

TaekwonDo

47965

MARTIAL ARTS, FITNESS AND HEALTH

GRANDMASTER KOANG WOONG KIM

*Receives WTF's Highest Honor —
What He Did For
Tae Kwon Do*

'90 USTU NATIONALS — A HISTORIC EVENT

*Creative Forms &
Breaking Debut
Limas Wins 2 Golds*

TKD & VIOLENCE

*Countering Destruction —
Fighting Fire With Fire*

THIS IS KUM DO!

*U.S. Team Tours & Trains In Korea
What A Vacation (??)*

MARTIAL ARTS AT WEST POINT

*Hand-To-Hand
Combat Has Returned*

GET READY TO COMPETE

*How To Prepare For A Tournament
Training The Mind For Peak Performance*

Plus!

GREAT TECHNIQUES:

GROUND FIGHTING —

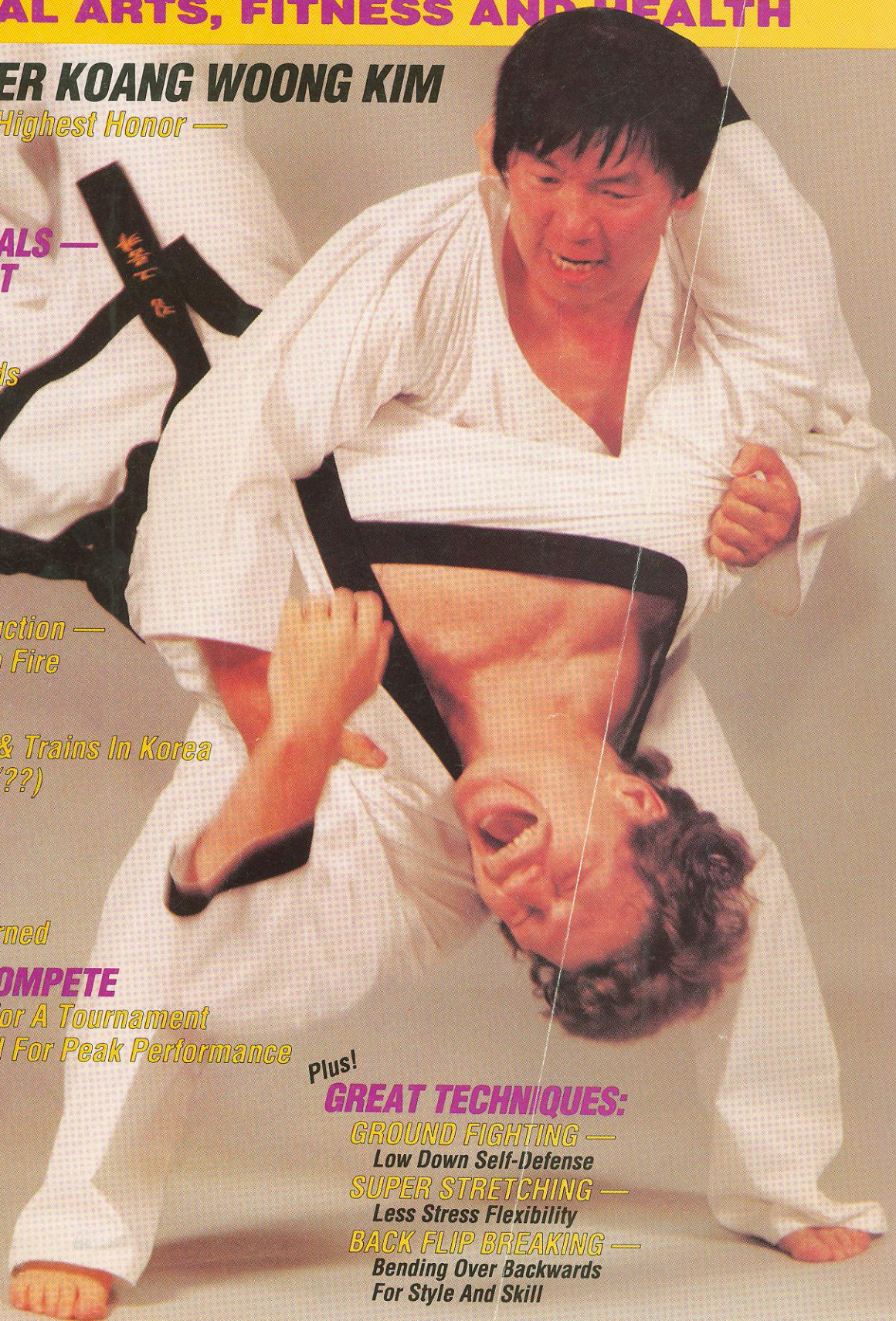
Low Down Self-Defense

SUPER STRETCHING —

Less Stress Flexibility

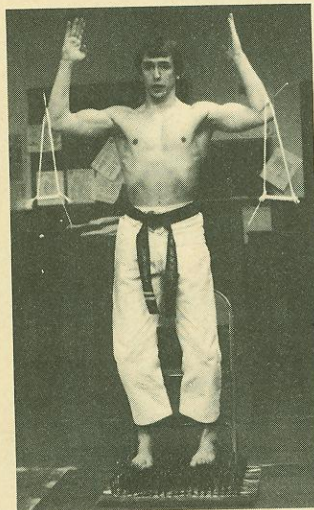
BACK FLIP BREAKING —

*Bending Over Backwards
For Style And Skill*

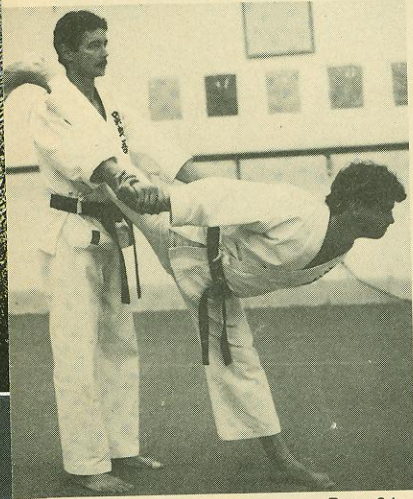




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OUR 9TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



TaeKwonDoTM

MARTIAL ARTS, FITNESS AND HEALTH

Volume 11, Number 1 November 1990

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GRANDMASTER KOANG WOONG KIM— REACHING TKD'S HIGHEST PLATEAU

By Stephen Lesavich

How do you become one of the highest ranking WTF masters in the world? Follow the example of this Wisconsin Grandmaster...

On March 9th, 1990, the World Tae Kwon Do Federation promoted Grandmaster Koang Woong Kim to 9th degree black belt. The level is Tae Kwon Do's highest attainable rank. Grandmaster Kim becomes only the twelfth person in the world to be promoted to 9th degree black belt by the World Tae Kwon Do Federation. Kim joins fellow USTU member Byung Ho Choi of Miami as well as several other U.S. grandmasters promoted outside of Korea to 9th Dan by the WTF.

The internationally renown Kim has over 45 years of martial experience, and teaches the Ji Do Kwan style of Tae Kwon Do, known for its vigorous training methods and explosive techniques.

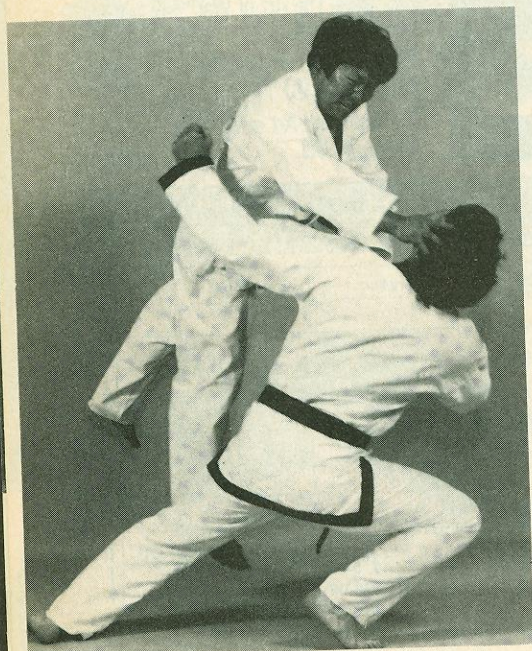
Grandmaster Kim is involved in all aspects of Tae Kwon Do on both the U.S. national and world scenes. He is Chairman of the United States Tae Kwon Do Union (USTU) Technical, Contest Rules and Referee Certification Committee, and is on the road two-three days per week conducting USTU referee seminars all over the United States. Grandmaster Kim has been a WTF International Referee since 1977, and currently holds WTF Class One International Referee Certification. He is considered by many the best International Referee from the United States and recently became a member of the WTF International Referee Committee, and is the sole representative from the U.S. on this committee.

Grandmaster Kim has refereed at many large international competitions including the 10th Pan American Games, the 1st, 2nd and 5th Pan American Tae Kwon Do Championships, the 1986 and 1989 World Cups, the 1st-3rd World Games, and the 3rd-9th World Tae Kwon Do Championships. He was named outstanding referee at the 5th Pan American Tae Kwon Do Championships held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in December, 1986, and was awarded a commendation by the Pan American Tae Kwon Do Union for his skill as a referee in international competition.

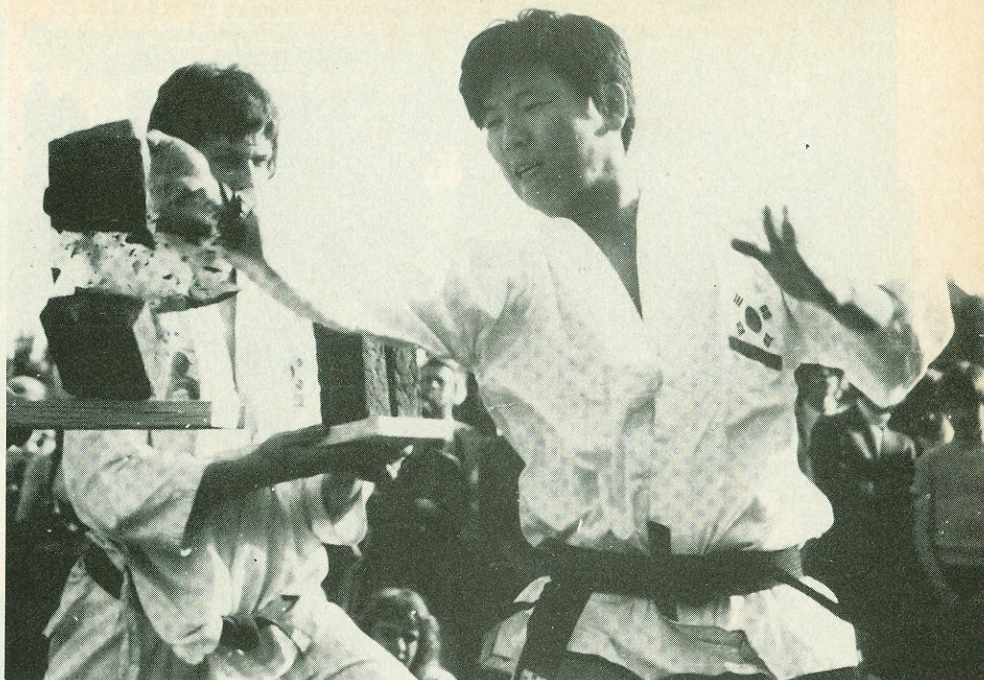
In addition to his teaching and referee responsibilities, Grandmaster Kim has coached at the national and international level. He was named USTU coach of the year in 1987, and has helped prepare the U.S. Tae Kwon Do Team for international



At 52 years of age, Kim can still perform some fantastic techniques like the one photographed above; however, he is best known by many as the best TKD referee in the United States.



Right: Grandmaster Kim at a 1972 demonstration in Munich, Germany. Kim taught TKD in Belgium and the Netherlands before he opened a school in Germany in 1969.



Games held in Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S. Team Manager for the 8th World Tae Kwon Do Championships held in Barcelona, Spain, and as a USTU delegate at the 1988 Summer Olympics. In addition, he is past President of the Wisconsin State Tae Kwon Do Association, past President of the Illinois State Tae Kwon Do Association, and past chairman of the USTU Tournament Committee. He also travels all over the world to help oversee WTF promotions and has judged promotions up to 7th dan black belt.

Grandmaster Kim's roots lie deep in the martial arts. Born in Seoul, Korea, in 1938, he began his training by studying judo

from his father, a 6th dan judo master. After becoming very proficient in the art of judo, Kim boxed briefly, becoming Korean Regional Lightweight Champion. Concerned with the affects of constant head trauma associated with boxing, and wanting more of a total body development than he could get from judo, Kim turned to Tae Kwon Do.

Using the skills he developed in his judo and boxing training, Kim quickly excelled at Tae Kwon Do. Tae Kwon Do became Koang Woong Kim's life and passion. His Tae Kwon Do education included many special training camps which lasted up to one month at a time. These camps were

Grandmaster Kim has come a long way since first studying judo with his father, a judo master. He took up boxing for a short time and won the title of Korean Regional Lightweight Champion before deciding to practice TKD.

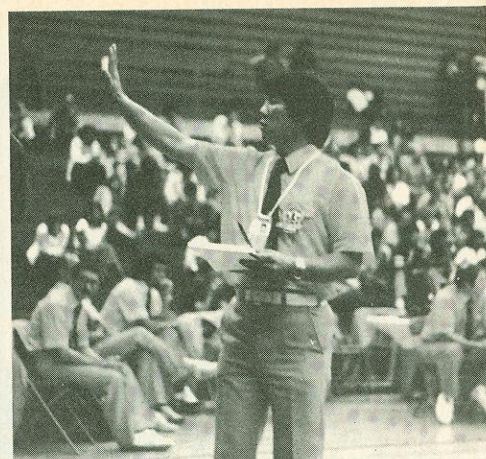
competition at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Grandmaster Kim is adamant in his opinion about schools that advertise "world championships" when they are merely local tournaments. He relates, "I am discouraged over the fact that so many karate schools put together a local tournament and call it a 'World Championship'. The U.S.A. Tae Kwon Do team competes in 'true' international competition against teams from all over the world. They have earned the right to compete internationally by winning state and national competitions. Many times even their major accomplishments, such as a medal at an international Tae Kwon Do Championship, are overlooked or downplayed due to the constant claims of other martial arts schools holding a 'World Championship'."

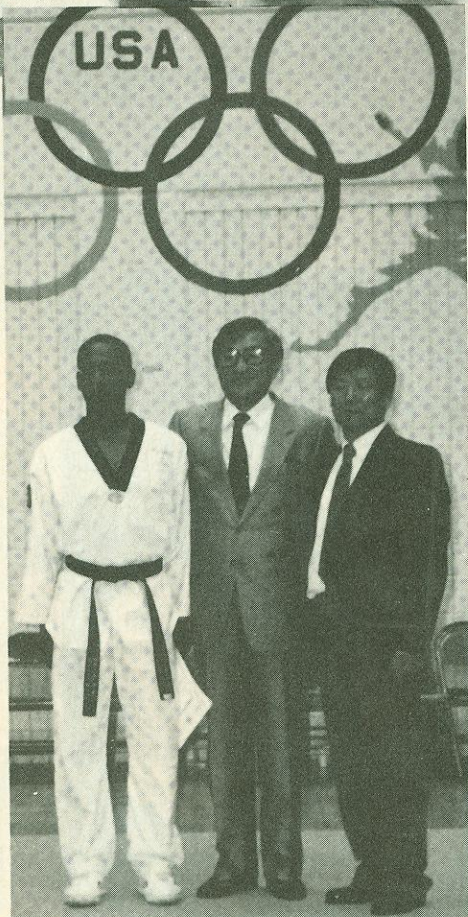
Grandmaster Kim has also served as manager of the North Tae Kwon Do team at the 1987 U.S. Olympic Sports Festival, Assistant Technical Tae Kwon Do Coordinator for the 10th Pan American

The Grandmaster credits his training in TKD as a prime reason why he survived a multitude of combat missions in Vietnam while in the Korean Army Special Forces.





Left Grandmaster Kim as center referee at the 1982 5th World Tae Kwon Do Championships in Guayaquil, Ecuador. **Above:** Refereeing at the 1979 4th WTF World TKD Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.



Grandmaster Kim (second from right) was selected to be a juror at the 1989 9th WTF World TKD Championships in Seoul.

Above: Kim was chosen to referee at the 1989 World Games in Karlsruhe, Germany. **Left (L to R):** Mr. Kareem A. Jabbar (Grandmaster Kim's highest ranking student), WTF Vice President Grandmaster Chong Woo Lee and Grandmaster Kim at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO.

designed to push the students to their mental and physical limits. Kim and his colleagues trained in the sweltering heat of summer, the bitter cold of winter, along the sea and in the mountains. Their dojang was usually somewhere in the Korean countryside. This special training helped Kim perfect his techniques, and in 1962, he became head Tae Kwon Do instructor for Han Yang University.

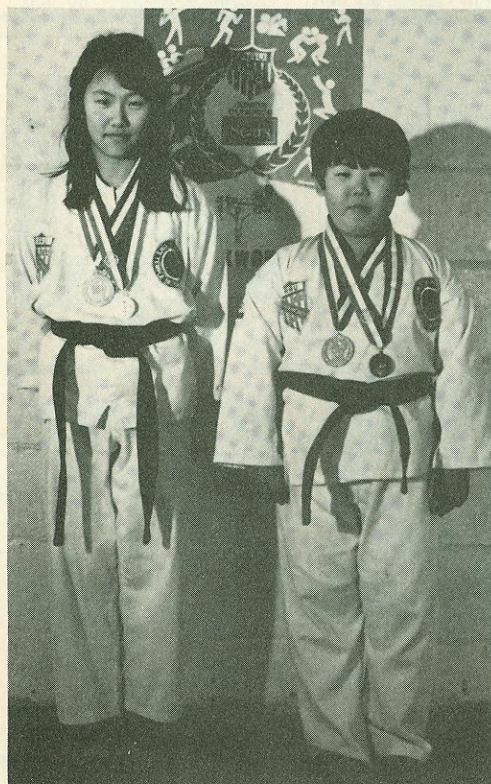
In 1965, as the fighting escalated in South East Asia, Kim was sent to Vietnam with the Korean Army Special Forces. He used his Tae Kwon Do skills on combat missions with the Korean Army Special Forces in the jungles all over Vietnam. Many of these missions included knife and hand-to-hand combat. He also taught Tae Kwon Do to the Korean Army, the Korean Army Special Forces and the U.S. Army Green Berets as part of his military duties. Grandmaster Kim attributes the physical and mental discipline he developed in his practice of Tae Kwon Do as the major reason he survived four years in the thick of the fighting, without any serious injuries.

In 1969, Kim left Vietnam and traveled

Grandmaster Kim with his family: children Mijun and John, and his wife, Kyung (seated).

to Europe teaching Tae Kwon Do in Belgium, the Netherlands and opening a school in Germany. In 1972, he helped coordinate, and was a participant in a Tae Kwon Do demonstration at the 28th Summer Olympics Games in Munich, Germany. This demonstration helped introduce Tae Kwon Do to the world, and was one of the early seeds planted to allow Tae Kwon Do to be recognized and accepted as an international sport. In fact, Tae Kwon Do made its debut as an Olympic Demonstration Sport at the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea. Tae Kwon Do will again be a demonstration sport in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. The introduction of Tae Kwon Do to the Olympic Games is one of the major accomplishments of a large group of men and women including Grandmaster Kim, who worked tirelessly to bring Tae Kwon Do into the international spotlight.

Late in 1972, Kim left Germany and



Mijun, a fourth degree black belt and John, a third degree, are both Junior Olympic Champions.

came to the United States, settling in Chicago, Illinois. In 1976, he returned to Korea to obtain his 8th dan black belt and to receive his title of Tae Kwon Do grandmaster. In 1979, Grandmaster Kim moved just across the Illinois border to Kenosha, Wisconsin, his present home and location of his main school.

Tae Kwon Do is still a family activity for Koang Woong Kim. His daughter, Mijun is a WTF 4th dan black belt, and his son, John a 3rd dan. His wife, Kyung, helps with the business affairs of his school, Kim's Temple of Tae Kwon Do, and his brother-in-law, Master John S. Lee, a 6th Dan Black Belt, runs his branch school in Zion, Illinois.

The ninth degree black belt represents to Grandmaster Koang Woong Kim the culmination of a life long commitment to Tae Kwon Do. At this level, the Tae Kwon Do grandmaster must have mastered not only the physical skills, but have spent considerable time and effort promoting Tae Kwon Do activities at all levels; studying the past and examining the present; and researching new ideas and techniques to assure the future of Tae Kwon Do. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Stephen Lesavich is a WTF third dan black belt, a WTF referee and USTU Continental Referee. Professionally, he is finishing a Ph.D. degree in Computer Science and is a member of the Technical Staff at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Naperville, Illinois.



Grandmaster Kim at his dojang in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Kim moved to his present location in 1979 from Chicago where he had owned and operated a school since 1972.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since this article was prepared, TKDT has learned that former USTU President Moo Yong Lee of E. Hartford, CT, and present USTU President Kyong Won Ahn of Cincinnati have also attained WTF 9th dan. Unconfirmed reports state that others in the U.S. have also attained 9th degree status. We plan to publish a profile of all of them in the near future.