

[USA]

From Los Angeles, Florida and North Carolina USA, 3 persons (Kenshi) will participate in this event.

< Los Angeles >

I guess it may be around 7 or 8 years ago, it was middle-aged gentleman Master Kenji Irie who came to Atsugi Kendo hall (Dojo) all of a sweat carrying the tools of Kendo on the shoulder to participate in the Mid-Summer Practice.

He told me as follows.

“I’m a doctor living in LA and have the 4th grade of Kendo. I come to Japan to visit my parents’ grave, and I’d like to participate in the Kendo Practice only on that occasion.”

Needless to say I accepted it willingly. And when I told him that in LA Master Hori lives, who graduated from Waseda University and was a good match rival for me, he told me in surprise that Mr.Hori is Master for me. So immediately we found kindred spirit in each other.

From that time he came and joined us in every summer training.

While until recently he was too busy to come, his daughter came to Kendo hall (Doujou) to practice in this summer.

It may be already 3 or 4 years since he came last. I’m looking forward to seeing him again.

(Written by Chairman Takizawa)



< Florida >

It was 4 years ago that Mr. Takashi Yukawa the 5th grade emigrated from Atsugi to Florida.

He gives lessons of Kendo to younger generation there.

This time, his 3 pupils, Gelemy Goula, Diego Beltran, and Joan Bulgo will take part in the Atsugi International Kendo Festival.

These 3 young guys belong to the Orland Kendo Club located in the center of Orland city Florid.

In Orland there is Disney World (the largest one in the world) where lots of family visit from many countries.

People who do Kendo visit there carrying tools of Kendo do practice.

People of England, Canada, Brazil, Taiwan, Korea and Chile have practiced there so far.

I feel that there is exactly a Kendo communication there.

On September 5th last year the scene of Kendo training was broadcast on FOX 35 Florida TV.

The people of that moment are in the attached photo.

(Written by Yukawa 5th grade and Fujiwara)

< North Carolina >

Fujiwara of Shiseikan visited North Carolina once a year to learn the psychological remedy and stayed there for 8 days and 4 years have passed since Fujiwara started to practice at the Kendo hall there.

Mr. Mike Watson 3rd grade who is representative of Kendo Club North Carolina University will participate in this event this time.

His e-mail address is "Kenshi" and his daughter went to Japan to study a short term.

He is a Kenshi who loves Japan very much and displays Japanese doll and photos of temple in Kyoto in his home.

He is looking forward to first coming to Japan.

< Outline of the situation of Kendo in USA >

The number of people who do Kendo in USA is about 5,000. There are 15 branches and 2 masters 8th grade all over America. Some masters of the All Japan Kendo Federation visit there periodically and coach intently how to coach and judge.

The American team got the second place defeating Japanese team at the World Wide Kendo Tournament held in Taipei 2005. (Written by Fujiwara, Head of Liaison Department of Atsugi International Kendo Festival)