

The 45th Amorosi's Mixed Martial Arts - Ultimate Martial Arts Championship (AMMA-UMAC XLV) was held on April 2, 2017 and was an outstanding intra-mural tournament success! Our students performed impressively with very close results.

At the UMAC competitions all divisions start with breaking (aka Tamashiwari). All competitors displayed focus, form and fluidity. In each division there were tight contests, with each win being decided by one point or less!

The Pee Wee (2-5) division kids performed breaking like little troopers. All competitors earned a gold medal along with the participatory medal for performing in their first or second competition. This division was so adorable, as the kids performed great and all competitors broke their boards on the first shot.

The second part of the competition was a return to an event that's been missing from the UMAC for over ten years, Self-Defense (SD). The child and juniors battled in lines, demonstrating their skills at protecting themselves from danger by performing SD's against an attacker. This proved to be very exciting for the students as well as their families, with cheers and yells shaking the dojo walls!

The next event was kata (forms). All participants could choose an empty hand kata. The judges were very impressed by the quality of technique, intensity and power by all the students.

Kickboxing followed, with the students battling in point style kumite (sparring). This was the type of fighting Shihan Amorosi was an internationally famed competitor! Close contests were in every division, with several tie-breakers going into sudden death overtime to determine medal placement!

Grappling was last, which is the close range fighting element of the AMMA system. The competitors displayed exceptional skilled, strategy and spirit. Several students attempted very advanced submission techniques, some of which changed the outcomes of matches in the last seconds of the matches.

AMMA would like to thank Sensei Frank Schildiner, Sensei Martin Maida and Dai-Sempai Gail Schildiner, who's judging and insights helped raise the standards of the AMMA-UMAC XLV to a new level. Sempai Nicholas Martinelli, Swadesh Malneedi and Larry Dickstein did an incredible job with score keeping as well keeping the event moving smoothly and efficiently.

What stood out the most during the tournament was the student's teamwork and positive spirit towards each other. The comradery and team spirit displayed by our students was exceptional. From the cheering to the regular high-fives between events, all the instructors were very impressed by the positive attitudes of the competitors. Shihan Amorosi was most impressed and pleased with this tournament which showed growth in the life skills we work on daily with our students.

A special thanks to all the parents who stayed to support, cheer and help the competitors stay calm, enabling them to perform at their best and make the AMMA-UMAC one of the best to date! Osaahh!!!

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