UPCOMING EVENT:

16TH ANNUAL GREAT LAKES KUNG FU SHUAI CHIAO & SAN SHOU USSA NATIONALS

Saturday, April 21st

Shuai-Chiao Seminar
Sunday, April 22nd

For more information, contact Sifu John Ervin Jr., Wing Lam Kung Fu School, 216 431-4991 Or Jan-yu Weng, USA Pres. At: jyweng@aol.com

Team USA Tryouts

This year’s tournament will be in Cleveland, Ohio hosted by Wing Lam Kung-fu. The top ranked winners will make the USA team to compete the international Shuai-chiao tournament in China this summer!

In addition to the tournament we are pleased to present two Shuai Chiao seminars by Master David Ch’ang of Taiwan on Sunday 4/22.

2007 INTERNATIONAL CHINA TOURNAMENT

Taizhou City, China
October 10th to 14th

More information, pg. 3

On the Web at: WWW.SHUAI-CHIAO.ORG
Typical landing from a wrestling or Jujutsu “wrapping” throw
— illustrated by Tim Goytowski and Sugumar Murugesan

Many of our younger competitors are coming into Shuai Chiao with backgrounds in other martial arts, such as high school wrestling or Japanese Judo or Jujutsu. As such, they are used to scoring with techniques that involve the sacrifice of a dominant standing position for a quick follow-up pin or submission in groundwork. In other words, they are consistently falling down with or on top of their opponent. In wrestling or Judo, this makes good sense and is good strategy: in Shuai Chiao it is not. In past tournaments fighters have gotten two points or more for throws that were powerful, but sloppy and uncontrolled. This is a safety issue as well as a philosophical one. In high-school wrestling, taking the opponent down with you is supposed to provide protection, as you both hit the mat at the same time. But in Shuai Chiao, you only get the point if you are on top, not beside, the opponent. This means you must land fully on top of your opponent to score. This encourages wrestling, or Judo “makikomi” style wrapping or sacrifice throws, but landing on top with full force. If you must go down with the opponent in real combat, the object is to land on top with enough force to disable him, but in sport competition this is far too dangerous.

My suggestion is not to change the existing rules, but to enforce them: no Shuai Chiao competitor should get more than one point for any throw if he loses his balance and control during a throw and goes down. The only exception should be if there is an obvious "pull-down" by the thrown competitor. Also, in my opinion, no points at all should be awarded for willfully and deliberately falling down on top of the opponent.

One of the things that truly separates our sport Shuai Chiao style from Judo and Jujutsu is the requirement for full throw control with no groundwork. This makes Shuai Chiao competition technically challenging, and visually exciting, as the well controlled and executed throw is the only scoring technique. Even a novice audience can clearly understand and appreciate the scoring when one competitor is thrown down, and the other is up. Let us continue promoting these best aspects of our ancient art.
RECENT USSA MEMBER BELT PROMOTIONS

Black Belt Promotions by Dr. Chi-hsiu Weng

Cupertino Kung-fu Club
Charles Lin (9th Teng)
Michael A. Lomotan (8th Teng)
Alan Lee (9th Teng)

Northern New Mexico Kung-fu
Nicolas Masi (9th Teng)

Chieh Promotions

Cupertino Kung-fu Club by Dr. Weng

Mark Chang (Green 1)
Corey Wong (5th Chieh)
Robert Chen (3rd Chieh)
Leonard Ting (Green blue 2)
Julia Chen (3rd Chieh)
Janet Chen (3rd Chieh)
Timothy Chen (4th Chieh)
Andrew Liu (Green 1)
John Liu (Green 1)
Philip Tsai (Green-blue 1)
Philip Tsai (4th Chieh)
Trevor Wong (Green Blue – 2)
Alex Yee (Green 1)
Matthew Yee (5th Chieh)

Ho-I Martial Arts Academy by Matt Mollica

Andrew Avellano (5th Chieh)
Christopher Barrett (5th Chieh)
Samuele Forti (5th Chieh)
Chi Hsieh (5th Chieh)
Sandeep Kommini (5th Chieh)

OSU Kungfu Shuai Chiao Club by Mike Grigsby

Timothy Goytowski — 1st Chieh
Jaron Bernstein — 1st Chieh
Kyle Kelly — 4th Chieh
Sugumar Murugesan — 4th Chieh
Matthew Samples — 5th Chieh

ACADEMIC TAI-CHI-CHUAN

Dr. Chi-hsiu D. Weng now holds a position as Dean of the College of Tai-chi at the University of East West Medicine in Sunnyvale, California.

Dr. Weng is currently working on the establishment of a Master Degree of Tai-chi Program at the university.

2007 International Shuai-chiao Tournament to be held in China in mid-October

The 2007 Taizhou International Chinese Shuai-Jiao Tournament will feature teams from all over Europe, Asia, and Pan-America competing from 10/10 to 10/14.

The USA will be represented by two teams of National Champions from the USSA Great Lakes Championships. These athletes will have the honor of representing the US to compete against elite athletes in one of the greatest Shuai-chiao competition stages! Those who make the team will have their room and board hosted by the sponsors during the competition. Don’t miss this chance to join make this trip!

Taizhou City is located along the southeast golden coast of China in Zhejiang Province. South of Shanghai, Zhejiang is noted for its physical beauty, and with thousands of islands and inlets, boasts of almost 4000 miles of coastline. Taizhou City is located halfway down the coast. The urban city area alone is over 500 square miles, with the total district covering 3400 square miles of land area, far more sea area, and is home to five and a half million people.

Although the Taizhou area has a long history, and is considered the cradle of the Neolithic Xiatang culture dating back some 5000 years, Taizhou City itself is a young city, set up in 1994 in a predominately agricultural area. It has grown rapidly since, and has a modern infrastructure of roads and telecommunications systems.

In lieu of the annual summer tournament in San Jose, CA, The USSA will conduct a training camp in late July/early August to prepare athletes for the China tournament. This will be an intensive weekend training with Dr. Weng and top black belts. Space will be prioritized for Team USA members first, however there should be some room for a few more people who wish to experience this camp.

To find out more information about the tournament and/or training camp, please contact Jan-Yu Weng at jyweng@aol.com or call 408-986-3659.
SPECIAL PRE-NATIONALS WORKOUT HELD AT THE NEW OSU RPAC

On Thursday, March 29th, the members of the Shuai Chiao Kungfu Club at the Ohio State University hosted the Ho-I Martial Arts Academy Shuai Chiao team at OSU. Their combined workout was held in the expansive new Recreational Physical Activity Center recently constructed at Ohio State.

Master Matt Mollica was assisted by OSU Coach Mike Grigsby and Ho-I Instructor Ryan Schumaker, for the two-hour event. Along with some light and controlled sparring, specific tournament techniques and strategies were discussed and demonstrated. Thanks go to all who were involved to make this a rewarding and successful event for all participants and, hopefully, one we will repeat in the coming years.