

## **The 2005 US Open Judo Championships Ft. Lauderdale, October 1 & 2**

Report filed by Blake Tsuyuki , Posted 10.5.05

This past weekend I competed at the 2005 U.S. Open Judo Championships in Ft. Lauderdale Florida. The tournament took place over two days with the heavy weight divisions fighting Saturday and the light weight divisions competing on Sunday. I am not sure of the exact number of competitors or countries which attended but in my -60kg division, Mexico, Great Britain, Puerto Rico, Peru, Ecuador, Taipei, United States and Canada all sent competitors.

I lost my first round to James Miller from Great Britain, he threw me with a foot sweep for ippon in the first minute of the match. I was disappointed in my performance as I never really was able to give him a good shot, but that's how judo is, anything can happen. Miller ended up winning my division beating Taraje Williams of the USA in the finals. My second fight in repechage was against Juan Barahona from Ecuador. He caught me with a counter for ippon. Again I lost in the first minute of the match. I ended up going 0-2 at my first U.S. Open. A disappointing performance on my behalf and hopefully I learn from my mistakes and develop my judo so I will not make the same mistakes again.

Christine also fought on Sunday in the -52kg category. She fought Romania first round and lost. Romania ended up winning the division beating Kimi Suda from Abbotsford in the finals. Christine's next fight was against Carrie Chandler of the USA. Christine lost her second bout and was out of the tournament with a record of 0-2. For Christine luck was not on her side as she not only had to fight Romania who has had a top 5 ranking in the world but she also had to fight Chandler who just recently came back from Egypt where she competed at the World Championships.

The tournament was exciting to watch and a good learning experience. Hopefully next year better results will take place.