
BJC President Robin Otani on Hosaka Sensei passing

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Dear Friends,

With sadness and deep regret I relate the news of Mr. Hosaka's death at around 8.15 am on Monday 5th April 2010. Hosaka Sensei, known as Aki to many of his close friends, passed away without pain, in calm and peaceful sleep.

When admitted to hospital in 31st December 2009, following many months of stomach and back pain, he was found to have untreatable cancer of the lower oesophagus blocking his food and water passageway. A small operation to fit a 'stent' by-pass was performed but this only had limited effect and he had great difficulty eating and thus lost considerable strength and body weight, which in-turn weakened his physical strength and ability to cope with others intense therapy.

During the last weeks of Sensei's life he only allowed a few visitors and insisted that I told everyone he was fine and would be back on the mat soon. I believe this was because he was a very private person and wished that most people would remember him at his best.

Mr. Richard Goulding a former pupil and close friend has visited him daily since his hospitalisation as well as other close friends from the Sale Judo Club, including Mrs. Barbara Nicholls (mother of Dave Nicholls) who sat with him throughout the vigil of his last night.

Akinori Hosaka Kodokan 8th Dan was born in the Akita Province in the north of Japan's main island, circa 1938. He was a Law student and Judo Champion of his province which qualified him to continue his law studies at the top judo University of the time, Nihon University. His judo regime consisted of training six hours a day, almost everyday of the week. In a close contest he fought in the All Japan Judo Championship Finals and his ability, was and still is, well respected by many Japanese judo masters as well as his own contemporaries.

He came to England in 1962 at the age of 24 years and was employed by the British Judo Association as a coach for many years where he gained great respect for his fantastic judo ability as well as making many lifelong friends in the BJA.

In the last 24 years of his life he dedicated himself to improving British Judo and committed himself to the British Judo Council as Chief Examiner and Technical Advisor. The BJC's traditional values and approach to judo made a good companion to the promotion of his own ideals, on how to improve British judo.

The BJC adopted his unique system of coaching in 'The Fundamental Principles of Judo' which promotes coaching of basic judo skills from beginners through to black belt. Over the last twelve years Hosaka sensei has developed and improved his coaching courses and has created over 800 BJC coaches qualified to his ways.

In March this year the issue of his further work in the new BJC Grading syllabus, allows his FPJ coaching ideology to be complimented in grading.

Hosaka Sensei's dying wish was that the BJC be successful in following the philosophies of Jigoro Kano, working together in harmony, and producing members with good character and Ippon Judo skills, at every level of involvement.

As President of the BJC I will do my best to help achieve his wishes.

We say goodbye to a great man of judo who will be remembered for his substantial dedication and contribution to judo. At the same time he will be missed for the judo knowledge that he never recorded or imparted.

Robin Otani
President British Judo Council

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