

FINE LADIES KENDO WORLDWIDE

世界のファインレディース剣道

VOL. 01 SPRING ISSUE 2021

PIONEERS OF WOMEN'S KENDO

Japan | Brazil | France

女子剣道の先駆者たち
日本 | ブラジル | フランス

The History of Women's Participation at the WKC Part 1

A Brave New World—The Dawn of Women's Kendo

An Introduction to Kendogu for Women 1

Thinking Outside of the Box

INTERVIEWS

Kobayashi Setsuko

Kishikawa Michiko

Christiane David



Keiko Kondo (maiden name Baba) Kondo achieved 2nd place in the individual event at the 2000 and won the first official women's WKC individual tournament in 2003. This was an incredible achievement for Kondo considering that she has ruptured her Achilles tendon in the previous year (Sylvester, 2011). Kondo also represented Japan at the 2006 and 2009 WKCs in the team competition.
(Kendo Nippon: Photo by Ikeda Emiko)

近藤恵子(旧姓馬場)2000年WKCで個人戦準優勝、2003年WKCでは初の女子公式個人戦で優勝。前年にアキレス腱を断裂していることを考えると、信じられないような快挙だ。(シルベスター、2011)中華台北開催の2006年WKC、ブラジルで開催の2009年WKCにも日本代表で出場。
(月刊剣道日本 撮影・池田恵美子)

Official Women's Competition Taking Shape

The 9th WKC was significant as that it also featured a team event for women. The team tournament featured a three-person women's team and an individual event with 70-female competitors worldwide. A 15-member Japanese women's team did not participate in the Goodwill Tournament but competed against a team of female and male European *kendōka*. The Japanese women's team won decisively 12-1 (two-draws): Liz Dutton was the only female who scored a point against the indomitable Japanese women's team. Dutton's lightning strike of a *debana-kote* remains in the memory of many.

Women's Individual Results

1st A. Horibe (Hong Kong) 2nd C. Sasakura (France) 3rd E-H. Kwon (Korea) and J-Y. Kwon (Korea)

Women's Team Results

1st Korea 2nd Hungary 3rd Brazil and Germany

10th WKC Kyoto Japan 1997

In 1997 at the 10th WKC held in Japan, the women's individual and team events were held on two separate days along with other events. Titled 'Women's International Tournaments,' the women's events started to form an organised competition. Female competitor's photographs were included in the programme consistently and the competition results are available for viewing on the International Kendo Federation website. The team event consisted of three-person teams and countries that we're able to field more than one team could enter a maximum of two. Individual and team matches were *sanbon shōbu* and three-minutes in duration. Prizes were awarded to the top four places and fighting spirit awards in the team and individual competitions (Sylvester, 2015). There were 48-competitors in the 3-dan and above group and 49-competitors in the 2-dan and below group. A total of 29-teams competed in the team event.

Women's Individual Results (3-dan and above)

1st M. Kimura (Japan) 2nd S. Mogi (Japan) 3rd W. Nakano (Canada) H.J. Cho (Korea)

Women's Individual Results (2-dan and below)

1st S. Takashima (Japan) 2nd M. Onaka (Brazil) 3rd E-J. Lee (Korea) and J-Y. Kwon (Korea)

Women's Team Results

1st Japan-B 2nd Japan-A 3rd USA-B and Korea-A

WKC 11th WKC Santa Clara, USA 2000

The women's events were considered semi-official. In total, there were 16-women's teams and 92-women competing in the individual competition. Apart from the shorter duration of matches (three-minutes) and both the individual and team competition was held on the same day, all other aspects of the competition followed similar regulations to the men's events

Women's Individual Results

1st T. Kawano (Japan) 2nd K. Baba (Japan) 3rd H. Yan (Japan) and S. Asahina (Japan)