

Scholastics and Collegiates draw hundreds of competitors to premier event

April 4, 2011—About 400 competitors from across the country packed DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, MI, over the weekend for a premier USA Judo sporting event, the combined 2011 Youth and Scholastics National Championships and the Collegiate Open.

About 100 weight and age divisions packed the venue with some of the hottest matches in youth and college competition.

The event was hosted by the West Michigan Sports Commission and proved to be a huge success, said Corinne Shigemoto, USA Judo's Director of Events and Membership.

Saturday included Scholastic Juvenile A, B and Bantam, and Collegiate divisions. Click [HERE](#) for those results.

Fighting Sunday included Scholastic Intermediate 1 & 2 divisions, and IJF-Junior and Novice divisions. Click [HERE](#) for those complete results.

Chosen at the tournament was the 2011 Cadet World Team. Watch the usjudo.org website for posting of the roster.

In addition to the winners of each weight and age division, special awards were given on the First Day of Competition for:

Male Outstanding Competitor, Ryan Vargas, West Palm Beach Judo Academy, FL
Male Best Technique, Brian Abreu, Champion Martial Arts, FL
Male Sportmanship, Ricardo Roig, Ki-Itsui-Sai National Training Center, FL

Female Outstanding Competitor, Teshya Alo, Pearl City Hongwanji, HI
Female Best Technique, Teshya Alo, Pearl City Hongwanji, HI
Female Sportmanship, Ashlyn White, Somerset Academy-Panther Judo, FL

Collegiate Male Outstanding competitor, Spencer Augustine, Berkeley Judo Club, CA
Collegiate Male Best Technique, Ernest Ojito, WPB Judo Academy, MD
Collegiate Male Sportmanship, Thomas Machowicz, South Side Dojo, MI

Special awards on the Second Day of competition were given for:

Male Outstanding competitor, Kyle Taketa, Gardena Judo Club, CA
Male Best Technique, Max Golemba, Cohen Brothers Training Center, IL
Male Sportmanship, Patrick Mendiola, Ippon Judo Dojo, WA

Female Outstanding competitor, Gabriela Prado, Ki-Itsui-Sai National Training Center, FL
Female Best Technique, Summer Truong, Ju Shin Kan Judo Club, CO
Female Sportmanship, Meghan Arena, Pedro's Judo Center, MA

The tournament also drew a lot of great media coverage to the sport in Grand Rapids:

A local Fox News station did a spot on the tournament with a representative from the West Michigan Sports Commission with two-time Olympian and former Olympic Judo Coach Pat Burris providing a judo demonstration with some young competitors. Click [HERE](#) to see that video.

And MLive looked at the game from the perspective of a referee. Click [HERE](#) to read that story about Joon Chi of Edina, Minn., who worked the tournament.

- *Story by Ernest Pund*