

2016 Ruben Martin Open
Jan 9, 2016

The Ruben Martin Judo training Center has been one of the top Judo Dojos in North Texas and in the whole U.S. for several decades. On January 9 they hosted the 1st Ruben Martin Open.

Ruben Martin teamed with Judocomp to host a tournament that had:

- reasonable entry fees, half price for 2nd or 3rd categories
- a separate judo ne-waza competition,
- simplified refereeing, 1 qualified ref per mat, no side judges or replays
- less strict interpretations of ever changing Olympic Judo rules.
 - illegal leg grab or touch = shido, **not** hansoku make
 - stalling, illegal gripping, false attack type penalties: first infraction = warning and explanation, after that shido
- online registration and remote weigh-ins with weight check at tournament
- gives recognition to competitors by posting results and photos on judocomp website

Judoka from Oklahoma to Corpus Christi came to compete. Bantam girls Mariella Martinez(Becerra) and Cambria Nyland(Eastside) both continued their winning ways. In the Intermediate girls Kokoro's Natalie Moreno and Denton's Katherine Allin took first places. The Kokoro and Denton clubs have both been increasing their participation in tournaments. Lilliana Konoval(Lopez) won the intermediate girls ne-waza competition. Juvenile girls divisions were won by Sisa Hrbek(Universal) and Katie Hrubes(Ft Worth Judo).

Kade Moore (Ruben Martin) took first place in both Judo and ne-waza as did Benjamin Dyer(Ft Worth Judo). Emiliano Saucedo(Becerra) won the judo competition, but did not compete in the ne-waza. Christian Konoval (Lopez) took second to Emiliano and then took first in ne-waza.

Ft. Worth Judo swept the men's masters with Jeremy Luescher, Bill Peron, and Marcus Surrat taking the gold medals. Bill Peron and Marcus Surrat also won their Senior Men divisions and Marcus Surrat took second in ne-waza. Texoma's Richard Smith took 1st in Judo and third in ne-waza, his teammate Wade Allison took second in Judo. There was no official Outstanding Competitor, but if there was, it would have been Caleb Wesley(Universal) who breezed through both his Judo and ne-waza competition.

Looking forward to next year. Will definitely need a larger venue to accommodate more Judo and especially more ne-waza.