



On November 12-13 the Samoa Judo World Cup was held in Apia. 13 Victorian (or Victorian based) Judoka took to the mats in search of valuable Olympic Qualification points.

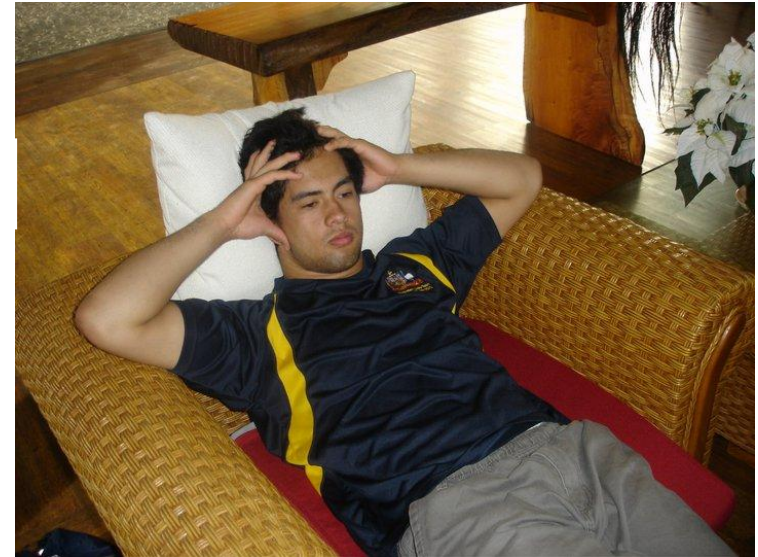


After an entertaining opening ceremony it was time for some fighting.

Day 1 saw Brent Iverson, Ben Lee, Mark Anthony, Daniel Kelly, Shayanne Stuart, Carli Renzi and Emily Bensted competing.

Brent and Ben both drew very hard international opponents and despite battling hard were eliminated in the first round. Mark had a relatively trouble-free run to the semi final where he renewed his rivalry with Priscus Fogagnolo, after some tough early exchanges Mark was able to capitalise on Priscus' stumble and hopped over for an osoto-gari for ippon. In the final Mark was able to overwhelm his Canadian opponent by scoring 2 waza-ari's and secure the gold medal.

Mark preparing for battle



Similarly Daniel barged through the 100 kg division like a man possessed. Winning all 4 of his fights by ippon Daniel showed that there is a whole lot of fight left in his body and winning gold sent a hell of a message to his rivals. Jake defeated his Libyan first round rival with ease and then won his semi final over his NZ opponent in grand fashion by nailing a big harai makikomi in golden score to score a place in the gold medal playoff. Unfortunately his Herculean Peru opponent was too much and Jake settled for silver.

Shayanne split two easy wins with a semi final loss to her Aussie rival Sonya Chervovsky and picked up bronze in the 52 kg division. Emily and Carli had contrasting days in the 57kg division. Em made her way to the semi final with ease but came unstuck being countered for ippon and then losing her bronze match to USA opponent. Carli breezed through to the semi final where she outworked her Canadian opponent over and

over to finish with a wazari and 2 yuko win. In the final Carli was not going to be denied gold and she won a decision to secure a third Victorian gold medal for the day.



Mark receiving congratulations from Susie Moorshead

Day 2 saw Tom Pappas, Ivo Dos Santos, and our 3 Victorian based interstaters (Stevie Kelly, Deb Hill and Steph Grant) take on all comers.

Stevie rose to the occasion in her first foray into senior international competition. She had a dominant win over her NZ opponent and 2 hard fought losses to hardened internationals from USA and Canada ending up in 5th place. Deb fought like a warrior but couldn't manage a win going down to NZ and USA. Steph had a win and a loss in the 78 kg division and took home the silver medal.

Tom, like Stevie rose to the occasion in each of his battles. After a big ippon win against SOL Tom came unstuck with losses to Peru and NZ with 7th place being his final result at 60 kg. The last Victorian left in action was Ivo Dos Santos. 2 quick wins saw him in the semi final against Canada. He was countered early for a wazari and despite fighting his way back into the match he made an error and ended up losing via osae-

komi. For bronze Ivo came out determined not to make another mistake and following a yuko throw Ivo transitioned to a choke and secured the bronze medal in the 66kg division.

Victorian Judoka followed on from their dominant performances at National and Oceania Championships and once again stamp their authority as the dominant force within Australian (and world) Judo.

Upon the completion of Samoa World Cup there is now 13 Victorian (or Victorian based) athletes with World Rankings:

- 60kg Tom Pappas 153
- 66kg Ivo Dos Santos 27
- 73kg Dennis Iverson 56
- 81kg Brent Iverson 30
- 90kg Mark Anthony 13
- 100kg Daniel Kelly 26
- +100kg Jake Andrewartha 19
- 52kg Shayanne Stuart 81
- 57kg Carli Renzi 20
- 57kg Em Bensted 29
- 63kg Stevie Kelly NT 109
- 70kg Deb Hill ACT 41
- 78kg Steph Grant TAS 32

This is wonderful news for all athletes and coaches in Victoria.

Keep up the good work!