



Press release

May 6, 2013

On May 4th and May 5th, ten members of the Vacaville Police Activities League - Makimoto Judo Club competed in the California State Judo Championships. The championships were held at the City College of San Francisco.

The ten members were Aidan Devaney, 8 yrs. old; Journe Wright, 8 yrs. old; Matthew Alessandro, 9 yrs. old; Logan Winn, 10 yrs. old; Emily Alessandro, 12 yrs. old; Zacharia Winn 12 yrs. old; Hunter Costello, 13 yrs. old; Ronnie Wise III, 15 yrs. old; Jason Wong, 16 yrs. old; and Cody Costello 17 yrs. old.

Aidan, Journe, Logan, Zacharia, and Jason all have been practicing judo for less than one year and competed in the "novice division" of the tournament. The novice competition had competitors placed in a pool with other novice players.

Journe won all four of his matches and was awarded a gold medal. Zacharia won one match and lost two and got a second place silver medal. Logan won two matches and also was awarded a silver medal. Jason won two and lost two matches and was awarded a third place medal. Aidan lost his first match and injured his shoulder in his second match forcing him to withdraw.

Matthew, Emily, Hunter, Ronnie and Cody have more judo experience and competed in the Championship divisions. In the championship division, double elimination competition determined the winner.

Ronnie won his first match but lost the next two matches. Mathew lost his first match, then won his next match. However, he lost his next match and was eliminated from the tournament. Hunter lost her two matches. Emily lost her matches also. Cody was in a heavy division (80+kg) and there were no other contestants for him. He received an uncontested gold medal.

All of the players fought hard and were great representatives for the Vacaville Police Activities League.

The players were coached by Gordon and Lucy Makimoto and John Renger. John is a first degree black belt in Judo and is a new City of Davis police officer.

The Vacaville Police Activities League - Makimoto Judo Club is taught by Gordon and Lucy Makimoto. Gordon Makimoto is a 4th degree black belt in Judo and recently retired from the Vacaville Police Department after 25 years of service. Lucy Makimoto is a first degree black belt in judo and has been with the Vacaville Police Department for almost 20 years. Gordon and Lucy have been instructors for the judo club since 1996. For more information, see the Vacaville PAL website or visit the Vacaville PAL - Makimoto Judo Facebook page.