



S. Henry Cho's 37th Annual All American Open

Holmes, NY...On March 24, 2001, Grandmaster S. Henry Cho presented the 37th Annual All American Tae Kwon Do-Karate-Kung-Fu Tournament. The All American Open has a long and proud history from its beginnings in the early years in American martial arts, to its many years at Madison Square Garden, to its current home at Manhattan College. To this day, the All American Open's standard of first-rate competition and fair play continues to grow, and this year's tournament added another chapter to this proud tradition. As usual, the tournament drew an international crowd of competitors with winners coming from as far away as Argentina, Venezuela and Germany and from as close as the five boroughs of New York City.

The sparring grand championship was won by Javier Colmenares of Venezuela, a student of Edward Becerra and the winner of the lightweight division. Mr. Colmenares defeated Brahim Kone, a student of Master Cho and the winner of the heavyweight division. Other black belt sparring winners included Patty Williams (women's division), Earl Woodbury (senior division), Leonardo Gomez (boys 14-16 years), and Dara Bethea (girls 14-16 years).



L TO R: Master Joe Bruno, Form Grand Champion; Instructor Edward Becerra of Venezuela; Javier Colmenares, Sparring Grand Champion; Grandmaster S. Henry Cho, Tournament Director, and Grandmaster C. S. Kim, Referee.

The forms competition came down to a tiebreaker runoff between two expert performers. This time the finalists were Rick Feizbakish, the winner of the men's Tae Kwon Do forms division, and Master Joseph Bruno, a student of Grandmaster C. S. Kim and the winner of the master's division. After their initial performance left them deadlocked, Master Bruno's focus and precision gained him the top spot despite the excellent performance from Mr. Feizbakish. Other black belt forms winners included Earl Woodbury (weapons), Katie Wong (11-13-year-olds), and Han Dao (14-16 year-olds).

The adult black belt breaking division was won by Manuel Adroque of Argentina. Mr. Adroque, who also finished second in the master's form division, won with a combination of dynamic kicks. Other breaking division winners were Debbie Lohmaier of Germany who won the women's division; Vishal Singh, the junior division and; Seul Lee, the pee wee division. Both Singh and Lee are from Master Kwan Woo Lee's school in Queens, New York.

During the opening ceremony, Grandmaster Cho announced the 2001 All American Open Hall of Fame inductees. This year, Grandmaster Cho honored Grandmaster Jhoon Rhee for his pioneering efforts in American martial arts. Grandmaster Cho also honored Masters Bill Dewart of California, John R. Sano of Seoul, Korea, and John Chung Kim of Pennsylvania for their longtime support of the All American Open.
by Benjamin Paris