

**COMMENTARY ON
THE WUKO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
WUKO IX, Cairo, Egypt**

Anderson, Head Of Delegation, Medical Congress Chair
Past President World Referee Council

WUKO Personnel from the USAKF

Don Madden, Technical Congress - Julius Thiry, Referee Council
Coaching: Mike Rivers, Robert Saal
Referees: Minobu Miki, John Nanay, Takayuki Mikami,
Organizing Committee: Thomas Lapuppet , Mike Bukala

Report:

We have a lot of stress with past World Championships; problems with getting successful results in the referee courses, having proper representation for the Pan American Union and the United States, going to the congress and achieving some measure of understanding of what is going on with the World Union and in world karate in general. We prepared for the trip to Cairo without much anticipation of having fun. We were right, the only thing fun about the trip was the sight-seeing, getting the team going and the competition itself. As always, the politics was an absolute bitch, but the competition and the karate itself was fun. That should be a lesson to somebody.

Anyway, we started preparing for the political part of the trip a long time before we went. We made sure that the tests were in order, that the referee courses were made and we selected and trained our referee candidates with great care. We made sure that all the proper financial arrangements were made. As for the team, we continue to dream of a fully funded team, one in which any good player in the US would not be forced to stay at home for lack of money. At least we provided some assistance to the team. We started a team scholarship fund in which a group of us really committed dudes coughed up three hundred dollars apiece. Not everybody did this but the people that were interested did. We outfitted the team with Tokaido suits with the Eagle on them(they looked really good), with GIs with the proper kind of patches and so all the preliminary work was accomplished as it should be. The Chief of Mission was Don Madden and coaching were Mike Rivers and Bob Saal.

With a great sense of eagerness we all set out to go to Cairo and the World Championships. But, lo and behold, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Bukala, Mr. Saal, Larry Zahand and Mrs. Anderson flight to New York was late and the flight left for Egypt without them on it. We were late and we were abandoned, as we felt, and left in New York for two days. I was particularly upset, because all of the good meetings that I was supposed to be at, the Directing Committee, Technical Committee, Organizing Committee, etc., The preliminary preparations were completed and all the appointments were made while I was sitting in New York. After calling Cairo back and forth, forth and back a half a dozen times, at least, and running up an enormous phone bill, we finally managed to get ourselves on the airplane and arrived in Cairo two days late.

The team was in good spirits and things were running well. The only problem was when we got there I didn't have any rooms. After much fussing and fuming, they finally bounced someone else and gave me the proper rooms in the hotel. Then we went down to

see how the meetings were going, and what had been done while I was absent. There was a whole lot- let me tell you.-and it was not all in our interest. The basic points were the firming up of the World Referee Council, the establishment of a World Technical Committee and the operations of the new World Technical Medical Committee. The Referee Council formation still has some fundamental problems, but at this time Mr. Julius Thiry represents the Pan American Union along with Mr. Augusto Gonzalez from Argentina. The WUKO Technical Committee consists of Donald Madden from the United States, Faggiani from Chile, Fritz Wendland from Germany, Guy Savan from France and Arakawa from Japan. From the USA the Medical Committee is directed by myself as supervisor from the Directing Committee and includes Dr. Kinney from Britain, Drs. Stricevic and Perrone from the United States.

The tournament generally went well with a few exceptions. One of the exceptions that many people talked about was the presence of so many Europeans on the floor. Some people even jokingly called it the French Club. Enormous numbers of French and Europeans roamed the floor. They controlled the computer operations of the charting and controlled the draw. They controlled the ring security and fundamentally controlled the Referee Council. At any one time, if you were to count the people who were non referees walking around the floor, sixteen out of twenty would be Europeans, and the most part of them French, German or British. Not that there is anything wrong with this, but it seems the balance between the unions isn't sought for as much as it used to be.

WUKO is pretty confident that they will win every game that they are playing and that everything is eventually going to go their way. So, they are not putting much emphasis on the doctrine of balance. What they are putting the emphasis on now is correctness, of having things technically right. Then, of course, it becomes what opinion of which group is correct. In the past, it's been thought that having a group consisting of one from each group representing different viewpoints was the correct group. Now, it is thought that any one opinion that is undivided, a group or opinion that seems to be in the majority is correct.

As for the competition itself, it was a very, very, very tough competition. It is probably the highest level competition that I, personally, have ever seen. The continuing presence of the same world champions from one world event to the next and the selection and the training of the finest athletes has contributed to the creation of a fantastic game. We had a newscaster come in from CNN who had been filming in Lebanon and he watched the matches. And he said that it was like a three-ring circus- really exciting. He couldn't understand why it wasn't televisable. And of course, I replied that the reason it is done is because anybody can raise television revenues on behalf of their own country and their own pocketbook rather than on behalf of WUKO and that the USA doesn't understand what it is. All things said and done, this was a tremendous competition, very, very large and of the highest quality.

There was some dissension among the Arab Countries there and Israel. And because of such problems they decided not to have the grand march in the opening ceremonies. The competition itself was held within the police academy grounds. That showed the seriousness of the situation -to cancel the march on even on the police academy property. On the other hand, it appears that in Egypt that there is a cop on every corner, and that order reigns supreme.

It was a really comfortable trip. The people are exceptionally nice and the Egyptians were exceptionally hospitable. The team accommodations in the Sheraton were a good bit better than the tournament hotel, the Al. Many of the Directing Committee would leave the Al Salam and go over and eat at the Sheraton Hotel. Of course, you realize that nobody watched the belly-dancers.

The Pan American Union met there over dinner and we decided that the next competition will be either in Venezuela or Canada. If it is in Venezuela or Canada, it will be in the Spring. If it goes to Argentina by default, it will be in the Fall.

Mexico was firmly awarded the World Competition for 1990. They were given the flag for WUKO to hold until then. So, we can all expect to see all our USA enthusiasts there, at least the spectators.

Mexico again reaffirmed their intention to hold the North American Cup. Canada said they would attend this time. The World Games was scheduled for next year in Germany. The World Championships were scheduled for Spain in 1992. (Of course, if not in the Olympics, at least right on top of it.)

Well, this is all for my short dictation regarding Egypt. I wish you all could have been with us there. And I know you would love to take the trip and that your karate would have changed a lot just by looking at this competition and understanding the quality and intensity of world competition. Hopefully, we can bring the ideas back to you, and you will continue to press on to make our country the grandest karate country of all. On behalf of the entire delegation, thank you for your support.

This is George Anderson signing off.