Sports

Gerlinger to host national karate tournament

By Ron Whitted

How long has it been since you watched a national karate tournament? Never? Well this is your lucky day. This year the University of Oregon with the help of the University Physical **Education Department will host** the 25th annual American Amateur Karate National Championships.

The last time the national championships were held in Oregon was in 1973.

The tournament will kick off Friday at 3:00 p.m. in Gerlinger Hall with a two court collegiate elimination. All of the col-legiate events will be held Friday with dan testing (black belt degree testing) to follow.

Competition will resume at 9:00 a.m. Saturday with the state and national contestants.

The floor will then be changed to a single court, and the championship rounds will commence at 6:00 p.m.

At 9:00 p.m. immediately following the championships, there will be a banquet at the Eugene Elks Club. Cost is \$10.00 a person.

The tournament will consist of college teams, state teams and individual contestants competing in one of two forms of the sport: Kata, for teams only, and kamita.

Kata, a floorstudy of karate moves similar to a gymnastics floor routine, is performed by a team, usually consisting of three members.

There are thousands of different katas, but the teams must

choose from a prescribed list.

A panel of judges looks for form, synchronization, balance

of power and reality among other things. Judging is much like gymnastics or figure skating, according to Robert Graves, the University's karate instructor and a 30-year veteran of the sport.

The collegiate teams, according to Graves, usually have the least experience because of their lack of time to prepare and for the most part are green belts or

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The second form, kamita, is freestyle, one-on-one sparring. and there are no ranks or weight classes, only experience,

The state and national competitors generally range from brown belt to fourth dan, or fourth degree black belt.

. The only protective equipment used by the athletes is a thin fist covering, which the host team must provide.

The sparring is observed by four judges, who are positioned at each corner of the eight-meter

Inside the square is a referee and outside the square, beyond the corner judges, sits an arbitrator, who views the tournament through the eyes of the rule book. It is the arbitrator's sole job to make certain no rules are violated, and he holds the power to stop the match at any time because of a rule violation.

The objective of the match is to score one point, called an epon. To do this the contestant must execute a move which, under real combat conditions. would render his opponent unable to continue.

Rarely does a fighter score a full point; more frequently half points are awarded. If no points are earned by the end of the two-minute match, the referee and judges will decide the winner based on fighting spirit, technique and power.

Teams from as far away as New York and Minnesota come to the tournaments but since there is no funding for competitors only those who can afford to make the trip compete. Only about 50 players make it to the tournament each year, according to Graves.

Dr. Micheal Ellis is the Honorary Tournament Chairman and will deliver the opening speech for the tournament.

The University Club Sport karate team will not compete, but Tom Platt, a member of the team will compete individually.

A women's state kata team made up of women from the Eugene area will include Sue Doyle, Louise Seguela and Loyal Omvig. They will compete as a kata team in the tournament.

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America II sails past Britain in yacht race

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) - America II sailed to a victory over Britain's White Crusader on Wednesday while New Zealand also won and remained tied with the United States boat for the lead in the America's Cup challenge series.

America II. captained by John Kolius, lost the start to White Crusader but took the lead after the first mark and led for the rest of the race, winning by one minute.

Chris Dickson kept New Zealand in front of French Kiss throughout their race. It was close until the final leg, when the fiberglass boat pulled away from Marc Pajot's crew to win by 2:23 seconds.

The victories kept America II and New Zealand atop the standings with 31 points each. White Crusader remained third with 23 points. Italia was fourth with 22 points and Stars Stripes was fifth with 21.

America II and White Crusader both flew protest flags midway through their race, while French Kiss and New Zealand raised red flags about five minutes before the start.

All four protests were dismissed.

In the other races involving American yachts, USA defeated Azzurra, Stars 9 Stripes defeated Heart of America, and Eagle whipped Challenge France.



