

ADD US TO YOUR SOCIAL NETWORK!

Follow us on Facebook to stay updated on stories happening in your community. Access links to stories and pages online of the most current issue. Connect with people interested in local government, education and human interest stories.



[www.facebook.com/
saratoganews](http://www.facebook.com/saratoganews)



Like all the Community
Newspapers on Facebook

www.facebook.com/

almadenresident
cambrianresident
campbellreporter
cupertinocourier
lgweeklytimes
rosegardenresident
saratoganews
sunnyvalesun
willowglenresident



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DAVID KANEDA

Cupertino's Okaigan Dojo competition team of, from left, Giselle Kaneda, Aryamitra Bake, Pranav Singh and Sahaj Mahesh, qualified for the U.S. karate team and competition either in the Pan American Junior Karate Championships in Brazil or the World Junior Karate Championships in Malaysia later this year.

Okaigan Dojo stars shine in U.S. karate event

Locals bring home 16 medals from Texas

By KEVIN SPARRER

Normally 16 out of 1,400 wouldn't be great odds, but for the Okaigan Dojo in Cupertino, those odds were perfect.

The Okaigan Dojo sent 15 athletes to the U.S. Olympic Committee-sanctioned USANational Karate-do Federation national championships and U.S. Team Trials at the Arlington Convention Center in Texas from July 12 to 17, and the local squad came home with 14 individual medals and two team medals in the national competition.

The team trials were to select members of the elite U.S. Junior and Senior teams to take part in the 2011 Pan American Junior Karate Championships, the 2011 Junior World Karate Championships and the 2010 PAN American Senior Karate Championships.

With the amount of competitors, this was one of the largest competitions in the history of U.S. Karate. The competition comprised of kumite (sparring), kata (technical forms), weapons

kata, team kumite and team kata. It took four days to complete the tournament.

Aryamitra Bake, 15, won a bronze medal and a spot as an alternate on the U.S. Team. Bake, who attends Los Altos High School and is the Okaigan team co-captain, was a 2009 U.S. Team member. She battled into the finals of the U.S. Team kumite to finish with a silver medal and a spot on the U.S. Team. Bake joined with two competitors from Washington to win a bronze in the girls 14-15 team kumite.

Izumi Shimanouchi, 15 and a student at Lynbrook High School and also a 2009 U.S. Team member, won a bronze medal and earned a spot as an alternate on the U.S. Team. She dominated the competition with her kata routine, taking a gold medal. She went to the finals in the U.S. Team kumite and took a silver medal and a spot on the U.S. Team. Shimanouchi was also part of a team with members from Oakland, Stockton and San Diego that won a gold medal in the 16-17 girls team kumite.

Giselle Kaneda, 13 and a student at Kennedy Middle School, took a silver medal in the 12-13 girls kata division and earned a spot on the U.S. Team. She also

took a bronze medal in the girls advanced kata division. Kaneda was also in the 12-13 girls team kumite with a girl from Louisiana and another from Texas. The trio went home with a bronze medal. She took another gold in the girls 13 under 43 kilogram advanced kumite.

Tanay Nandagaonkar, a 15-year-old from St. Francis, took a silver medal in the advanced kata competition, and Kentaro Mori, a 14-year-old from Homestead and two-time national champion, finished with the bronze medal in the boys advanced kata division.

Anju Jain, a 9-year-old from Regnart Elementary School, destroyed the competition in the advanced kata and the intermediate/advanced "bo" kata divisions, taking a pair of gold medals. Jain battled to a bronze medal in the girls 9 advanced kumite.

Udirno Chaudhuri took a bronze medal in the intermediate kata division, Kei Matsumoto won a bronze in the novice kata division and Atij Mahesh won a bronze medal in the beginner kata division. He won a gold medal in the boys 10 intermediate kumite division.

Pranav Singh, another Okaigan team co-captain and a

15-year-old student at Lynbrook High School, won a gold medal in the U.S. Team's kumite and earned a spot on the U.S. Team. He battled to the final day of competition in the national championship to win a silver medal in the boys 15-and-over 60 kilogram advanced kumite division and took a silver medal home with him.

Purple belt Sahaj Mahesh, 12 and a Kennedy Middle School student, won a silver medal in the 12-13 division of the U.S. Team kumite and a spot on the U.S. Team by besting brown and black belts. Mahesh took a second gold in the boys 12-and-under 45 kilogram advanced kumite.

The Okaigan Dojo is led by chief instructor and fourth degree black belt Mary Crawford and head coach second degree black belt David Kaneda. The complete list of the junior team members are: Mahesh, Matsumoto, Jain, Kavish Trevedi, Aaron Kaneda, Chaudhuri, Anika Singh, Stephan Choutov, Luca Matsumoto, Mahesh, Kaneda, Mori, Singh, Shimanouchi, Nandagaonkar and Bake.

For more information on the Okaigan Dojo visit at www.okaigan.com.