARAJE WILLIAMS-MURRAY

**Weight Category:** 60kg (132lbs.)  
**Date of Birth:** November 9, 1984  
**Current Residence:** Bronx, NY  
**Club Names:** New York Athletic Club/Jamie Towers/Spartak Sports Club  
**Education:** Senior, Long Island University (Brooklyn Campus)

Twenty-year-old Taraje took up judo at 8-years-old and fell in love with it instantly. As a kid, he says the worst punishment his parents could give was not allowing him to go to practice. In 2004—his first full season as a senior athlete—Taraje became the youngest male member of the Athens Olympic Team. This year Taraje continued his success, qualifying for his first World Championship Team and claiming a ninth place finish—one of the top two results for the young U.S. Team.

## MORE USA JUDO ATHLETES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

### **Djamaldin Aliev (90kg), 21, Aurora, CO**

2005 World Team Member

### **Radu Brestyan (73kg), 22, Medway, MA**

2005 National Championship bronze medalist

### **Francesca Durand (52kg), 14, Coral Springs, FL**

2005 Junior National gold medalist, Senior National bronze medalist

### **Jaclyn Feurschwenger (70kg), 26, Linden, NJ**

2005 U.S. Open bronze medalist, National Championship silver medalist

### **Rick Hawn (81kg), 29, Methuen, MA**

2004 Olympian, 2005 National Championship silver medalist

### **Chuck Jefferson (73kg), 29, San Jose, CA**

2005 National Championship gold medalist

### **Natalie Lafon (52kg), 25, National City, CA**

2005 U.S. National Championship and Fall Classic Nationals  
silver medalist

### **Bobby Lee (73kg), 17, Lauderhill, FL**

2004/2005 Junior U.S. Open Champion, 2005 Fall Classic Nationals  
(Senior) gold medalist

### **Jeremy Liggett (60kg), 16, Scotia, NY**

2005 Fall Classic Nationals gold medalist, Rendez-Vous Canada  
silver medalist

### **Garry St. Leger (90kg), 20, Brooklyn, NY**

2005 Irish Open gold medalist, National Championships silver medalist

### **Harry St. Leger (81kg), 20, Brooklyn, NY**

2005 Senior Nationals bronze medalist, 2004 Junior World  
Team Member

### **Daniel McCormick (+100kg), 19, Arlington, TX**

2005 British Open bronze medalist, 2004 Junior World Team Member

### **Dariusz Mikolajczak (90kg), 23, Brooklyn, NY**

2005 World Team Member and National Champion

### **Jeannette Rodriguez (48kg), 15, North Lauderdale, FL**

2005 Pan Am Juvenile silver medalist, Senior Nationals bronze medalist

### **Ann Shiraishi (48kg), 20, Elk Grove, CA**

2005 National Championships silver medalist, Irish Open Champion

### **Eva Smith (+78kg), 18, Fall River, MA**

2005 British Open bronze medalist, Junior National Champion

### **Travis Stevens (81kg), 19, Tacoma, WA**

2005 Senior Nationals bronze medalist, Pan Am Junior silver medalist

### **Denis Utkin (100kg), 23, Brooklyn, NY**

2005 U.S. Open silver medalist

For more information on these and other USA Judo athletes  
visit [www.usjudo.org](http://www.usjudo.org)

## ADOPT AN ATHLETE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### GENERAL DONATION \$1,000

(One year commitment)

Your donation will be divided equally among all of the athletes.

\$1,000 (1 payment)

\$500 (2 payments paid every six months)

### ADOPT AN ATHLETE \$2,000 (annually)

(commitment for years 2006, 2007 & 2008)

Athlete's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\$2,000 (1 payment annually)

\$500 (4 payments paid each quarter annually)

Check payable to USA Judo in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, AmEx, Discover)

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL TO:

USA Judo

One Olympic Plaza, Suite 505

Colorado Springs, CO 80909

### FAX TO:

719.866.4733

All donations are tax deductible.

For further information, or sponsorship opportunities, contact  
USA Judo at 719.866.4730.

USA JUDO  
ONE OLYMPIC PLAZA, SUITE 505  
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