



For Immediate Release

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Westborough/Westford, MA – On July 18th 2008, twenty three students from Massachusetts ranging in age from 7 – 16 will compete at the USA-National Karate Federation Championships in Houston Texas. Eric Rossini, Sensei for the group said, “This is a team of handpicked students who will be specially trained for this competition.” Tryouts were held on December 15th 2007 and training began in January. Karate students from the Boroughs Martial Arts Center in Westborough and One Stop Fun in Westford attended the tryouts. Team members are from Westborough, Shrewsbury, Grafton, Ashland, Sutton, Hopkinton, Chelmsford, Westford and other towns.

Rossini, a 3rd degree black belt and USA-NKF champion stated, “Last year, I won at the national championships. It was an amazing experience and I want to share it with others. I have a lot of talented children in my dojo. I want to give them the opportunity to compete and have a shot at winning a medal at the national championships.”

To help prepare these students and others in his dojo, Sensei Rossini brought in world champion Clay Morton to lead a 3 day Kata seminar this January. Said Rossini, “Clay is one of the best in the world at kata. It is fortunate that I could fly him here to work with my classes. It is truly an honor.” Students traveled from New York City and across New England to attend this seminar. He hopes to involve national coaches Dustin Baldis & Tommy Hood in future trainings. Both are 7 time national champions.

Rossini continued, “In addition, my students are competing in other tournaments around New England. This will give them practice competing against other schools using traditional styles of karate.” His students have done quite well, recently earning gold in all the kumite (sparring) events they competed in at the 2008 New England AAU Championships in Lebanon NH. They also competed in the Massachusetts Karate Championships on April 6th. The results were good. Overall the team earned 30 medals and half of the team medaled in both categories.

“Unfortunately all of this training and travel takes money. Right now, we are launching a fund raising campaign to help offset the costs. To get this group to Houston is going to be a big effort. Our goal is to raise \$15,000. It is a lot of money to raise. The kids are selling chocolate ‘Karate Kick Pops’ for \$1 each. “To-date they have sold over 1,500 kick pops earning the first \$1,000 towards our goal.” We will also try other strategies. I am hoping to get corporate sponsorship and support. If we succeed, it will cover most of the airfare, hotel and registration costs to get my team and coaches to Houston.”

Rossini added, “Karate isn’t about kicking someone in the head or breaking boards. It is a life skill that develops confidence, focus, strong muscles and strong minds. It teaches children discipline and focus that will serve them well, not just on the mat, but later in life, in the classroom, in the boardroom, in anything and everything they do.”

Karate is now an Olympic sport and should be in the Olympic Games for 2016. These children may have a shot at competing someday in the Olympics. This effort is a positive step in that direction.