

Martial Art

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Bill GROSSMAN



JEFF SMITH

Let Him Help You
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TOURNAMENT SAFETY

It's About Time

BILLY BLANKS

*A Long Road
To Success*

RALPH ALEGRIA

*Discovers The
Fountain of Youth*

FIVE ANIMALS

*A Devastating
Fighting Strategy*

FINAL 87 RATINGS

SIG KUFFERATH

*Ju Jitsu's
Living Legend*

EIICHI MIYAZATO

*His Role in
Goju History*

SECRET NINJA STYLE REVEALED

SOME TOUGH CALIFORNIA KIDS

What do Elgin Bettancourt, Jeff Sue, Dodger Villars, and Jonathan Schwartz have in common? They have won more divisions in California tournament karate than anyone else around. Maybe George Chung or Eric Lee, if they were competing regularly could give them a go, but as of now there seems to be no one else on the horizon. We are featuring these young competitors, along with several others in a series of articles. For this issue we have decided to showcase Flores Brothers' student, Elgin Bettancourt, the Double Trouble girls from Bill Grossman's school in Daly City, Al Reyes's star pupil, Shawna Swiger of Vacaville and Max Togisala's student, Kirstin Babcock.

← ← ← *Elgin Bettancourt - A Young Man With A Future* → → →

Elgin Bettancourt sits in the living room in his parents house surrounded by 236 trophies. His mother swears that they will stay there even after he leaves home to start his own family. Elgin is 14, has been competing and winning since he was eight, and has been a black belt for six months. He performs katas complete with backflips and full splits in his perfectly pressed Flores Bros. uniform.

This polite, soft spoken high school freshman took home three first place trophies in junior competition at the recent Gold Coast Championships. His mother, Virginia, says that "He has done it himself," but quickly adds that a tremendous amount of credit must go to Jesus and Refugio Flores, his instructors in karate. Elgin himself echoes this sentiment, and states, "I give thanks to my instructors for what they have taught me", yet he goes on to say that when he is out on the floor competing, it is his parents that he is thinking of.

Elgin is an A and B student in school and he plans to someday be an engineer or possible an architect.



ABOVE - *Elgin Battencourt at home in April 1983 (before he really started winning tournaments)*

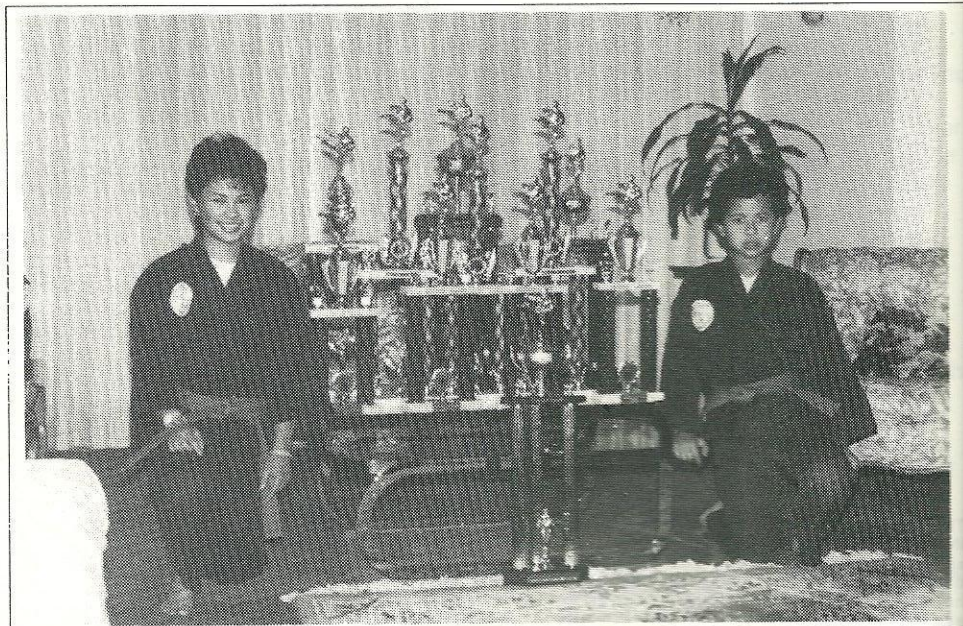
← ← ← *DOUBLE TROUBLE - Double Delightful?* → → →

You are probably wondering, "Who or what is Double Trouble?" Well, they are two sisters from Daly City who have been real crowd pleasers at all the AMAPA tournaments this year.

Double Trouble are also known as Rowena and Geraldine Dela Cruz. They have been training under Bill and Pati Grossman at the Bill Grossman Kenpo Karate School for about a 18 months.

Though often mistaken as twins, Rowena is 15 and Geraldine is 13 years old. Geraldine currently is first place in the AMAPA 11-13 Kenpo Intermediate Kata Division. Rowena is ranked in the 14 and above Kenpo group. They are ranked together as a team in the Jr. Open Division where they perform a synchronized routine to "Eye of the Tiger".

RIGHT - *Rowena and Geraldine De La Cruz at home with their trophies.*



**1987 LABOR DAY KICKOFF TOURNAMENT OCEANSIDE CALIFORNIA
WHAT A GREAT PLACE TO HOLD A TOURNAMENT**

"a great place to hold a tournament!" was just one of the positive comments to be heard during the day's competition. Ynaga's LDKO '87 proved to be an outstanding event for participant and spectator alike. Everyone was in a holiday mood and the salt air and beach added to that feeling. "Tournament Under The Pier", brought together a host of black belts (see the photo below), some traveling from as far away as the states. Their style were as diverse as the geography they represented. Each and everyone added his or her part to making this a successful event.

The special kata divisions were the highlight of the day. Katas in Okinawan, Japanese, Korean, Kung fu and Polynesian styles were both beautiful and devastating in their imagery. As for Kumite, that opponent was as real as you'd ever want. The big boy's (black belts) were gunning for a free, all expense paid trip to the World Pro/Am National tournament in Tacoma Washington.

After the melee, Terry Crook was the final man standing and took the tickets home.



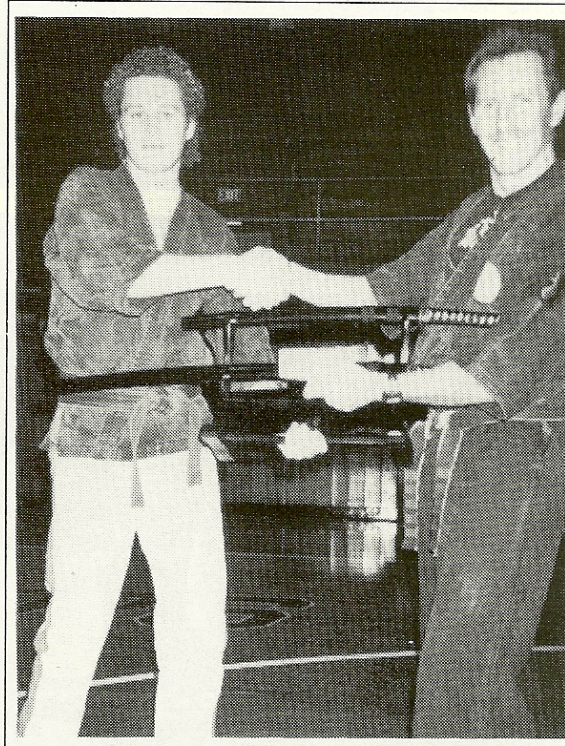
ABOVE - Eighty of the black belts who enjoyed themselves at the "Tournament Under the Pier"

BILL GROSSMAN'S SAN FRANCISCO GOLD COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over 500 contestants jammed into San Francisco's Riordan High School Saturday Dec. 5th for AMAPA's last tournament of the year. Competition fierce, and veteran competitors were continually challenged by up and coming youngsters.

In the fight for the Woman's Grand Championship, perennial number one Kami Whelan had her hands full with brown belt heavyweight Nina Tami. Tami, relying on ring skills honed in years of competition, used expertly timed reverse punches to slip by with a 9-7 three round victory. The men's grand was similarly stormy as division winners Larry Garcia, "Ray" Lazada, Gilbert Baca, and Tommy Yung battled it out. The final blow went to the veteran Lazada up against 17 year old Gilbert Baca. It was Ray's fast and flashy kicking style against the superb timing and reach of Yungster. When the turbulence had cleared Gilbert had copped the trophies and prize money.

For the men's showmanship of Larry Lan, prevailed over the traditional style of Bill Tolentino, Mark Mitose, Andrew Foster and Keith Howe. Lynden and Siegfried Getty took firsts in the over 85 and over 40 respectively.



ABOVE - BILL Grossman hands out sword set to 17 year old grand champ fighter Gilbert Baca.



LEFT - AMAPA Officers - Bob Hernandez, Al Reyes, Jr. and George Carmignani.