

National judo championships give Spartans chance to extend dominance at home in San Jose

For Immediate Release

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SAN JOSE (March 14, 2005) – The San Jose State Spartans will be seeking their 40th national title this weekend when USA Judo holds the High School, Middle School and NCJA Collegiate National Championships at the San Jose State Event Center.

More than 450 athletes will compete in the event, which is the most important annual judo competition in the United States. This is the seventh year that the collegiate and high school championships have been combined, and competition at both levels will qualify athletes for international competitions.

The Spartans are led by Coach Mike Swain, a four-time Olympian and 1987 world champion, who succeeded Yosh Uchida, who founded the judo program at San Jose State in 1953.

Elimination matches for college athletes begin at 11 a.m. Saturday and at 9 a.m. Sunday for high school athletes.

The San Jose Sports Authority is the non-profit sports marketing arm of San Jose, which brings premier sports events to the city as well as actively supporting youth and amateur athletics. Visit our website at www.sjsa.org.

Athletes to watch

Collegiate:

Molly O'Rourke, El Cerrito, California, San Francisco State University. 2004 Olympic alternate at 78 kilograms and currently ranked second in the nation.

Michael Eldred, Fruitland, Idaho, Boise State University. 2004 Junior World Team member, and No.3-ranked senior nationally at 73 kg.

High School:

Nicole Schultheis, Gurnee, Illinois. No.5-ranked senior and third-ranked junior nationally at 48kg.

Aaron Kunihiro, Covina, California, Top-ranked at 55kg on both the senior and junior national rosters.