2015 Dallas Invitational
50th Anniversary

The first Dallas Invitational was held back in 1964. The tournament was sponsored by the Tamura Judo Institute which had just recently opened in Dallas. Vince Tamura was U.S. National Judo Champion in 1954, 1956, and for a 3rd time in 1959. Vince represented the United States in the first Judo World Championships, held in 1956 in Tokyo, Japan. He also represented the United States as a referee in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, the first Olympics that included Judo. The Dallas Invitational missed a year in 2000 when Vince retired. Since then it has been run by Dallas Judo (renamed Eastside Dojo), which are old members of the Tamura Judo Institute.

This year the tournament had 460 entries, from 108 different Clubs. We had 21 entries from University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, a group from Monterrey, Mexico and competitors from Washington and California to Florida and Rhode Island.

The tournament showcased a very high level of senior competition. Kitsu Sai's Adonis Diaz won Gold and $1000 in 60kg, which had 3 of the 4 top ranked athletes. Salama Salem (Tech) won a packed 73kg division that had 23 competitors, including 3 of the top 5 ranked athletes. U.S number 2, Jack Hatton (Saratoga Judo) took Gold in 81kg for a second year in a row. Alfred Brown (USA Stars East) edged out Matthew Koch (Camal Judo/OTC Colorado) for 90kg title. Mark Fletcher (Waka Mu Shu/Leo White) and Arash Soofiani (San Jose State) nearly killed each other, with Fletcher taking Gold. Number 1 ranked Angelica Delgado (Kit su sai) won Gold in 57kg. Alisha Galles (Mojica/San Jose) took Gold in 63kg with Ellie Keen (Cohen Brothers) taking silver. A very strong Women's 70kg ended up with number 2 ranked, Samantha Bleier (OTC Colorado) Gold, number 3 ranked, Chantal Wright (unaffiliated) Silver, and number 1 ranked, Kathleen Sell (OTC Colorado) bronze. In 78+ Number 1 ranked Nina Cutro-Kelly(Universal) took Gold over number 2, Mackenzie Williams (Becerra).

VInce Tamura Outstanding Junior Competitor award went to Emiliano Saucedo (Becerra). Emiliano moved up an age group and won in a strong 9 person division.

Masato Tamura Outstanding Senior Competitor Award went to Tokuzo Takahashi (LA Tenri Dojo).

First place Team Trophy went to Becerra Judo, second place to Ruben Martin Judo Training Center, and third to Fort Worth Judo.