

Korean Academy of Taekwondo 2009 Year in Review

2009 was another great year for KAT. Here are some of the highlights, in no particular order.

- **Demos** – We performed many demos this year, including at Queen of Peace Church, Kidsprey for the City of Aurora, the Aurora Mall, Festival International, and of course at the Denver Nuggets Game. Toko even got his picture taken with all the Nuggets Cheerleaders!



- **KAT Loveland** – Master Kamil moved to Loveland to take over the former ML Parr academy and changed it to the KAT Loveland branch. We also got Master Willie Sanders, a new instructor for KAT.
- **Toko** – We became the first TKD school in Colorado to get our own mascot, Toko the TKD Tiger! Toko is very popular at tournaments, demos, and more.
- **Tests** – We held the 113th-116th Promotion Tests, and awarded over 200 new belt ranks (not counting little tigers). One of the most rewarding parts about being an instructor is tying a new black belt around a deserving student's waist. I had that honor 3 times this year with Instructor Edwin (2nd dan), Instructor Katie (3rd Dan), and Master Kamil (4th Dan). Jaire F and Kevin L also passed the physical portion of their first dan tests. Next year there will be a ton of 1st dans!
- **Tournaments** – The KAT competition team kicked into high gear under Master Matt and Master Bill and we had our most successful season in recent memory. In the AAU State tournament, we lost only 2 matches, in CO State



we had many mismatches but still won more than half, in the KAT tournament competition team members won *every* division they entered, and in the Yi's Elite Friendship tournament we won gold in *every* forms, sparring, and breaking division we entered. We also returned to the Junior Nationals for the first time in years and did extremely well. In sparring, Josh Kosloski, Joe Law, and Jaire Fortt dominated their opponents to win gold, while Grace Kosloski and Marcus Risley each earned the silver medal. Josh also won silver in forms and breaking, while Grace won bronze in forms. Although our team had only 5 people, 3 golds was the most any team from Colorado won in sparring. Mayor Tauer of Aurora presented the kids with certificates based on their accomplishments.

- **New Programs and Classes** – This year also saw the addition of many new programs and classes. We started teaching at Aurora Quest Academy, and Instructor Shannon began the special Mom's Class (AKA the 'Big Tigers'). We also started the Future Black Belt commitment program.
- **Summer Festival** – KAT hosted the 1st Summer Martial Arts festival in August. New events included **Paintfoot Sparring** (hey, it *said* it was 'washable') **Trick Kicks/Break dancing Battles**, and **Largest Group Synchronized Form**. We got 52 people for chun ji this year, let's get 100 next year!



Of course, the year was also filled with much of the 'usual.' Mountain Training, Mountain Survival Training, Summer Camp, hard work, and people growing happier, healthier, and safer. Katie and I are feeling incredibly blessed to have so many wonderful and dedicated students as we look forward to 2010, the Chinese Year of the Tiger. Next year we will host the Collegiate National Taekwondo Championships in Colorado for the first time, and Katie is due with the newest member of the KAT family in late June.

Sincerely,

Master Bill Pottle

P.S. To see highlight videos from the above events, go to the KAT Youtube Channel (www.youtube.com/kattkd) KAT Website (www.kattaekwondo.com) or KAT Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/bill.pottle>)