

Early History of Korean Judo in the United States



In December 1963, Mr. Shin, Bong-Yeul invited Korean Judo instructors in the USA; Kyuha Kim, Daeshick Kim, Weyseng Kim, Sungjae Park and others to St. Louis for judo clinics and meeting to discuss strengthening Korea judo in the USA. In 1964, Shing Bong Yeul and Park, Sung-Jae were planning to invite the Korean National Judo Team to the United States the first time in history of the USA judo.



11 members of Korea National Judo team arrived in Kansas City after participating in 1965 World Judo Championship held in Rio, Brazil. Mr. Kielsoon Park won a silver medal and Mr. Changshick Shin also won a silver medal. Some members of the National Team visited local and state government officials, Good Year Company and Air Force.



Team members with Mr. Bang, young Du, Head of the National Team held special judo clinic and workshops for Air Force Base in Topeka, Kansas. The national team traveled from Kansas - Topeka - St. Louis – Indianapolis – Muncie – Anderson – Chicago – Pittsburg – New York for a month. Some team members visited Iowa and then came to Chicago. End result, two Judo Clubs decided to invite Korean Judo instructors. Mr. Bong Yeul Shin and Mr. Sung Jae Park took leave from universities to organize the visit.



Korean instructors came to New York to compete the National Judo Championship in 1964. In early 1960's, without knowing the US culture and business practices, some Korean instructors were misused by unethical American business groups. These experiences provided rewarding business knowledge for Korean instructors. They became successful independent businessmen and operated fine martial arts institutes throughout the country.