

# 剣 Kenyu

Volume 4, number 4  
April 1990

## 友

### DATEBOOK

1. The next WSKF Practice is a special memorial practice in honor of Mrs. Omoto, Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Tacoma (Boys and Girls Club, 1620 South 17th Street). On this occasion we hope that every WSKF member will be present.
2. Team 1990 first round of eliminations will be Saturday, April 21, at the UW IMA Quad D. The gym opens at 9:00 a.m. Eliminations begin at 10:00 a.m. and will hopefully be done by noon. Simultaneously with the eliminations, and continuing through the afternoon, there will be an all-day mini kendo camp for all WSKF kenshi. Bring a brown bag lunch, or buy something at the Husky Den in the HUB, for a day of kendo hosted by UW.
3. The next WSKF Board meeting is Sunday, May 6, 6:00 p.m. at Imperial Lanes.
4. The Seattle Kendo Kai Summer Camp is the weekend of June 15, 16 and 17 at Camp Coleman. Plan now to bring your family for a lot of fun and fellowship!

### PASSAGE

One of kendo's greatest supporters and most loyal friends, Mildred Mutsuko Omoto, died on Thursday, April 5. In every way exemplifying 100% the genuine kendo spirit in her brave fearless courage, honor, morality, and constant cheerful humor, as well as her relaxed yet proud noble bearing, Mrs. Omoto was the wife of Rod N. Omoto, a Founder, a President, and Head Instructor of WSKF. As the central figure in Omoto Sensei's life, Mrs. Omoto freely contributed personal sacrifice of endless time and effort so that he could devote himself to all of us. She also made her own direct and valuable contributions to the welfare of WSKF, including behind-the-scenes work in the kitchens at every taikai. Many kenshi looked to Mrs. Omoto for personal inspiration, encouragement, and advice. She was a trusted and very beautiful friend. We extend our deepest sympathy to her daughter and our fellow kenshi Charlotte, to her daughter Norma Wakatsuki and grandson Ryan Wakatsuki, and to our beloved Omoto Sensei, as well as her sisters in Japan.

### WSKF TEAM 1990 PRACTICE CALENDAR

#### April

Tuesday	April 17	WSKF Mrs. Omoto Memorial Practice at Tacoma, 7 p.m.
Saturday	April 21	Team 1990 Eliminations / Mini Kendo Camp at UW, 10 a.m.
Friday	April 27	Team 1990 Practice at Northwest, 7 p.m.

#### May

Wednesday	May 9	Team 1990 Practice at UW, 7 p.m.
Friday	May 18	WSKF Practice at Northwest, 7 p.m.
Tuesday	May 29	Team 1990 Practice at Tacoma, 7 p.m.

### CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

The organizers of the Cherry Blossom Festival really count on kendo every year to be one of their biggest stage attractions. It wouldn't succeed without the enthusiastic participation of every one of the members, and the organizer Doug Imanishi would like to

(more over)

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MILDRED MUTSUKO OMOTO

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Born February 6, 1920  
Hiroshima, Japan

Died April 5, 1990  
Tacoma, Washington



Mrs. Omoto was an extremely kind, gracious and beautiful lady, who happened to play a major role in the history of the WSKF. In 1938 Omoto Sensei left Hawaii and traveled to Japan to pursue his kendo study. It was there that he met and married Mrs. Omoto, and she came with him to the United States in 1960. Mrs. Omoto worked hard to support the family while Omoto Sensei went through engineering school. She also raised two daughters, Charlotte and Norma. In 1967 Omoto Sensei reorganized the Tacoma Buddhist Temple Kendo Club and became heavily involved in kendo. Mrs. Omoto not only supported him in this, but had an interest of her own in it, serving the club in the demanding position of Treasurer. She loved to watch kendo, and had an excellent eye for all of its subtleties. She could easily tell good or bad kendo, and she knew every kenshi by name and watched their progress very caringly. She was especially fond of the younger children and enjoyed seeing them work hard and develop. With the founding in 1975 of WSKF, Mrs. Omoto's strong support made it possible for Omoto Sensei to carry out his many duties as President. At every taikai she was always there from dawn to dusk in the kitchen, as in the above photo snapped in the Seattle Buddhist Temple on October 17, 1981. Ever the fan, she would frequently dash into the hall to watch decisive matches. At parties afterwards in pleasant conversation one could learn a lot about kendo history from Mrs. Omoto. She also had a sympathetic ear for anyone puzzled about kendo politics, and has been known to put in a good word with Sensei on behalf of some idea someone had. When she became ill, she carried intense suffering with lightness and grace, and went on with as much of her regular program as she possibly could. And she beat the doctors' odds by living many years more than they'd given her, as always a woman of incredible resolve. We're very sorry now that she's finally been forced to leave us, but we'll try to live kendo following her wonderful example.

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## CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL, continued.

thank those who came. On Saturday April 7, Jeffrey Marsten, Elizabeth Marsten, Manabu Yabe, Tom Bolling, Aya Yamaguchi, Kohei Yamaguchi, Kim Fleischman, Teresa Anderson, Suzie Kozawa, Larry Rouch, Juan Ramos, Ron Risher, David Yotsuuye and Joe Kilgore. On Sunday, Manabu Yabe, Tom Bolling, Aya Yamaguchi, Kohei Yamaguchi, Kazu Namizato, Hana Koike, Midori Koike, Kim Fleischman, Dan Warner and David Yotsuuye. Again, many thanks.

## SEMPO

Just a reminder that there's an excellent English language kendo publication coming out of the Midwest Kendo Federation. It's SEMPO, edited by Tom Okawara, and is only \$5.00 for two issues a year. Address is: Mr. Tom Okawara, 1324 Main Street, Evanston, Illinois 60202-1653. This is a very classy and highly informative journal which is definitely worth your while! Your Editor keeps his back issues of SEMPO and refers to them often for inspiration...

## 5th US KENDO CHAMPIONSHIP

As most of us know, the US Taikai is coming up August 31 through September 2 in Fort Worth, Texas. It should be stressed that in addition to the WSKF Team 1990 itself, WSKF would like to have a contingent of other interested members go along to support the Team and help the hosts with scoring, timekeeping, and operation of the tournament generally. This is an ideal opportunity to get together with kenshi from all over the nation, and low cost group rates for airfare and accommodations are being arranged by our Texas hosts. Please consider going, and let the Team 1990 Manager, Tom Bolling, know if you would be interested. We'd like to include you!

## THE LAST WORD

"The cherry blossom falls. Those remaining will also fall."