

2015 Camp Bosei- Camp of Dreams

Bosei translates to dreams or aspirations. For me, this camp was another monumental step in a lifelong dream of Judo. It all started with my introduction to Judo in 1981. It took two more years for me to find a dojo close enough to me to start regular training. Since then, judo has influenced my everyday life. It has been an amazing journey in which I made friends all over the world, taught me a way to learn about the world, develop the confidence to excel at my career, and allowed me the courage to live in Japan for nine years. Because of Camp Bosei, the dream continues.

When I first started Judo, I constantly heard about Kashiwazaki Sensei and his judo from my sensei and training partners. I started researching why they spoke so highly of them. When I first saw his judo in reference books, I saw something special that I could not explain in words, but was more a feeling that I wanted my judo to be as living and functional as Bushido. I always wanted to have the opportunity to meet and train with Kashiwazaki Sensei. Camp Bosei gave me that opportunity, but it gave me even more than I could imagine.

Broadening my cultural education, during the camp, was quite a surprise to me. The field trip to Royal St. Regis College and its rich history allowed me to see how truly unique Sensei Dave Miller's judo program is and how it has connected Canadian education and history with Tokai Matsumae Judo Juku. This relationship is very fitting since Toronto is the most international city I have ever visited. So many cultures and nationalities co-exist that it only makes sense to include judo into the educational system of this global city. Each day's cultural lectures and field trips into some of the city's ethnic communities were like taking a multi-country trip without the airplane trip.

The phenomenal Dacks family history lecture and walking tour of the Jewish community gave me greater appreciation of how the human spirit can strive in adversity and how cultural values are important in maintaining hope in the human spirit. Their immigration to Canada and the cultural communities' support gave them the opportunity and hope to thrive in their new country. The same was true for every community I lived through throughout the week, and was evident in the Toronto people I met.

The field trip to the Niagara Falls area was amazing. I was in awe of the natural wonder of the falls. It reminded me of the power of nature and its beauty. I found peace in reflecting on how I can connect to earth, nature, and God (Kami). I found myself asking, "How can I protect the planet for future generations?" The falls made me realize again that I am just one of the many creatures that live on the earth and I must respect what it provides for me. On the bus ride back to Toronto

and Roger Stadium, Hashimoto Sensei continue to address his philosophy of Judo and a Global Society.

Roger's Stadium, the Home of the Toronto Blue Jays, brought up memories of my youth. Baseball was my life throughout my early years. I spent many years honing my skills and dreams of becoming a major league baseball player. Although I did not pursue professional baseball, the hours of training in pursuit of this goal taught me how approach learning other subjects. It gave me the perseverance to start Judo and my continuing my lifelong journey. The tour of the stadium brought up a rush of memories and emotion from past. I realized the small step of my past has opened huge opportunities in the present and the future. Every experience can be shape how we relate to society and educate ourselves.

The farewell dinner on the last night was an awesome opportunity to form lifelong friendships. Incredible conversations with Hashimoto Sensei, Terasawa Sensei, Kotera Sensei, Muirhead Sensei, Baldwin Sensei, Clark Sensei and Mr. Miller, David's father, were true treasures of lifetime. Terasawa Sensei playing the harmonic was a total surprise. These men are truly national treasure and I am so privileged to have the chance to spending time getting to know them all.

Looking back on the week, I am truly blessed to be part of this special Judo Camp. I met so many friends, reconnected with old friend from japan, helped young judo player enjoy the sport I love, and experienced the hospitality of Canada. I will be forever grateful for my friendship with Yamaguchi sensei. This truly was my "Camp of Dreams".

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