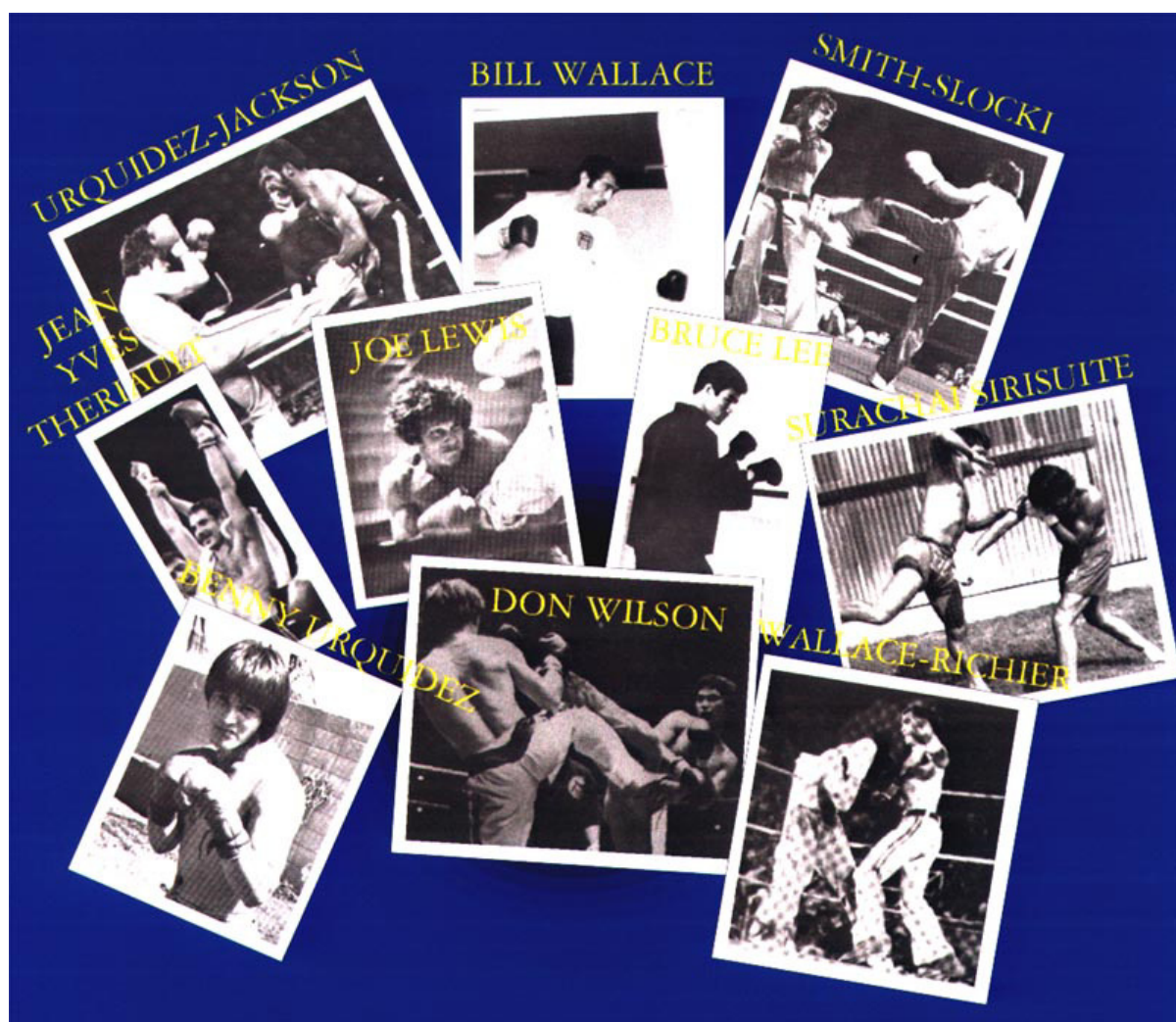


"A HISTORY OF KICKBOXING"

NORTH AMERICA'S SURPRISINGLY TABOO
'KICKBOXING' HISTORY! (Part 1)

1950's and 1960's



The information in this article has been the culmination of difficult research and time. I originally wrote this piece as an answer to another extremely popular Muay

Thai site on the web written by a man I respect very much (Pop Praditbatuga). He is 100% pro Muay Thai and as everyone who knows me knows, I am 100% pro Muay Thai also. But upon reading many other sites on the web, I have become somewhat disillusioned. I have grown tired of all the **"Muay Thai is superior to this or that style of ring fighting"** and more so of **'seeing supporters of one Martial ring discipline trash all the rules, athletes, and the history of the alternative Martial ring disciplines. They do this with disrespect and even go as far as blaming the shortcomings of their favorite ring discipline on the others and their participants..'** To top it off and support these fallacies and erroneous statements, I feel 'fairy tales' have been used to support some of their embarrassingly one sided arguments and opinions. As such, I felt it was time for someone to release authentic facts instead of making statements I felt/know were relying on heresay or information that has been twisted and turned around over the years. To all of those partisan Muay Thai supporters who criticise those Full Contact and Kickboxing athletes who came years before Muay Thai competition was allowed in North America, give credit where credit is due. May I make this clear, this article is NOT an attack on Muay Thai, as I live and love the Art. But I thoroughly believe the Art is strong enough to rest on it's laurels without having to promote it through fallacies, misinformation or personal attacks at those who came before. Full Contact and Kickboxing rules (low kick) competition opened the door so we could finally progress to Muay Thai competition in North America. I will concede some in the position of power and influence in Full Contact rules and Kickboxing rules (sanctioning bodies) have done some questionable tactics to keep Muay Thai down in North America. But I do not agree with the Partisan Muay Thai supporters taking one bad apple and blaming it on the whole bunch. In completing this article I do not in any way claim either ring discipline is better, superior, or my favorite (which they are not) over Muay Thai. As such, I feel one should be mature and address the facts by being truthful and unbiased.

Even though I meant for this article to only cover North America there are some key points involving other parts of the world that are important to support and understand the history of these Martial ring disciplines (even Arts or sports as some view them) here. For me to cover the history of these disciplines throughout the whole world would require my research to become a full time job (and a very exhaustive one at that). I concede there will probably be many points that I have missed (I am sure) and mistakes, but in general I have reported facts from what the research turned up. It has been and still is very demanding and exhaustive work which I am sure will take me much more time to fully complete (if that will ever be possible).

Due to linguistic problems and difficulties in my research, I now totally understand why there has been so much misinformation and misunderstanding in these disciplines. Addressing this problem, I have made statements and presented facts so most of this article I can back up with concrete proof. If there is no proof or nothing concrete and some one disputes a statement (with proof) I will change the

statement in this article. I hope this article opens a few eyes and I get some responses with cold hard evidence to support and/or refute some of the statements in this article. Please e-mail me at mike@mikemiles.com I look forward with great enthusiasm to the things I may still learn because I too have many questions.

Some of the things I have spoken of in this article are considered 'taboo'. I discuss them as historical points from the information I have been able to dig up and that is all. By no means has this been meant to cause any embarrassment to anyone or any organization. You as the reader can look at what I have turned up and then you can make your own intelligent conclusions. All of the information as well as this page has been copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent from me. Please respect this. If you intend to use some of the facts presented here, it would be greatly appreciated if you again would acknowledge where you got the information from. Many people have taken a lot of my research and put it onto their own web pages. Please be kind and give some credit where credit is due.

In the last quarter century plus, 'Kickboxing' has grown worldwide. It is now no different than boxing in the last few decades. There is an alphabet soup of organizations governing the disciplines. Opinions and hostilities crop up when asking which organizations are the most credible. Some of these organizations were strong in the past, some are strong now and a bunch will really never be viewed as legitimate sanctioning bodies. I will leave this up to your own opinions (if everybody saw eye to eye, there would not be such a multitude of organizations in the first place). The placement of sanctioning bodies is done alphabetically, being first by no means being the most credible organization! Past sanctioning bodies - FFKA, IMF, IMTA, KICK, PKA, PKC, WKC. Present sanctioning bodies - IKF, IMTO, ISKA, WAKO, WKA, WMC, WMTA, WPKL. These are some organizations that have a recorded history behind them. In regards to other sanctioning bodies, there are a lot more in the alphabet soup, but I could use a whole page in the article to list them all!

*To make the reading more enjoyable, I have added in some old, rare and difficult to find magazine covers, book covers and hard to find photographs. I have thousands of Martial Arts magazines from around the world from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's, and it has been a chore to find and decide which ones to use that are in their own way pertinent to this article. There are so many but I picked these few because they seem to help support my point and illustrate the history of the disciplines in this article. I have also included information from many renowned and respected Martial Arts and Kickboxing Pioneers who speak with knowledge and authority by actually being a part of the history that I address. To these friends and peers of mine, to the Muay Thai web page that gave me the inspiration to continue working on this piece, thank you for the assistance and motivation to 'finish' (Ha! This is going to be continually upgraded as I find more information) this article. To the Martial Artists around the world who have given me many facts, people including (but not limited to) **Bill Wallace, Joe Lewis, Benny Urquidez, Jim Harrison, Tong***

Trithara, Bob Wall, Dale Floyd, Panya Kraitus, Alex Tsui... and the list just goes on and on, thank you for your input. To the readers around the world (Shingo - thanks!), thank you for the feedback as well as the additional information!

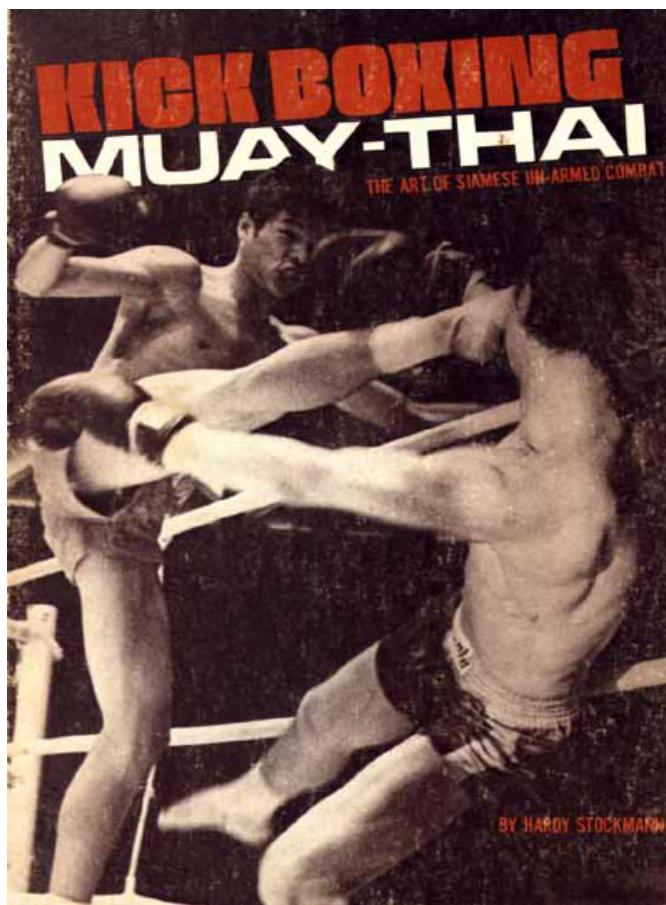
Finally, I have spoken about the history in Canada by itself (even though Canada is geographically bigger than the USA, the population is smaller and thus theoretically, it should be easier to find out the history of the disciplines in Canada but this has been far from the case). As I am from Canada, I am also interested in our countries history. Finding concrete information about Canada at times has also been like pulling teeth. I have provided information that I have uncovered or can support. I know there will be more being added in here as well.

THE CONFUSION OVER THE NAME OF 'KICKBOXING!'

The sport of **Kickboxing** in North America has had a short (when compared to Boxing) but very interesting history. During the few short decades of the sports existence on this continent, it's history is filled with many unpredictable twists, turns and surprises. This is mainly due to the sports early history which was not properly recorded and/or contains misinformation, fallacies, linguistic problems, and a heap of politics, coupled with the current history which contains people who all have different opinions as to where the disciplines should be. The result of all this has created mixed feelings between the different ring oriented Martial Arts disciplines (different because of each type of 'rules' each discipline allows or follows in competition: **Full Contact Karate** - only allows kicks above the waist, **Kickboxing** - which allows kicks into the legs, **Muay Thai** - which follows several sets of rules allowing punches, kicks and knee attacks, to also allowing the use of elbows as weapons). The mixed feelings have resulted in less than die hard support from the media (there have been memo's sent out at some of North America's largest television channels to avoid programming any Full Contact / Kickboxing / Muay Thai). This is why "Kickboxing" is not seen as often on television as it was in the late 1970's and 1980's. In terms of ticket sales, even the general public does not support the disciplines the way promoters would like. At times, the infighting between the disciplines seems to be a vicious circle; with each discipline criticizing the other(s) to try and benefit their own. After some investigation, the initial problem arises over the generic use of the term "Kickboxing", but whose fault is this? The North American media groups all different Martial Arts styles using boxing gloves under the heading of "Kickboxing". Major North American Martial Arts magazines (such as *Black Belt*, *Inside Kung Fu*, etc.) use the term "**Kickboxing**" in many imaginative ways: **Full Contact Karate Rules (American Kickboxing)**, **San Shou (Chinese Kickboxing)**, **Bando (Burmese Kickboxing)**, **Boxe Francaise- Savate (French Kickboxing)**, **Muay Thai (Thai Kickboxing)**, and now there is even **Cardio- Kickboxing*** and the Lord above forbid, **Tae Bo**

(hilarious isn't it? By the way, Mr. Blanks was never a 'World **Kickboxing** Champion' and to his credit, he only claims to be a '*World Martial Arts Champion*'. I still have video of him in his professional boxing career. No disrespect, but I understand why he has stuck with Tae Bo). Today there is also a myriad of watered down aerobic Kickboxing programs taught by unqualified, soft bodied, and self-proclaimed "Kickboxers" who have never done a serious thing in or for the sport and different disciplines. There are so many Kickboxing (to get into shape) videos, that it is now embarrassing. There are even claims by these videos male and female hosts that they are so 'deadly in the ring' that after one fight they proclaim themselves to be 'The Kickboxing Guru' for all to follow. The fad has also now meant a quick and easy buck for those claiming they can certify people to become 'Kickboxing', 'Cardio-whatever' instructors. Most doing the certifying have no formal training in Kickboxing and/or have no certification themselves. There is one huge certification organization that comes to mind in Florida USA for prostituting the disciplines for a quick buck (but believe me they are not the only one guilty of this). For a fee, one can participate with a large crowd of people for a few hours in a workshop and voila - become a 'certified' Kickboxing instructor. The problem is, claim to be a instructor in any style of Karate after a few short hours in a workshop atmosphere and you will be criticized by authentic Karateka (practitioners) for not having put your time in, graded and followed the curriculum to earn the right to be an 'instructor'. Talk about a double standard now that the '*shoe is on the other foot*', it is now all right by the Karateka and some organizations (not by me and many other partisan Full Contact/Kickboxing and Muay Thai instructors) to prostitute the Kickboxing disciplines (for the big buck!).

(* My apologies to **Mr. Frank Thiboutot** and his innovative work to promote the discipline of Kickboxing through his fitness program called '**Cardio-Kickboxing**'. He has a long history of involvement in the Full Contact Rules scene in North America. For the readers information, **Cardio-Kickboxing** is trademarked and copyrighted in the USA and Canada, but many people still are using the term illegally. Mr. Thiboutot does not teach aerobics with a few 'Kickboxing' moves, but teaches a genuine method of learning Kickboxing without having to be involved in the competitive aspect. But on the down-side, Cardio-"what ever you want to call it" seems to be the in thing for fitness (which is great only because it is getting people exercising) but it has also produced a multitude of individuals who now teach the discipline to the masses this way, and in selling themselves, sprouted a million new but still false claims of "Kickboxing Champions" from individuals who have never seen the inside of the ring. I (as most people who love Muay Thai, Kickboxing and Full Contact competition) am tired of seeing the ring oriented Kickboxing disciplines raped!



MUAY THAI BOOK FROM THE 1970'S: *(Above left photo)* **Muay Thai The Art of Siamese Unarmed Combat (1976):** One of the first books on Muay Thai in the USA. Has information on the Muay Thai lineage I am part of. Out of print.

MUAY THAI HIT AMERICA FIRST!

Though this statement is true, it is somewhat misleading. The fact is that any style of Kickboxing and/or Full Contact Karate did not exist at this time in North America's history, but Muay Thai did. The history of Muay Thai in the USA is quite well documented. In 1950, Muay Thai was introduced to America, but only a precious few people saw **Surachai Looksurin** and **Somsri Tiengkamhaeng** demonstrate the sport in gymnasiums and even circuses on about seven occasions. Consider **Karate** was a foreign word to the American masses at this time. It seems ironic that a 2000 year old Art (age is open to speculation because historical documents would be destroyed by invading aggressors throughout history) would be highlighted in a circus. Even Kyokushinkai Master **Mas Oyama** demonstrated Karate in the USA during this time at wrestling events and small demonstrations as well. Is not wrestling a 'circus' (a little lighthearted humor here)? The Thai men had come to America to spread Muay Thai but they failed. The Art was viewed as too brutal. The tour sponsors pulled out leaving both men stranded in America until the Thai embassy stepped in and paid for the group to return to Thailand. Three other Thai boxers successfully toured the US for about 6 months in 1951; they were seen

in Hawaii, California and Texas. It was not until 1962 that members of the world population were treated to its first official demonstration of Muay Thai (the Art actually received an official billing), complete with musicians at the Seattle World's Fair (Bruce Lee's stomping grounds at the time. Wonder if the Kung Fu Master took in the event? A point of interest is that Bruce Lee did adopt Muay Thai technique to his JKD arsenal when he was filming his first (Chinese) Kung Fu movie in Thailand, "*The Big Boss*" or as it was called here "*Fists of Fury*").

THE FIRST ATTEMPTS AT 'CONTACT' IN AMERICAN KARATE

Tracing the complete history of 'Contact' Karate is almost as impossible as tracing the true origin of the Martial Arts themselves. **Count Dante*** (aka *John Keehan*) was blackballed by the American Martial Arts community for allowing contact into tournament Karate. In 1967, the '*Father of American Tae Kwon-Do*' **Jhoon Rhee** exclaimed, "*I am totally against such a tournament personally and I will not send any of my students to compete. I know this type of contest will hurt Karate in America tremendously in a very short time.*" Ironically, Rhee's innovation from the early 1970's Safe-T equipment gear would be used as staple equipment in the early years of Full Contact Karate in the same way boxing gloves are used in boxing contests. The gear was never made for contact but was used to increase the safety and encourage numbers of athletes to spar. In another ironic note, Rhee in the early '70's becomes involved with the World Professional Karate Championships in Los Angeles with his student **Jeff Smith**'s involvement. From there, Rhee then is responsible for the development of 'team' full contact competition (World Black Belt League).

***COUNT DANTE - JOHN KEEHAN**

*Controversial self-appointed Master of the 'Death Touch'. Very outspoken and even somewhat prejudiced towards Oriental Martial Arts Masters claiming they were capitalizing on the mystique of the Martial Arts. In the 1960's and early 1970's he was involved in disputes with other studios in the Chicago area, one of which resulted in the stabbing death of **Jim Koncevic** (1970). Dante died in 1976 under somewhat suspicious circumstances. His student **Frank Ryan** took over the helm of Dante's organization as well as adopted Dante's self-proclaimed title as 'The World's Deadliest Man Alive!'*

1962

Ray Skarica opens the American Kickboxing Club in Astoria. Skarica claims to have annual fight tournaments at his facility into the 1970's. Who fights on these events? His students only? Who gives them their titles? His student Anthony Johnson is a so called contender for the Lightheavyweight championship of the world. But under which organization?

BANDO COMES TO AMERICA

1963

After travelling the world, Burmese Bando expert **Maung Gyi***, ended up in Washington DC and founded the American Bando Association on March 9th, 1963. Gyi was a highly regarded tournament official and was the referee for the historic Full Contact rules match between **Bill Wallace** and **Joe Corley** in 1975.

***DR. MAUNG GYI**

*Maung Gyi is a prominent practitioner of Burmese Bando. The young Gyi learned from experts such as **Saw Ni**, **Bo Mein Sa** and **Saya Zaw Min**. In 1953, Gyi organized a small group and put on some of the earliest Kickboxing exhibitions in Tokyo. Gyi was pleased by the fact that by the late 1960's and early 1970's Kickboxing is the number one sport in Japan. Gyi had trained hard in international boxing and had even set his sights on the 1956 Olympics. He was disqualified in an elimination match for getting excited and using a Bando technique. In June 1971 Gyi defeated a middleweight boxer by TKO in the 3rd round. In December 1971 he battled a larger Lightheavyweight boxer in a 6 round brawl. He knocked his opponent out with a series of punches and kicks after being badly injured. In 20 years of fighting (under 3 names; Kobayashi, Maung Maung, and Maung Gyi) he compiled a record of 66 KO wins and 30 losses. He himself was knocked out 15 times. 9 of the knockouts were at the hands of Burmese opponents in 1956.*

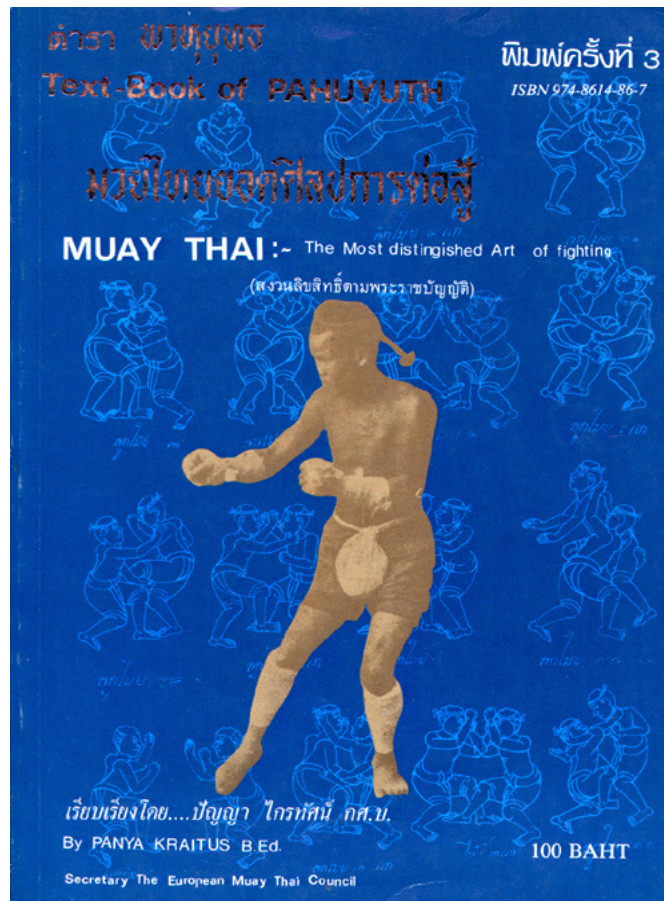
AMERICAN 'CONTACT' KARATE CONTINUES

1963

John Keehan (Count Dante) held the 1st World Karate Championships at the Chicago Fieldhouse on July 28, 1963. In 1967, In Chicago he promoted what was supposed to be the first bare knuckle full contact event ever conducted in the US. It was reportedly supported by only 8 black belt contestants.

1967

John Ryther wins the '67 World Professional Martial Arts Championship. It was a no holds barred knockout contest where the victor walked away with \$10,000. Whether this is true or not has been debated since the date it supposedly happened.



MUAY THAI BOOK FROM THE 1970'S:

(Above photo) **Muay Thai - The Most Distinguished Art of Fighting (in Thai)**
(1976): The first extensive manual on Muay Thai published in Thailand. The book is authored by Acharn Panya Kraitus, who my Muay Thai lineage falls directly under. Out of print.

1968

Future American Muay Thai proponent **Surachai Sirisute*** starts quietly teaching Muay Thai in the USA in 1968.

*SIRISUTE, SURACHAI

*Founder of the Thai Boxing Association of the USA. Came into more prominent recognition in 1982 thanks to his high profile association with Bruce Lee's student **Dan Inosanto**. Part of credentials list him as the Thai Champion of Thailand's **Don Stadium** or **Don Muang Stadium**. No one in Thailand has heard of this stadium. His record of professional fights is reportedly ranging in the 70 bout number.*

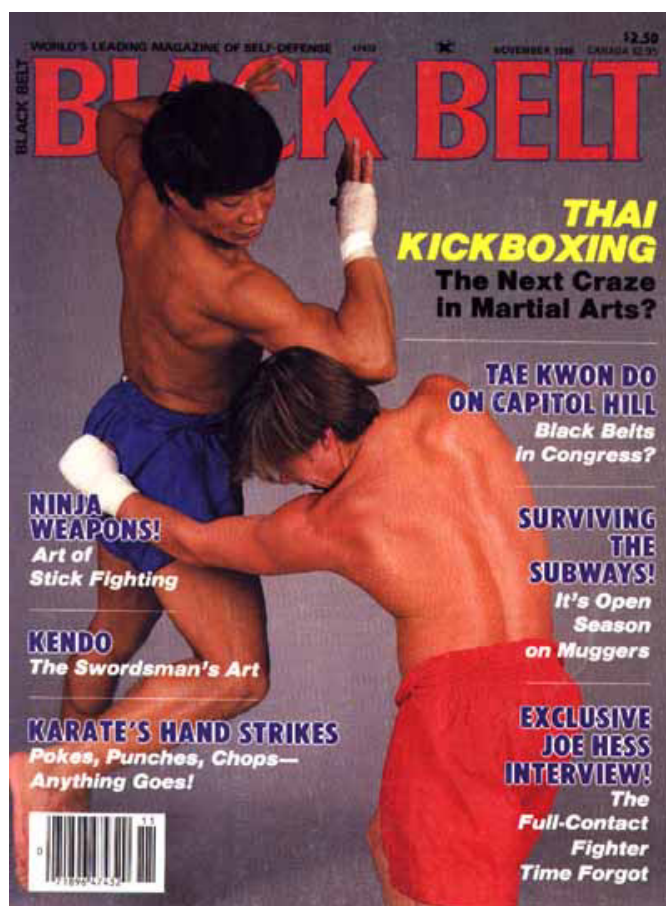
EARLY KICKBOXING IN JAPAN

In Japan a new hybrid of Martial Art taking techniques from *Muay Thai*, *Judo*, *Karate*, and *Shorinji Kempo* becomes popular. Actually there is nothing new about it except in the way all the elements are combined. The Japanese have borrowed from Muay Thai and called their new sport '**Kickboxing**'. The same tactics are used as in Muay Thai but it is not uncommon to see gloved 'chops' and judo throws. The art originated in the very early 1960's and started in Tokyo but swept throughout Japan.

The birth of 'Japanese Kickboxing' started when Thai fans criticized Karateka on their speed and strength. Japanese boxing promoter **Osamu Noguchi** * was constantly criticized during his visits to Bangkok. Noguchi took all the caustic comments he could from his Thai detractors and decided to make the Thai's eat their words.

***NOGUCHI, OSAMU**

*The father of Japanese Kickboxing. Always quick to make a buck, he was one of the most prominent promoters of fights in Japan. In December 1959 he imported boxers from Thailand and the Philippines to try and revive the waning interest of Japanese boxing fans in International Boxing (conventional Boxing). Noguchi had 5 years of boxing behind him when he originated Japanese style Kickboxing. In January 1966 Noguchi formed the **JKBA (Japan Kick-Boxing Association)**. In January 1967, Noguchi and representatives from South Korea, the Philippines and Thailand formed the **Orient Kick Boxing Association**.*



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1980'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: *(Above photo)* **Black Belt Magazine (November 1986):** One of a multitude of Martial Arts magazines from the period featuring **Surachai Sirisute** on the cover.

Noguchi immediately saw a way of making money and on February 12th, 1963, he found 3 willing challengers for a team match of Muay Thai against Karate arranged the event. The Thai's were allowed to use only their kicking and punching techniques while the Karateka were allowed to stick to their traditional styles but had to be wearing gloves. Yondan (4th Degree Black Belt) Karateka **Kurosaki** faced Thailand's **Rabi Dechashi**. The Karate man lost. Second up was Nidan (2nd Degree Black Belt) **Fujihira** against Thai **Howfai Lookwantang**. The Karateka KO'ed his Thai foe in the 4th round. Japanese Nidan (2nd Degree Black Belt) **Nakamura** fought a Chinese by the name of **Tan Charan**. The Karateka KO'ed his foe before the end of the 1st round. Noguchi felt that Japan had made a credible showing even though the Thai's were not anywhere near Thailand's strongest.

In June 1963, Noguchi thought he discovered a champion in **Tadashi Sawamura**. He was a 3rd degree Black Belt and physically very fast and what he lacked in weight he made up for in fighting spirit. Sawamura stepped into the ring against Thailand's **Sama S. Adisong**, Thailand's no. 1 Thai boxer. During the match the Thai had floored the Japanese athlete no less than 16 times. On the 17th time, Sawamura was unable to get up and the Thai won by a 4th round KO.

In 1966 the Japan Kick-Boxing Association organized rules that closely followed those of the Thai's in terms of equipment the athletes were to wear. 3 weight divisions were established: lightweight - 124 lbs. and below / middleweight 124 lbs. to 149 lbs. / heavyweight 149 lbs. and above. Victories would be won by decision, a TKO, KO, an opponent's foul, or an opponents failure to appear. Contestants could punch, chop, elbow, kick, head butt and throw.

In Korea, joint locks and choking were allowed before they modified their rules at Noguchi's invitation to join the JKBA.

Noguchi learned many things including on how to modify the training to be more practical. He entered Sawamura against *Orient Middleweight Champion Monkongtong Sweetkung*. The fight was broadcast February 26th, 1967. For 2 rounds the athletes unleashed and exchanged evenly. In the 3rd round Sawamura blasted Sweetkung with a flying knee to the face and knocked the Thai out. Sawamura had won the title. Noguchi had 3 other champions at this time: **Jun Nishikawa** - the *Orient Lightweight Champion*, **Isao Fujimoto** - the *Japan Heavyweight Champion* and **Shizuo Saito** - the *Japan Lightweight Champion*. These champions trained out of the Mejiro gym in Tokyo.

During this time, Japanese Kickboxers number around 1500 but enthusiasts from Thailand, Korea and the Philippines swell the number of participants as well as spectators. Champions have their own fan clubs and average a bout a month on Japanese television. On July 3, 1968 20 entrants from Thailand, the Philippines and Japan go at it. The ambitious outing draws few spectators. A similar tournament is held 3 weeks later. In October 1968, the 1st annual **World Kickboxing Tournament** is staged in Tokyo.

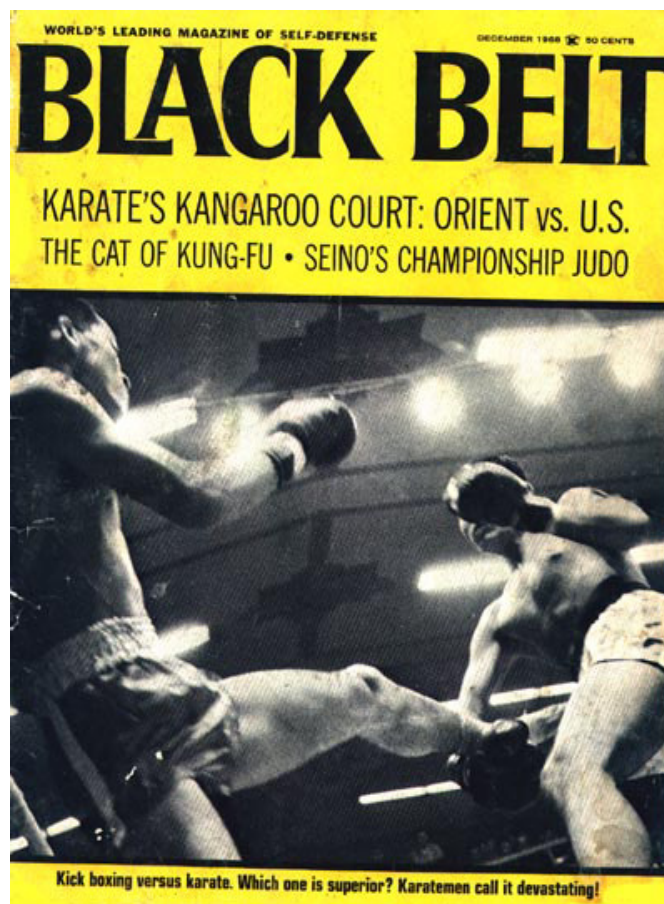
Osamu Noguchi* promotes the the first series of World Kickboxing Tournaments in Japan. Many critics level criticism stating the sport looks like lethargic Karate. Competitors from South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines attend the event. Noguchi and his Japanese Kick-Boxing Association makes preliminary bouts to be fought over 3 rounds, semi main events to be fought under 4 rounds, and main events to be fought over 5 rounds.

Continued on the Next Page! - Japan continued, 1969 and 1970 -

"A HISTORY OF KICKBOXING"

NORTH AMERICA'S SURPRISINGLY TABOO 'KICKBOXING' HISTORY! (Part 2)

Japan continued, 1969 and 1970



**MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1970'S FEATURING
KICKBOXING:** *(Above photo)* **Black Belt Karate Magazine (December 1968):**
This magazine reports on the new sensational sport that is sweeping Japan,
'Japanese Kickboxing'.

EARLY KICKBOXING IN JAPAN (continued)

In Japan, Japanese 'Kickboxing' as a competitive sport becomes more popular after 1966. **Mr. Kenji Kurosaki**, a Student of Kyokushinkai Karate under the legendary **Mas Oyama** owned the first '*Mejiro Gym*' in Japan. Mr. Kurosaki has produced legendary students like **Fujiwara**, **Mitsuo Shima**, and Holland's **Jan Plas** who was involved with opening the highly respected '*Mejiro Gym*' in Holland. After Mr. Kurosaki and fellow team mate **Tadashi Nakamura** (now head of the Seido-juku Organization in New York, USA) first trip to Thailand, Mr. Kurosaki made the transition to Muay Thai (debate claims he was the first to call the sport 'Kickboxing'). The first Japanese Kickboxing organization was called the **All-Japan Kick Boxing Federation**. A few years later there would be several others: **World Kick Boxing Association**, and the **Shin Kakuto Jutsu (New Fighting Arts)** (which was formed by Mr. Kurosaki who left the AJKBF after **Benny Urquidez** defeated **Katsuyuki Suzuki**). Mr. Urquidez has called the SKJ organization the **Katogi Kick Boxing League**. Mr. Kurosaki felt the 2 minute time limit (instead of 3 minute time limit) was closer to the reality of fighting (street fight). He adopted the use of the 2 minute time limit in his regular Thai boxing rules and called it the "*Shin Kakuto Jutsu rule*". At the same time, he changed the name of his gym from '*Mejiro*' (which was located in the Mejiro Ward in Tokyo) to the *Kurosaki Dojo*. In the early 1970's Kickboxing had soared in popularity in Japan to be the number one viewed sport. On television, weekly programming was available. This was soon to change. Prior to Mr. Urquidez's first visit to Japan in the late 1970's, overall popularity of Kickboxing in Japan was slowly declining and promoters were losing money. This has been also viewed as a reason why Mr. Kurosaki formed his own organization. Urquidez's arrival gave new life to Kickboxing in Japan until his match with Thai **Sittiboonlert** (discussed later in this article). In 1981, a scandal swept through Japan which linked certain Kickboxing promoters to organized crime. Kickboxing lost public favor and the WKBA and the Katogi Kick Boxing League dissolved. The AJKBA merged with the American based WKA and fully adopted the American rules. During the 1980's the WKA was Japan's only major sanctioning body in the nation. In the late 1980's/early 1990's several new organizations were founded in Japan to give the WKA some competition. The sport has reached even greater heights in Japan during the 1990's with such great events as the **K-1** fight series (fought under modified Muay Thai rules) promoted by **Master Ishii**. This is the most successful and highest paying fight series for Muay Thai/Kickboxing in the world today.

1969

BRUCE LEE AND HIS INFLUENCE ON KICKBOXING

PIONEER AND BLACK BELT HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEE JOE LEWIS

In North America, the birth of "**American Kickboxing**" in it's earliest and roughest form had its first unsuccessful attempt at the limelight in 1969. *American Martial Arts Legend Joe Lewis* * was frustrated by the unrealistic nature of

tournament Karate, in which blows are pulled short of contact. Famed Martial Artist and Movie Star **Bruce Lee** referred to this type of competition as "*swimming on dry land*". He felt Martial Arts relied too much on mystique and not enough on practicality. Pioneer **Joe Lewis**, was making a name for himself on the very young American Martial Arts Tournament circuit. Lewis also felt this type of competition was a game of tag. Lewis and Lee started working together formulating a new approach to the Martial Arts. Though Lee did not compete, it is universally felt, that Joe Lewis was his 'working laboratory'. Both gentlemen had graduated to using the Martial Arts in a full contact environment. Influenced by his training sessions in boxing with **Joey Orbillo** and 'Kickboxing' with **Bruce Lee**, Lewis started training in various boxing gyms in Los Angeles with the full intentions of becoming a professional boxer (Lewis has admitted to me if he would have had his way he would have preferred to become a professional wrestler). In late 1969, Los Angeles promoter **Lee Faulkner** contacted Lewis to compete in a major non contact team contest. Lewis only agreed if Faulkner would permit him to compete in a **Kickboxing** match. At first finding a suitable opponent was very difficult for both the promoter and the athlete.

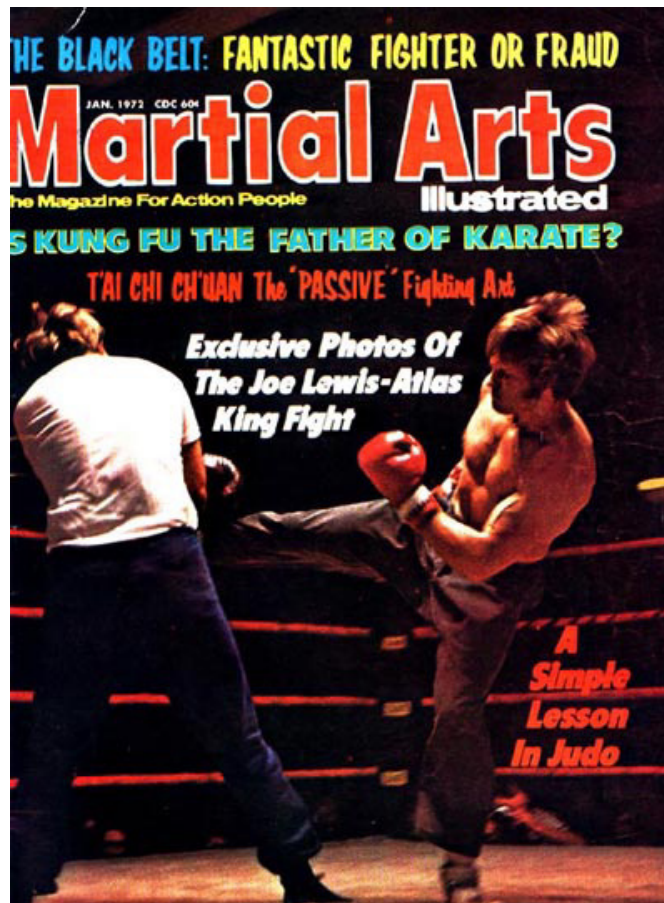
***JOE LEWIS**

In late 1969 Joe Lewis introduced Full Contact fighting. He called it Kickboxing but it was later changed to Professional Karate or Contact Karate. In 1972 Lewis quits Kickboxing. In his last fight against Jesse King, promoter Aaron Banks was supposed to pay a certain fee and does not. Banks holds the event in the middle of the week and has poor attendance for the event and blames it on Lewis stating "Lewis' name has no pull anymore." In 1973 Lewis states, "Thai kicking is less powerful (than Karate) and it's punching is relatively poor". In 1983 (at the age of 39), he made a courageous comeback to try and regain his World Heavyweight Full Contact Title, but he retired before regaining the title. Re-retired after 2 straight losses complaining of no money and no glory in fighting anymore.

1970

JOE LEWIS AND THE FIRST ACKNOWLEDGED 'AMERICAN KICKBOXING' FIGHT

Eventually Lewis found an opponent and had his first **Kickboxing** match on January 17th, 1970 by knocking out **Greg Baines** (a San Jose Kenpo stylist) to become the first **U.S. Heavyweight 'Kickboxing' Champion**. During the bout, the announcer kept calling the bout '**American Kickboxing**'. The mistake in terminology caught on and Joe Lewis became known as the man who *pioneered 'American Kickboxing' in North America*. Joe Lewis defended his title ten times with no opponent lasting through the second round.



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1970'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: *(Above photo)* **Martial Arts Illustrated Magazine (January 1972):** One of a multitude of Martial Arts magazines from the period featuring **Joe Lewis** on the cover.

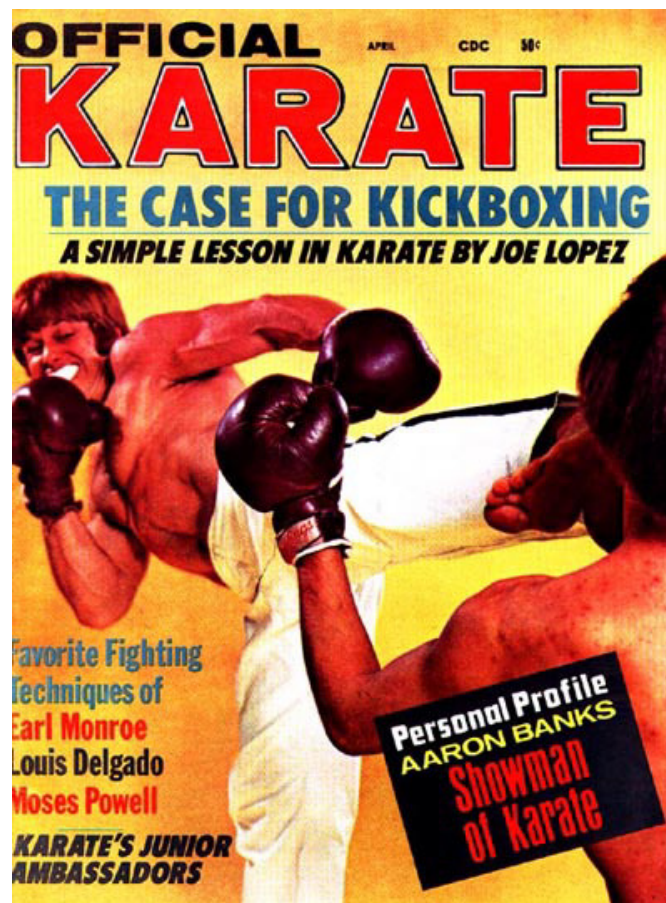
'AMERICAN' KICKBOXING IS BORN

In 1970, full contact Kickboxing invaded America largely through the efforts of Californian Lee Faulkner. Faulkner presented the first Kickboxing bout, between Joe Lewis and Greg Baines. It took place at the Long Beach Arena in conjunction with a noncontact professional tournament. Lewis gained the first American Kickboxing Title with a 3rd round KO. Aaron Banks and Allen Steen both also picked up on American Kickboxing immediately. No one knows exactly how many Kickboxing events were held in the US during this time but it is known that Lewis was the most sparkling champion. He successfully defended his US title, all with 1st or 2nd round KO'es. In Thailand, Muay Thai may be known as the 'Sport of Kings', but in America American Kickboxing only lasted until 1970 and it failed miserably. Kickboxing experienced one last ditch effort when Lee Faulkner introduced locally televised matches in Los Angeles. These matches employed authentic Muay Thai athletes against each other and it enjoyed moderate popularity. The California Athletic Commission which regulates all boxing and wrestling contests conducted in the state altered its existing provisions to include

Kickboxing. For reasons undisclosed, the weekly broadcast was discontinued soon afterward.

'1st USA Pro Team Karate Championships'

The cause for the failure of the 1st USA Pro Team Karate Championships must be placed squarely on the shoulders of promoter Lee Faulkner. The event was held on January 17th, 1970. The most controversial event was the featured bout between Lewis and Baines. Both athletes wore 12 oz. gloves and wore sneakers. At the last moment Baines decided to fight barefooted. No kicks to the head or groin were allowed. Both men fought cautious and Baines delivered a roundhouse that was one of the few kicks that was close to being effective. When the two would exchange flurries Lewis would dance harmlessly out of the way of Baines punch attacks. Lewis landed a combination to the head and the body and stunned Baines. Lewis danced out and then knew Baines was hurt so he stepped back in and dropped a right cross which knocked Baines out cold. The KO took place at around 1 minute into the 2nd round. (*Jeet Kune Do practitioners look at this fight as the birth of competition JKD because Lewis was a student of Bruce Lee*).



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1970'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: (*Above photo*) **Official Karate Magazine (April 1971):** This magazine deals with the controversy surrounding 'American Kickboxing' and

founder Lee Faulkner. It also has an article on fighting Pioneer and Legend **Joe Lewis** who is also featured on the cover.

LEE FAULKNER - U.S. KICKBOXING ASSOCIATION

Building on the pioneering concept of 'American Kickboxing', Los Angeles promoter **Lee Faulkner** founded the **U.S. Kick-Boxing Association**. **Lee Faulkner**, became involved with the Martial Arts on the most basic and functional level. This was as a *Green Beret* while serving in Vietnam. The Green Beret organization did field some of the most efficient and competently trained fighting men in the history of the modern world. Upon returning to the USA he decided to take work as a stunt man in Hollywood. He studied for a year and a half under **Joe Lewis** and two years under **Chuck Norris**. He also worked with **Gene LeBell** (an ex-professional wrestler renowned for his wrestling 'finishing' moves. Actually, Mr. LeBell was challenged to fight the far younger **Royce Gracie** in the early 1990's and he responded with a challenge to the older Gracie father who never responded to the challenge) to obtain a working understanding in Judo basics. His goal with the U.S. Kickboxing Association was to establish 'professionalism' in Kickboxing. His goal was full time paid professional athletes, which was unheard of at the time in the traditional Martial Arts community. At the time, there were even offers from the Orient to stage tournaments on an international level. At the time, had it come to pass, the term 'World Champion' would have finally had some validity. However, Faulkner ran into lots of opposition from the traditional Martial Arts world because athletes were finding out that techniques they relied on and regarded as being 'lethal' were anything but that when delivered with full force. As a result, Kickboxing's loudest opponents at the time were those who were unable to accept this as a basic truth. A pre-requisite to join the organization was that the athlete was a Black Belt. After the Joe Lewis bout, Faulkner went to work to try and put together a set of rules that everyone would follow. A few of the U.S. Kickboxing Association rules at the time included only using a five count (instead of the recognized ten count of today). The bouts consisted of 4 rounds of three minutes. Low (leg) kicks*, elbows and knees were also allowed at the time (*years ahead of the **WKA**). One of the more famous or noteworthy fights for the organization in 1970 was a confrontation between **Victor Moore** who was an experienced athlete and **Jim Harrison** in his first bout. Harrison was definitely on the losing end of the bout when he suddenly unloaded and caught Moore in the head. Moore went down and did not make the five count.



(Top photo) **Joe Lewis** (left, being hit by a sidekick) in a bout against pug **Atlas King**. Lewis easily won the fight but because King looked so bad, the bout was universally panned.

AMERICAN KICKBOXING - MISH MASH

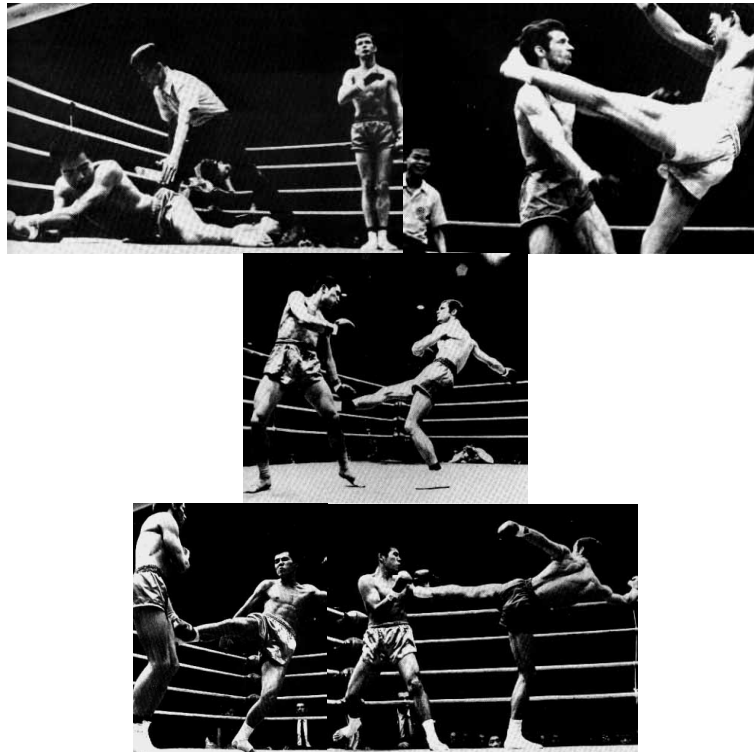
In the early to mid 1970's, a handful of events took place in the more densely populated areas such as Los Angeles, Dallas, and New York City. All had different organizations which had adopted different rules to follow. Other than the U.S. Kickboxing Association, in the early 70's, the sport of **American Kick-boxing** consisted of Karateka donning a pair of gloves and trying to kick and "box", though few, if any (other than Joe Lewis), had any understanding on how to properly deliver boxing techniques. The sport attracted negative attention in the Martial Arts media (an analogy for the sport during this period in time was *"Kickboxing is as close to resembling its Thailand counterpart as a grape is to wine; there's a helluva lot of work to be done before you can achieve that end result"*). In contrast to Muay Thai, '**American Kick-boxing**' did not allow elbows, knees, clinching, and low kicks to the legs. Fighters wore a pair of Karate pants, boxing gloves, T-shirts were optional and athletes fought wearing runners (Safe-T Kicks were not invented and introduced until 1973). Possibly as a result of the criticism in the Martial Arts media, possibly the rules, and the poorly trained athletes (for the most part), when it was all combined, 'American Kickboxing' never gained acceptance in the USA at this time and it quietly faded away. Martial Arts tournament promoters who decided to try and promote Kickboxing were losing more money than ever because there was no spectator support. Thus in its original form 'American Kickboxing' survived for only a year.

COMPETITIVE BANDO HAS A LARGE DEBUT IN THE USA

On February 29th, 1970 in Dayton Ohio, a traditional Bando boxing match took place featuring **Dr. Maung Gyi** against experienced KO artist **Tim Fleming**. Dr. Maung Gyi dropped Tim Fleming with a right hand after fast and furious full contact exchanges. Gyi dropped his foe once before but the second time was the final time. Dr. Gyi's 2nd fight of the evening was against a fighter by the name of **Berdine** (who was known as a quick and highly deceptive athlete). Gyi easily defeated his 2nd foe. 3000 people gathered to enjoy a synthesis of Bando (Burmese boxing), Thai boxing, Golden Gloves, Boxing, Olympic and Greco Roman Wrestling and the other Martial Arts. At this event the following claim was made, *"Bando boxing is the father of Thai Boxing and the grandfather of Japanese Kickboxing."*

THAI BOXING VS. KARATE IN THE USA - A SURPRISING OUTCOME

The 1970 Captain Weber Days Karate Championships took place in Stockton California. The event was co-promoted by **Ron Marchini** (a Renbukai stylist /full contact karate in armor) and **Leo Fong**. The event featured a 3 round Full Contact bout between a Thai boxer and a Karateka. Thailand's **Viji Jiraphan** took on **Bill Rodriguez**. Viji had just arrived in the USA to try and promote Muay Thai. The bout was to be 3 rounds of 2 minutes with both athletes wearing 6 oz. gloves. Rodriguez a lightweight boxer as well as Kenpo stylist won a draw with the Thai. In the Karate (Tae Kwon-Do) vs. Boxing bout, a 6 round bout took place between a Korean Karate champion and a boxer. **Byong Yu** squared off with **Leo Agbulos** (a former professional boxer and Karate stylist). Yu won by a split decision. Yu relied on his kicks while his opponent boxed and tried to press to choke out the Korean's kicks.



BOXE FRANCAISE-SAVATE VS. JAPANESE KICKBOXING: *(Top photo left) Guillaume stands over his vanquished Japanese foe. (Top photo right) An exchange with Guillaume taking a kick to the head. (Middle photo) Guillaume delivering a coup de pied bas. A Boxe Francaise-Savate technique also called by some an 'oblique' kick. Notice Guillaume is wearing fight shoes. (Bottom photo left) Japanese athlete attacking with a leg kick. (Bottom photo right) Guillaume delivering a chasse median comparable to a sidekick at his Japanese foe.*

BOXE FRANCAISE SAVATE VS. JAPANESE KICKBOXING

French Savate Champion **Christian Guillaume** finished his 6 week visit to Japan with 5 wins in 5 fights with Japanese Kickboxers. The Savate expert proved that La Boxe Francaise-Savate is not inferior to Oriental methods. He won 3 of his bouts with KO'es and 2 of them by decisions. 2 of the 3 KO'es were in the first round. There are many other things to consider in these bouts including the length of the bouts and the types of strikes that were allowed. A lot of this favored the Frenchman's fight.

KUNG FU VS. MUAY THAI

San Francisco hosted the 1970 All-America Kung-Fu Karate Championships. The highlight of the evening was a Muay Thai bout between 2 authentic Muay Thai athletes. Thai boxers **Dean Hongmanee** battled with **Chat Chinsakul**. At the conclusion of the 3 round match, the referee declared Dean Hongmanee as the winner. The exciting conclusion of the event was a bout between a Muay Thai

stylist and a Kung fu stylist in a Full Contact match. The final match pitted **Thay Prasert**, a Muay Thai stylist against **Chong Orgard**, a local Kung fu practitioner. The Thai boxer pressed forward making the Kung fu mans strikes ineffective. The bout was stopped in the 3rd round after the Kung fu man had been floored several times and was unable to continue. The Thai won the bout by TKO.

AMERICAN KICKBOXING ALMOST HAS IT'S FIRST RING FATALITY

'USA Pro Open Karate Championships is promoted by Lee Faulkner. On June 20th, 1970 in Dallas, Texas, **Joe Lewis** faced Texan Big **Ed Daniel***, In the first round both men were aggressive and Daniel threw more punches but the shorter Lewis just ducked under, covered or moved out of range of the punches. The first round was given to Daniel. In the 2nd round, Lewis looked warmed up and he dropped Daniel to the canvas with a right cross. Daniel was counted out but he finally did get up. On the undercard **Jim Harrison** and his face get beaten to a pulp over 2 1/2 rounds. His face was bloody and it looked like an easy victor for his foe **Victor Moore** who suddenly got hit with a beautiful clean punch which dropped Moore for the count.

***ED DANIEL**

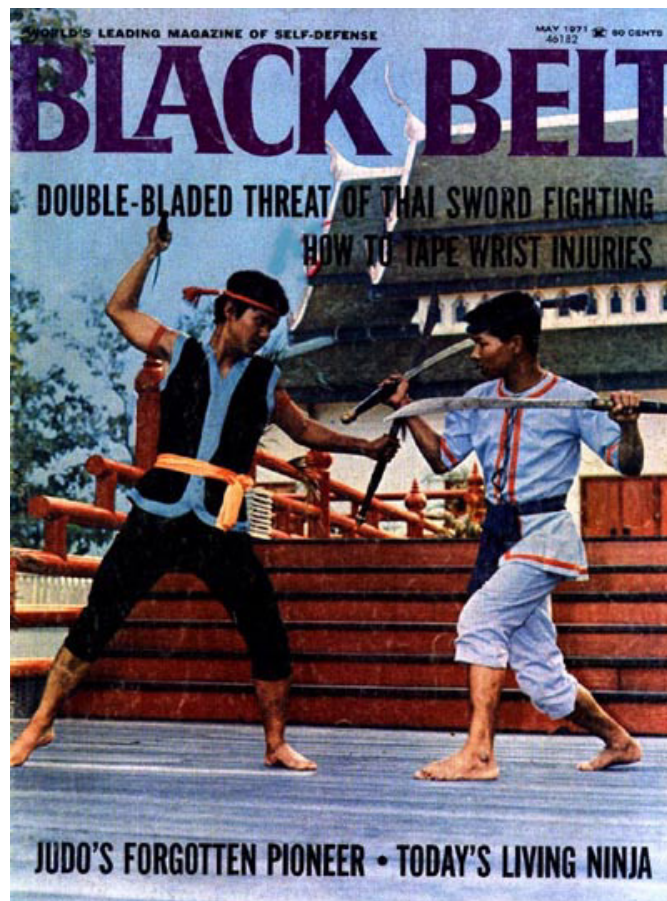
In 1970 Daniel is a challenger to the title Joe Lewis owns. Daniel takes a hard uppercut in the third round and goes down, but in truth Daniel has a stroke. The athlete almost dies but finally pulled through. In a few years, Daniel and Pat Burleson put together a Full Contact team called the Texas Gladiators.

Continued on the Next Page! - 1971 -

"A HISTORY OF KICKBOXING"

NORTH AMERICA'S SURPRISINGLY TABOO 'KICKBOXING' HISTORY! (Part 3)

1971



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1970'S FEATURING
KICKBOXING: *(Above photo)* Black Belt Karate Magazine (May 1971):
Featured in this issue is a story on the little known Thai Art of **Krabi Krabong**.

1971

THE FIRST MUAY THAI SCHOOL IN THE USA

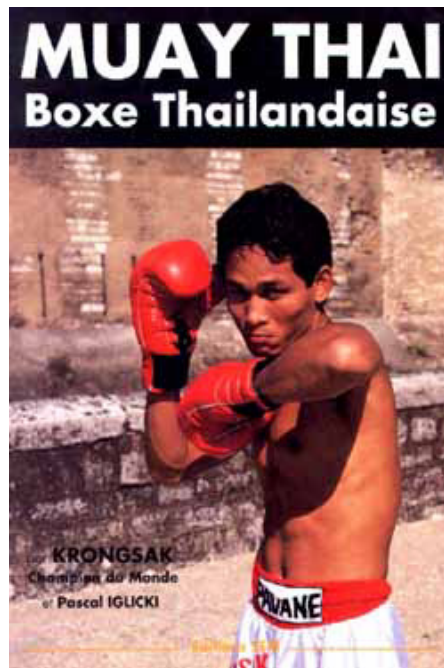
Acharn Tong Trithara is credited with opening the first Muay Thai school in Los Angeles (and America) in 1971. Even Joe Lewis, credits Acharn Tong as being the "*Father of American Muay Thai*". The land on which the instruction took place was donated by **Mr. Paul Sorsatikoi**. This is now the land in front of the Thai Buddha Temple in L.A. The main teacher was **Acharn Niyom Prasertsom** (who was experienced in both Muay Thai and International Boxing).

JOE LEWIS KICKBOXES ON

On January 24th, Aaron Banks 2nd Annual United Nations Open Karate Championships featured **Joe Lewis** against a supposed powerhouse by the name of **Ronnie Barkoot**. Rumor had it that Barkoot had received some lethal secret instruction from a famous but secret instructor. The bout was to be 4 rounds of 2 minutes duration for each round. No blows were allowed below the belt. The bout started with Barkoot coming out strong. Barkoot attempted to land kicks that Lewis easily avoided and at about 20 seconds into the round, Lewis began his offensive, a charge that knocked his opponent to the canvas. It was power rather than technique and Barkoot bounced to his feet again. This time he was decked by a short sharp left. Barkoot got back up but it was obvious he had more courage and talent by this time. Barkoot swarmed in throwing punches which bounced ineffectively off of the Champ's arms. Lewis moved to the center of the ring and taunted Barkoot to punch him in the chin. It was an invitation that the challenger should not have taken because at 75 seconds into the 1st round, Barkoot took a bombing left hook that dropped him to the canvas for the count and beyond. 2000 spectators witnessed the bout and the following Kickboxing card. The judges used on the event had no idea on how to judge the fight event and like most other Kickboxing events of this period, they were hosted with a Karate tournament. Kickboxing with Karate tournaments caused a big dilemma at this time; 'Should Kickboxing be held with Karate tournaments or not?' The general opinion was not to.

TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS IS FOR SISSIES!

Count Dante (John Keehan) is outspoken at this time stating that Karate is for sissies. "*The effectiveness of the present-day fighting arts is too cramped because of the many unnatural controls the Orientals exercise over the politics of these arts.*" Dante is an outspoken proponent of Full Contact Karate (though not under the rules that Full Contact Karate eventually evolved into).



MUAY THAI BOOK: (Above photo) **Muay Thai - Boxe Thaïlandaise** by **Kongsak**: Interesting book on training, techniques, and tactics by Thai athlete Kongsak.

JOE LEWIS BATTLES ATLAS KING

On June 23, 1971, **Aaron Banks*** promotes the 'World Championship Kickboxing Bouts' with **Joe Lewis** against '**Atlas**' **Jesse King**. King hits the floor 2 times in the first round. At 2 minutes and 30 seconds of the second round, King went down 3 times but on the 3rd, did not make it back up. King looks so bad during this fight that the bout is universally panned. Lewis expresses frustration about the poor support from the Martial Arts media he is getting and the way his bouts are being played down (ie. fighting 'bums').

***AARON BANKS**

*Banks predicts that Kickboxing will displace Karate in the public's favor. Banks one Kickboxing event was a financial flop but he still has high hopes for the sport. In a few years during the resurgence of the sport, Banks becomes disgusted with Kickboxing and/or Full Contact Karate and decides to call it **Ketsugo**, a Japanese word meaning a combination of everything.*

KICKBOXING IS TOO DANGEROUS

Martial Arts Legend **Ed Parker** predicts at the time that if Kickboxing keeps going there will be 8 to 10 deaths a year. He refuses to have Kickboxing at any of his events.

KICKBOXING CHICAGO STYLE

On November 12th, 1971, the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago was home to **Ray Cooper's** bi-monthly Kickboxing events under the banner of the **International Kick-Boxing Association**. This Americanized Muay Thai rules event had bouts fought over 3 rounds of 3 minutes with a 2 minute rest period. All weapons were allowed and during 2 of the 3 matches hosted, athletes went down from elbows to the neck (but the athletes got up and continued).

ORIENTAL WORLD OF SELF-DEFENSE

Aaron Banks hosted his 2nd Annual Oriental World of Self Defense. In a featured demonstration of Muay Thai vs. Karate, **Mr. Bunno** of Thailand impressed the audience with his fine abilities as a practitioner of the art. The Thai's assistant was an American Karateka by the name of **Mr. Caesar**. The crowd went crazy over the knee barrages to the body and even to the head of the assistant.

JOE LEWIS GETS HIS FIRST SHOT AT A WORLD KICKBOXING TITLE

In 1971, **Lee Faulkner** tries to get US Heavyweight Champion Joe Lewis a fight for the World Heavyweight Title. He tries to find an opponent in Japan but the biggest fighters they can find at the time weigh in the high 160 lbs. range. There was the All Asian Champion and they were going to pay the Japanese athlete \$3000 to fight in the US while Lewis was only going to get \$1000 for the title. Lewis told Faulkner that he wanted \$5500 plus \$500 for training expenses. *ABC's Wide World of Sports* was interested in filming the bout (anywhere in the world). Faulkner never came back with a counter offer so Lewis retired.

TELEVISED U.S. KICKBOXING ASSOCIATION BOUTS

Lee Faulkner changes his tune and now states that American Karateka wearing boxing gloves are not Kickboxers. He makes a deal with Japanese promoters and bring videotapes of Japanese Kickboxing fights to America dubbed with English play by play and run on weekly on KTLA, Channel 5 in Los Angeles. It enjoyed moderate popularity in the area. Faulkner attempts to negotiate with CBS to run a similar program featuring tapes from Thailand (of Muay Thai). A year later, the **California State Athletic Commission** altered the existing rules, and for reasons undisclosed, the weekly Kickboxing telecasts were discontinued soon afterward.

Faulkner attempts to promote live Oriental Kickboxing in October 1971, but the event is cancelled upon him learning that Kickboxing is now illegal in California. A startling revelation considering that Faulkner's *Lewis vs. Baines* bout was staged in California in 1970.



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1990'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: *(Above photo)* **WKA Magazine (1990's):** WKA President Paul Ingram's highly successful glossy magazine reporting on all facets of WKA activity worldwide including the ring disciplines (Muay Thai, Kickboxing, and Full Contact Karate) as well as Semi-Contact Fighting and traditional Martial Arts competitions.

U.S. KICKBOXING ASSOCIATION UNDERGOES CHANGE

In late 1971, **Lee Faulkner** merges his organization internationally. Faulkner has gotten away from American Kickboxing and now subscribes to the same rules and regulations of the Japanese Kickboxing Federation and the Thai Kickboxing Association. The 2nd organization in Japan is Noguchi's World Kick-Boxing Association. The JKBF 2 largest promoters are **Arashida** and **Okamura**. Faulkner wants to work with the JKBA and the WKBA as well as the Thai's to spread Kickboxing in the USA. All those involved must work under the banner of the United States Kick-Boxing Association (Faulkner's organization) in the USA. Faulkner, the first to put Joe Lewis on the map as a Kickboxer now claims the only real American Champion is **Ray Elder*** (fighting in Japan - more on him later). The merging garnered a few headlines in the Martial Arts media for Faulkner (major problems were to come in a few short years ahead for the WKBA in Japan. Rumors of links to the underground affected the way the Japanese public and media perceived the organization in the 1980's). Also, to someone's discredit

misinformation on the history of 'Kickboxing' (more specifically 'Japanese Kickboxing') made its way into the North American Martial Arts media. Press statements included: *"Kickboxing had it's inception in the early 1960's in Tokyo, Japan where it spread south on the island eventually making it's way to Thailand, Korea and the Phillipines"*. Claims were even made that **Japanese Kickboxing** had caused *"a resurgence of interest and popularity of the sport in Thailand"*. The truth is Muay Thai was adopted by the Japanese, and they made changes to the art allowing techniques from Karate, Judo and Wrestling, and then they renamed the sport **"Kickboxing"**. Faulkner's USAKBA and its merging with the WKBA organization was no luckier than Joe Lewis' attempts to popularize the sport in North America and the great things that Faulkner had predicted, were never to be.



AMERICAN 'JAPANESE KICKBOXING' PIONEER: *(Above photo)* **Ray Elder** : An American who became a respected Japanese Kickboxer in Japan. However, initially feelings were mixed on him in Thailand, but they have softened through the years and now his name is now given respect in that country.

***RAY ELDER**

*On November 5th, 1971, American **Ray Elder** defeated **Toshiya Furuya** to become the first non-Oriental to win the Japanese Middleweight Kick-Boxing crown. The bout was at the Nippon Budokan in Tokyo in front of 9000 cheering spectators. Elder was from Pasco, Washington. In March 1970, Elder was sent to Thailand to train at the Sri Sothorn Camp and in May 1970 fought at Radgdamnern Stadium. Elder fought 5th ranked middleweight **Mahahchai Tacharom**. Elder won the bout. Returning to Japan the over confident Elder did poorly winning 5 and losing 3 until his next fight in Thailand. In November 1970 he returned to Thailand and met the no.1 ranked Thai middleweight **Daenthai Ittichit** who was the former Radgdamnern Stadium Middleweight Champion. Elder lost by decision. After that bout Elder had 15 straight bouts (winning them all - 12 of them by KO). On the*

*26th of April 1972 Elder defended his title against **Abe Oka** in Korakuen Hall. On the 13th of August 1972 Elder lost in his bid to win the Orient 'World Middleweight Kickboxing Title' against Thailand's **Songket**. Elder was KO'ed in the 4th by a series of high kicks to the back of the ear and the neck. According to newspaper sources, Elder was winning the fight up until the point of the KO. Elder blocked the strong Thai kicks for 2 rounds and then started punching dropping his hands like an international boxer and he paid the price. Elder was known for being superior at using his left jab, having a good ability to block kicks and being proficient on the inside with the use of the knees. Elder could beef up to 193 lbs. at times still looking in shape and there was talk of bringing him over to fight Joe Lewis (who had been criticized for fighting athletes who did not know how to Kickbox). Needless to say, the financial rewards that both Lewis and Elder could have seen from such a match never happened.*

WHO OWNS KICKBOXING?

Leo Fong promoted the Weber Days Karate Championships and the All-Star Karate and Kickboxing Championships in Stockton California in July 1970 and again in July '71. The event features Kickboxing in the program. **Aaron Banks** staged 3 Kickboxing events in 1971 (New York) and **Sam Allred** staged an event in New Mexico. Banks up to this point had no problems with the New York Athletic Commission while Allred approached the New Mexico Commission before his next event to avoid the problems that Faulkner has had in Los Angeles. Banks uses 2 organizations on the east coast, the American Kickboxing Organization and the Professional Kick-boxing Organization. Banks spouts off that winners between Japan and Thailand can not call themselves World Champions. Banks states, "*They (Oriental athletes) are victorious over other (Oriental) countries but not the world*". In a similar feeling of insecurity, Leo Fong states that no 2 countries (Japan and Thailand) can monopolize the sport (even though they are better organized and have been promoting bouts for a longer period of time).

THE KICKBOXING BOOM IN JAPAN

Thai Kickboxing and the enthusiasm for it grows by leaps and bounds in Japan. The current idol is **Tadashi Sawamura** 28, a 130 lbs. ex-Karateka who is knocking out all comers by powerful knee kicks. Sawamura was introduced to Kickboxing 5 years earlier. Kickboxing commands such an audience in Japan that it is now shown weekly over 3 television channels in Tokyo. There are two distinct styles of the art. The first (practised by Sawamura and 1200 other boxers) involves a combination of Karate, Boxing, Judo, Wrestling and head butts. The second style prohibits head butts and Judo throws and is the classical Thai style. This group is organized under the title of the All-Japan Kick-boxing Commission and they issue rankings in 9 weight categories like boxing.

KICKBOXING IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

Sam Allred's attempt to introduce Kickboxing to Albuquerque and the southwest is reviewed favorably but questions arise like, how does Kickboxing compare to Boxing or Karate? Or which is the most devastating? In a bout, 'Kickboxer' **David Errigo** smashes his left knee into Boxer **Chuck Shields** chest for a third round KO.

AMERICAN KICKBOXER IN JAPAN ISSUES **CHALLENGE TO AMERICAN KICKBOXERS**

At this time most Martial Artists in North America state Kickboxing is phony, and just like Professional Wrestling. Another opinion is that Japanese and Thai athletes lack technique. They are viewed as boxing retreads who could never make it in Boxing or Karate. Curiously, few who level these charges step forward to verify their opinions. An American living and fighting in Japan, **Ray Elder** and several Japanese Champions issue a standing challenge to the best of the American Kickboxers, but no one takes them up on the challenge.

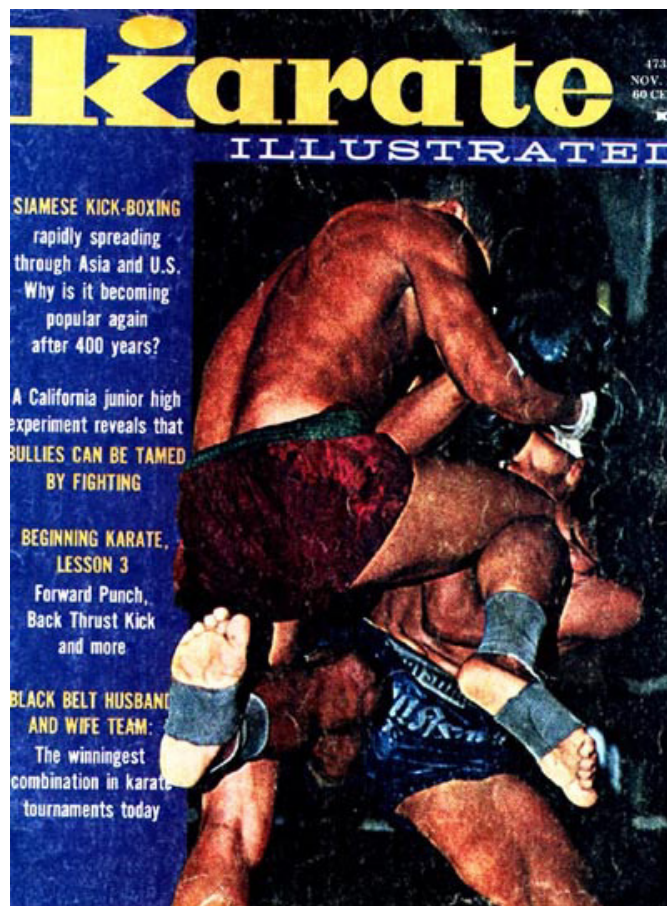
Continued on the Next Page! - 1972 -

"KICKBOXING"

NORTH AMERICA'S SURPRISINGLY TABOO

'KICKBOXING' HISTORY! (Part 4)

1972



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1970'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: *(Above photo)* Karate Illustrated Magazine (November 1971):
Featured in this issue is a story on the Thai Art of **Siamese Kick-Boxing**.

1972

AMERICAN KICKBOXING IN LIMBO

During 1972 and 1973 American Kickboxing was dead in North America. **Kung Fu** and **Bruce Lee** were the big craze at the time. The fantasy world of the movies (taking out multitudes of opponents with one blow) appealed to the general

population. It was easier to believe that a Martial Artist was so deadly, he practised by never hitting someone, because if he did, he would kill someone (truthfully, it encouraged people to train without ever having to strike someone who could strike back resulting in pain)! A few people tried to teach the sport but to small numbers of students. One of the more successful during this period in time was a Joe Lewis student by the name of **Jerry Smith**. Smith played a stronger role in the sport during the resurgence that was to come in 1974. Though the sport was quiet in North America several Americans had made names for themselves while serving in the military and stationed in the Orient during the Vietnam War.

THE WORLD KICKBOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

In Bangkok, Japan's **Mitsuo Shima**, Featherweight Kickboxing Champion was the big surprise at the Thai-Style Boxing World Championships held at Kittikachorn Stadium. The Japanese stylist outpointed the Thai Champ and won the crown for Japan. During these championships South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Hong Kong, Burma, Laos and Cambodia were invited to compete. They all declined the offer. A French Savate Team declined the invitation at the last moment because the rules were too great a difference in style.

In the 1st bout, Thai Flyweight Champ **Detsupan Hollywood** met his Japanese rival **Toshiro Harukawa**. The Thai won the bout with a left punch with a 2nd round KO of the Japanese.

In the 2nd bout, Thai Lightweight Champion **Saenchai Srisompop** met **Toshio Fujiwara**, Japanese title holder of the same division. The Thai dropped the Japanese in the first round with an elbow to the face. In the second round, Fujiwara was again hit by an elbow that opened a gash on his right eyebrow. The 3rd round had Fujiwara continuing with a vicious assault of leg kicks at the Thai who in turn slowed down considerably. In the 4th round and behind on points, Saenchai came alive high kicks and elbow smashes opened the Japanese fighters forehead into a mess. The ring doctor stopped the fight and this bout was viewed as the most vicious on the event.

Japanese Champ **Mammoth Okada** battled Thai Champion **Yodsingh Sawpayathai**. In the first 2 rounds the Japanese used his fists to easily win these rounds despite getting a cut eyebrow. Toward the end of round 3, the Thai started a series of knees followed by a left kick to the neck and a right kick to the solar plexus. The Japanese athlete went down and the Thai won by KO.

A mismatch took place between Thailand's Junior Lightweight Champion **Taweechai Lurdchon** and Japan's **Flying Jaguar**. For 3 rounds the Thai skillfully placed his kicks anywhere he wanted on the Japanese athletes body. In the 4th round the Thai became tired of playing and he dropped the Japanese athlete 3 times with powerful kicks to the neck. The 3 knockdown rule was in effect and the Thai

won by TKO.

In a junior welterweight bout Japan's **Go Yokoyama** met his former stable mate **Sornnakrob Kiatvayupak**. In 1970, the Japanese athlete was 1 of 11 boxers from Japan who came to Thailand to learn the art. He joined the Muangsurin Camp and learned everything from assistant instructor Sornnakrob. 2 years and 22 fights later, Go was the Japanese Champion. Sornnakrob had become the Thai Champion in the same division. He was awarded the 'King's Cup' as the 'Fighter of the Year'. For 3 rounds the Japanese athlete tried unsuccessfully to match his teachers techniques. In the 4th round the Thai dropped Go 3 times, and in round five 9 times with well placed kicks. The Thai won by a comfortable points margin.

In the Middleweight division Thailand's number 1 welterweight contender took on American **Ray Elder**. Elder had fought in Thailand before and was ranked no. 5 in the middleweight class at the time. The 1st 2 rounds had both athletes overly cautious and even in the scoring department. In the 3rd round Elder dropped the Thai with a well placed left roundhouse to the neck. In round 4, **Songkiat Kiatpracharat** changed from low kicks to high kicks. Elder was caught on the right side of the neck and he went down for an 8 count. Stumbling and still stunned Elder took 2 more kicks on the same spot. Elder then received a 4th kick and was unconscious before hitting the canvas.

Champions **Daenthai Kiatvayupaka** and **Noboru Osawa** fought for the bantamweight crown in a boring match. The Japanese was floored by a kick to the neck for a count of 9 in the opening round. He came back to give the Thai a hard time with body punches but Daenthai eventually won the bout by decision.

The final and highlight bout of the event was **Samyan Singsornthong** against Japan's **Mitsuo Shima**. The Japanese used great punches for the first round and a half. Late in round 2 he floored the Thai who took an 8 count. The Thai was staggered again by Shima's right but was saved by the bell. In the 3rd round, the Thai became more aggressive. He put the Japanese on the defensive for the rest of the round with powerful kicks. In the 4th round the Japanese used elbows and knees bringing applause and support from the crowd. By the end of the round the Thai had an egg sized lump under his right eye and the Japanese had a bleeding nose. The final round was uneventful. The decision went to Shima. In 21 encounters in 1972, Shima's win marked only the 2nd time a Japanese Kickboxer had beaten a Muay Thai athlete.



LEGENDARY 'JAPANESE KICKBOXING' PIONEER: (Above photo) **Toshio Fujiwara** : A non-Thai athlete who became Japan's Legendary Kickboxer by defeating many top Thai athletes. He was the first high profile non-Thai athlete to become respected by the Thai's in Muay Thai competition. Retains legendary status in Japan to this day.

JAPANESE KICKBOXING DEFEATS MUAY THAI BY FIXING THE FIGHTS?

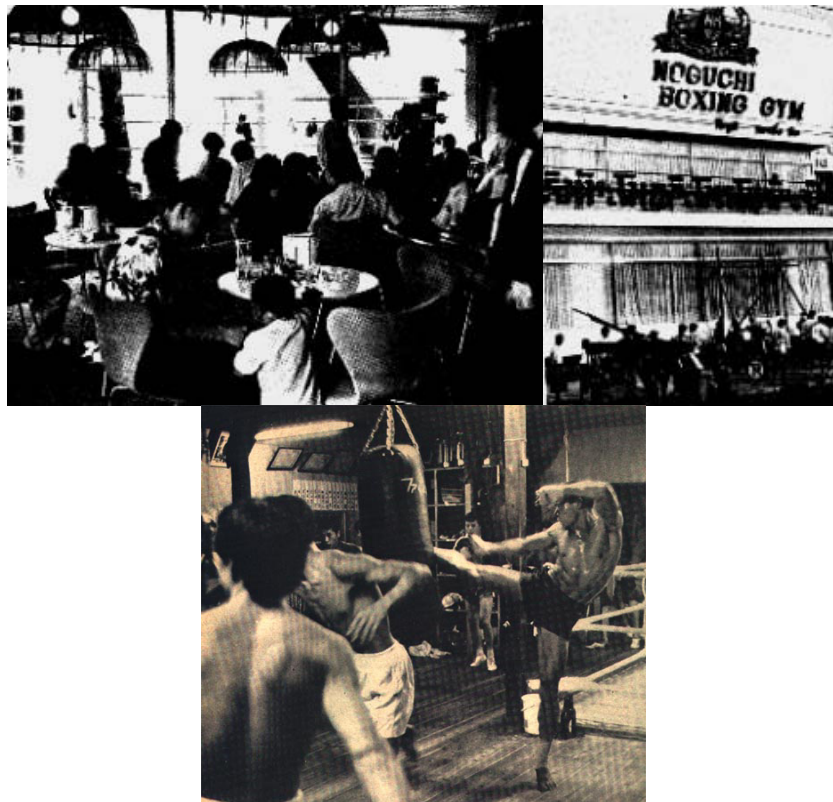
In an effort to defend Muay Thai, Thailand's national sport, The Thai embassy had pointed a finger at unscrupulous Japanese Kickboxing Promoters who allegedly import inferior Thai boxers to fight against Japanese new found Kickboxing heroes. The controversy started when a reader to the **Japan Times** accused Thailand of exporting "*undernourished, poorly exercised, unqualified, untrained so called boxers*" to Tokyo to boost Thailand's sagging economy. In rebuttal, Thailand's **Chamnong Phahulrat**, counsellor of the embassy suggested in order to boost the image of the Japanese Kickboxers, the promoters were putting 2nd rate Thai boxers against popular Japanese athletes but were 'fixing' the fights as well, forcing the Thai's to take a dive.

NOGUCHI, KICKBOXING AND THAILAND

Muay Thai historians will let you know that the first accepted use of the term 'Kickboxing' was by the Japanese after they adapted new rules to Muay Thai for their own benefit. During this time, the result was ill feelings and frustration from the Thai's that still exist towards the Japanese today. In the early 1970's, frequent visits by 'Japanese Kickboxers' for special training under Thai teachers resulted in the establishment of the **Noguchi Kickboxing Gym**, a modern training center in a coffee shop in Bangkok. Tokyo promoter **Osamu Noguchi** figured the gym would be a good business move. People could eat and drink in an air conditioned environment while watching Japanese fighters going through their workouts. It even appealed to the local Thai fight community, until Noguchi made a large mistake. He declared in public that he was the originator of '*Kickboxing*', neglecting to make it clear that he was talking about the Japanese version. Many Thai's fumed with indignation and during October 1972, the gym was closed with Noguchi heading back to Tokyo for safety. Because of death and violent abuse threats aimed

at Noguchi, the gym closed in less than a month after it opened.

The Japanese Kickboxing Gym which opened in Bangkok, Thailand By **Osamu Noguchi** ends up with the promoter ordered out of Thailand. The trouble arises when Noguchi tells local promoters that he was the originator of Kickboxing. Noguchi claims he took the 2000 year old art of Savate, added headbutting and judo throws and introduced the style in Japan as Kickboxing. Noguchi also said, that while his athletes were in Thailand they would train and fight under Muay Thai rules. The Thai's were furious and several days later Noguchi received a letter accusing him of stealing the Thai national art. The letter demanded that the name of the gym be changed from *Kickboxing* to *Thai Boxing*. Noguchi admitted to having made an erroneous statement to the press and promised to change the name of the school in 10 days. The next night \$600 damage was caused to the facility (shots were fired as well). The next day 600 students carrying signs saying "*Noguchi go home*" protested in front of the facility. In the evening bottles and rocks were thrown as well. The 'kick' was finally changed but it did not matter as Noguchi was ordered to leave the country by the authorities for "having engaged in unauthorized business".



NOGUCHI'S KICKBOXING GYM IN BANGKOK, THAILAND: (*Left photo*)

Spectators sit, eat, drink and relax while watching Japanese athletes in training. / (*Middle photo*) The outside entrance into the controversial "Kickboxing" facility. It closed in less than a month after it opened. / (*Right Photo*) Athletes working out in the controversial gym in Thailand.

PANKRATION SPECIALIST DEFENDS KICKBOXING

Greek born **Jim Arvanitis** speaks up for Kickboxing stating it has both physical and philosophical aspects. Arvanitis claims he started as a boxer at an early age. He claims to have later taken up Savate. Arvanitis makes some news headlines about being the American who has brought the lost art of **Greek Pankration** back to life. He takes the art a step further and becomes the founder of his own style **Mu Tau**. In 2 decades he will complain about the misuse of the term of Pankration in the NHB competitions.

THE MUAY THAI-KICKBOXING DEBATE CONTINUES

In Bangkok, Thailand Japanese Kickboxers and Thai boxers met in a local boxing arena of a television station to decide once and for all who is the best. The Japanese fielded their top fighters and were convinced of victory, while the Thai's smiled in anticipation of the opposite result. Thailand chose its team after a careful study of the Japanese Kickboxers. The Thai's did not pick one Thai champion and curiously picked lower rated athletes to show the superiority of Muay Thai.

The first of six bouts had Thailand's **Charndet Veerapon** (top challenger for the bantamweight title) outkicking Japan's **Noboru Osawa**. The Thai battered his opponent at will but could not knock his tough opponent out. The Thai won by decision.

In the second bout, Thailand's **Mongkondet Pitakchai** (10th rated lightweight) battled against **Mitsuo Shima**. Shima used fast kicks to give the Thai a hard fight, but he lost on points to the experienced Mongkondet.

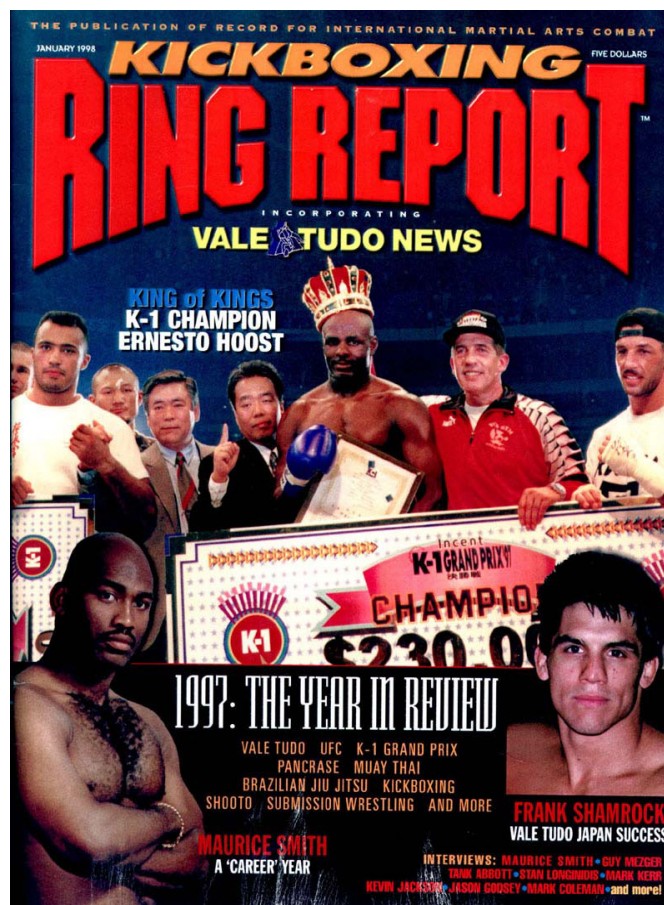
In the 3rd fight, **Thaveechai Lurdchon** (5th ranked junior lightweight) made short work of Japan's **Minoru Ota**. For 2 rounds, the Japanese athlete absorbed Thaveechai's murderous elbows before hitting the canvas for a count of ten.

In the 4th bout unrated but popular lightweight **Rungnapa Sitsomsak** fought an even battle with Japan's **Toshio Fujiwara**. In the third round the Thai dropped his hands and tried to humiliate the Japanese by laughing off Toshio's punches. The crowd jeered which seemed to incite the Thai to further nonsense. The referee stopped the bout and disqualified the Thai.

The most interesting match of the event was between 8th rated junior lightweight **Saenchai Srisompop** and Japan's **Kunimiso Okano**. The Thai landed vicious kicks to the necks and elbow strikes to the face but the Japanese athlete kept coming back. Bleeding from the nose and cuts on the face the Japanese athlete battled right through and into the 5th round. In the final round he went down twice from blows and received 2 standing eight counts. He staggered into a series of knees from the Thai and he went down for the final time. The referee stopped the fight saving the

Japanese athlete from further possible serious injuries.

The final bout had **Yordsingh S. Payathai** (3rd rated welterweight) battling with Japan's **Takashi Watanabe**. Takashi went down twice in the 4th round and was saved by the bell. In the final round the Thai attacked with all his weapons but finally connected with a knee to the Japanese fighters face and put him down for the count. The Thai's were satisfied with 5 wins and 1 disqualification. They did not rejoice because to them it was a reaffirmation that Muay Thai is superior in the ring sports. The Japanese appeared to be ahead in the use of the hand while the Thai's were ahead in the use of the foot. The Thai's made the Japanese look incompetent in the use of the short range weapons of the elbow and the knee.



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1990'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: (Above photo) Kickboxing Ring Report Magazine (January 1998): Russell Shawney's highly touted Kickboxing and Muay Thai News Magazine from the USA. His web site was one of the hottest news sites on the internet. He too (like many other publishers) has stopped the publication for several years now.

IS AMERICAN KICKBOXING FULL OF 'PHONIES'

Kickboxing in the USA is full of phonies and is in a state of chaos even before it begins. **Lee Faulkner** promotes a tournament between **Joe Lewis** and **Greg Baines** and calls himself 'the founder of US Kickboxing'. Has Mr. Faulkner forgotten about

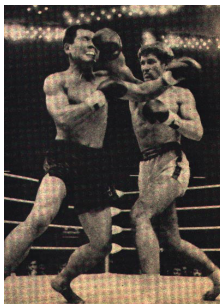
Count Dante, Ray Scarica and Maung Gyi, the real pioneers of Kickboxing? Dante and Scarica had tournaments back in 1962. Faulkner wants to control all Kickboxing in the US, when Maung Gyi in Ohio is the leading expert and president of the US Bando Association. Gyi ought to be the leader, what are Faulkner's credentials? Then there is **Aaron Banks**, the world greatest promoter of world championships, who gives Joe Lewis the title of 'World Heavyweight Kickboxer' for beating a few inexperienced fighters of little repute. Who gave Banks the right to give anyone a 'World Championship' in Karate or Kickboxing in the first place. Kickboxing is a beautiful and highly ritualistic art. If the promoters want American fighters, why not have Maung Gyi's students fight? The US should have true Kickboxing, not a poor imitation. - *Ken Terry*

FAULKNER CLARIFIES GOALS

United States Kickboxing Association clarifies its goals:

- 1) To organize American Kickboxers so that we can all work together to make Kickboxing a major sport in the United States.
- 2) To act as a governing body for Kickboxing to control its titles, rules, and regulations.
- 3) To assist in the actual promotion of Kickboxing.
- 4) To obtain medical insurance and workman's compensation for the fighters.
- 5) To maintain high safety standards for Kickboxers.
- 6) To obtain sponsorship from major companies for Kickboxing and to use Kickboxers in commercials for their products.
- 7) To protect Kickboxers from dishonest promoters.
- 8) To control promotional publicity for Kickboxing, maintaining the standards of high ranking sports, and avoiding the use of wrestling promotion techniques.
- 9) To regulate titles to make them more meaningful.
- 10) To work with Oriental organizations toward world wide promotion of Kickboxing. The **United States Kickboxing Association** does not want to monopolize the sport. We are willing to work with other groups as long as they agree to maintain the same standards. We must work together to accomplish our goals. We must attract the attention of sportscasters and sportwriters. We must avoid the problems Karate is facing today, poor national coverage by the major news media, conflicting titles, and organizations working against each other.

Lee Faulkner USKBA Commissioner - Manhattan Beach, California



AMERICAN 'JAPANESE KICKBOXER': (*Above photo*) **Raymond Elder** : A n American athlete who gained recognition in Japan as a top 'Kickboxing' athlete.

AN AMERICAN JAPANESE 'KICKBOXER'

A top ranked athlete in **Japanese Kickboxing** during the late 1960's/early 1970's was American **Raymond Elder**. Elder was the reigning Middleweight Champion in Japan. He won the **All Japan Kickboxing Federation's National Middleweight Championship** in 1973 (the same year Fujiwara won the Lightweight Title). During the late 1960's, Elder was the only non-Thai ever rated in the Bangkok ratings. On the strength of earlier bouts which were fought in Thailand, he had occupied fifth place in the Middleweight division. On August 13th to 20th, 1972 in Thailand as part of the "**World Thai-Style Boxing Championships**", seven countries were invited to bring teams to compete in these championships (Burma, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan). Only Japan sent a team to the event. Elder fought for a title representing Japan at this event and was knocked out in round four by the Thai stylist.

THE DEBATE GETS HOTTER

While Kickboxing in the US has been met with a less than tumultuous reception, Muay Thai is currently the topic of a sizzling controversy in the Orient. The people of Thailand who invented Kickboxing 3 or 4 centuries before, claim they have had their honor insulted by the Japanese as of late with their Kickboxing sport.

The controversy has been raging for some months and as yet has to be resolved. Reports from Tokyo and confessions from Thai athletes who have admitted into being bribed into losing against their Japanese opponents in Japan. The bouts were taped and then later shown on American television. Reportedly, thousands of American Thais were shocked by the poor showing of their countrymen and they insisted the Foreign Ministry in Bangkok do something about Thai boxers entering international contests.

The issue got so hot that it even made the Thai cabinet. Thai Boxing officials were even more incensed when the Japanese claimed their victories represented nothing less than world championships. In 1971 there were reports that the dispute was nearing a pugilistic showdown. A grudge match event between Japan and Thailand in (would you believe) Las Vegas. It obviously never happened.

A Japanese promoter named **Nakamura** offered to send a team of 8 Japanese Kickboxers to Thailand. **Colonel Thongterm Pebsukh** (vice director of Lumpini Stadium) is said to have accepted the offer on the following terms:

1) Thai rules would be used. 2) The purse would be the same that is normally paid to the Thai fighters. 3) The visitors pay their own expenses. The dispute goes much deeper than phony fights because a high ranking Thai Government Official stated,

"The Japanese have amended our rules and modified our style. We accepted Judo and Karate without any reform, and we must wonder why the Japanese don't do the same with our art. Why, they even wrestle in the ring!" Japan's **Ray Elder** responds: The bouts in Japan shown on American TV were taped by a Japanese promoter, therefore it is highly likely that the tapes were sent to the US with a Japanese point of view. Elder states that there is only one authentic Kickboxing Commission in Japan and it is the **AJKC** (All Japan Kick-Boxing Commission). The commissioner is Japanese senator **Shintaro Ishihara**. The Japan TV Channel TBS claims to have its own TV Champions but he sheds disbelief on their authenticity. Bouts under the AJKC are authentic, but he does not say the same for the TBS-6 bouts. Elder points the finger at one fighter on the channel who is known for having notoriously known fixed fights. Elder states about the wrestling issue, that the AJKC follows the same rules and regulations as Thailand, except that Japanese Kickboxers do not do the Ram Muay. *"The Bangkok politician should have directed his fury at TBS-6 and not the Japanese,"* states Elder. Elder suggest that, *"The Thai people accept that any athlete having the potential to box professionally in international boxing, regardless of nationality, also has the potential to fight in Muay Thai, providing they train in the Thai style."* Elder suggest that Kickboxing in Japan fall under the control of the Japan Boxing Commission, who will have the power to take relative, punitive measures. He also states that the Thai Boxing Commission only allow licensed professional Thai style boxers into Kickboxing contests in Japan. Elder states that he feels the Thai's are better than the Japanese Kickboxers, especially in the lighter weights, and this is supported by the fact that Japanese Kickboxing gyms send their athletes to Thailand to train and that Thai trainers are also being imported into Japan.



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1990'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: (Above photo) **Chinese Fight Magazine** Chinese fight magazine that is no longer being published.

NO CRIES OF 'PHONIES' HERE

In Thomastown, Georgia there were no cries of 'fake' at **Atlas Jesse King's 4th Georgia Kick-boxing Classic**. The audience was awed by the strong combination of Karate kicks and Boxing punches displayed by black belt winner **Virgil Brown**.

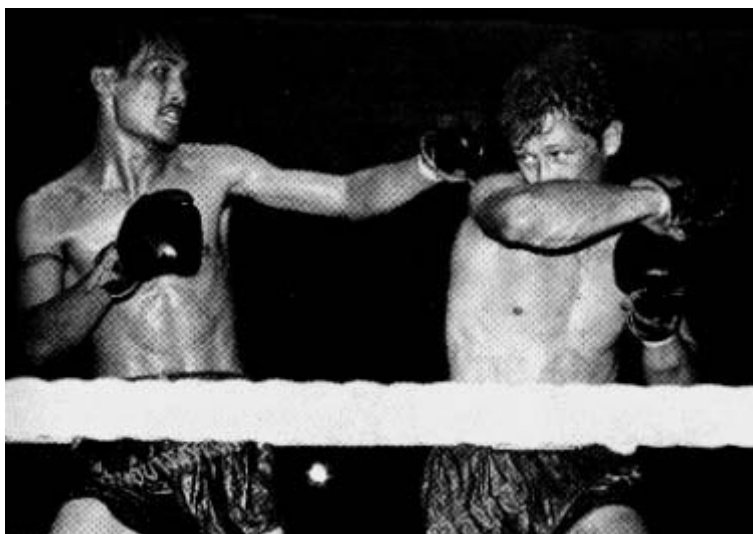
Continued on the Next Page! - 1973 -

"KICKBOXING"

NORTH AMERICA'S SURPRISINGLY TABOO

'KICKBOXING' HISTORY! (Part 5)

1973



An American successfully fights Muay Thai in Thailand. (Above photo) DALE KVALHEIM Known as the 'Golden Haired Executioner' by Muay Thai supporters in Thailand.

1973

AN AMERICAN MUAY THAI ATHLETE IN

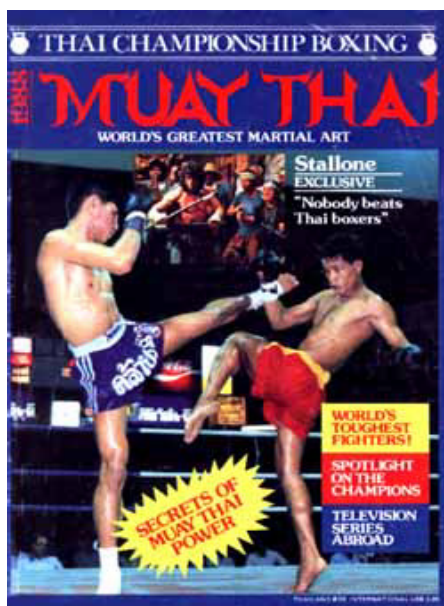
THAILAND

From 1972 to 1975 an American GI based in Udorn Thani, Thailand by the name of **Dale Kvalheim** * was one of the first American's to be accepted seriously by Thai teachers. Kvalheim (from Seattle) had 35 bouts winning 25 and earning the ring name of *"The Golden Haired Executioner"*. At one time he was rated number 10 in his weight division, and he was the Champion of Northeast Thailand. He was one of the first Caucasian foreigners who was taken seriously in this art by the Thais. Up until Kvalheim's participation in the sport, Thai teachers had been frustrated at the lack of commitment and respect from American's (more specifically GI's) who wanted to learn and then fight Muay Thai in the ring. Up to this time period it has been noted that a few American's were so disrespectful to their Thai teachers that they would eventually challenge their instructors to a fight.

Needless to say, the Americans would usually end up on their back wondering what hit them!

***DALE KVALHEIM**

*Dale Kvalheim of Wenatchee, Washington has defeated the unofficial Northern Thailand Lightweight Champion **Apidet Lukmuang-nga** on points during a 5 round Muay Thai fight in Chiang Mai. It is the Americans 22 fight and his 14th victory. Kvalheim has been training and fighting for only 18 months and when he first tried to start training in Muay Thai he was rejected for being too soft, not understanding the Thai traditions and because he was a foreigner. Finally after persistence, he was accepted by Thai trainer **Denapad Strithong**. On Kvalheim's 11th fight, he blocked a kick with his forearm and his arm was broken from the power of the kick. Kvalheim is not noted for his kicks (he feels they are weak) but he likes to punch and work his way in close so he can then elbow and knee. By 1974 Kvalheim is the only American on the Muay Thai circuit (as **Raymond Elder** from Japan retired).*



MUAY THAI MAGAZINE FROM THAILAND: (Above photo) **Thai Championship Boxing** A short lived English magazine/book concentrating on Muay Thai in Thailand and around the world.

BURMESE CELEBRATION FEATURES BANDO **AGAINST KARATE**

Rangoon Burma was host to a tournament that featured Burmese Kickboxing (Bando) against Karate. The week-long Burmese Independence Day Burmese Kickboxing Tournament was highlighted by matches between Bando against Karate. Due to the inexperience of the Karateka in the Kickboxing ring, the Karateka were paired with lesser known and weaker boxers. Most of the bouts turned out to be toe to toe encounters and most ended in a draw except for one

unusual incident. Kickboxer **Moc Kyaw** accidentally swept Karateka **Zaw Weit** by pulling the latter's leg as he fell. Kyaw immediately apologized in typical Buddhist praying position. Weit's supporters, many of them also Karateka, were not satisfied with the apology and they hurled verbal criticism at the boxer. Kyaw jumped out of the ring and challenged Weit's supporters. The referee's stepped in to stop the incident and the match resumed. Kyaw attacked his foe with renewed vigor and he knocked his opponent out with a kick to the jaw. The event did not attract top boxers because the prize money was too low and most were at another tournament in Toungoo held on the same day. The main event featured **Aung Tin** against **Daung Nyo**. Action battled back and forth and in the early rounds Tin tried to lure Nyo after much jumping and kicking. Nyo seized the leg and smashed Tin's chest with a powerful head butt. Simultaneously Tin dropped both elbows down into the back of his opponent's head. In the middle rounds, Nyo grasped Tin's head and delivered a stunning knee to his opponent's chin. After 3 rounds of fighting and with neither athlete ahead in scoring the bout moved to a 4th round. The 4th round lasted approximately 1 hour. The pace took its toll on Tin while Nyo exhibited stamina. Tin soon grew exhausted and did not want to continue.

CONTROVERSIAL WOMEN'S 'KICKBOXING'

Women's Kickboxing sets off a controversy in Thailand. The televised Muhammed Ali - Ken Norton encounter was followed in Bangkok with 5 Muay Thai bouts. The Channel 7 show televised all women's bouts. 2 of the 5 bouts ended in KO and a few of the women appeared to have good Muay Thai basics. The crowd at times broke into fits of laughter at some of the girls' moves in the ring. The all-female extravaganza prompted a nationwide argument with conservative elders being shocked while young promoters called out for the establishment of Muay Thai camps for females. Muay Thai promoter **Tiemboon Intrabut**, strongly defended his program against the critics. *"It is much better for a girl to earn her living in the ring than being a prostitute"*, said the Promoter. Women used to box in the Ayutthaya period (which ended in 1767). *"Queen Suriyothai used to fight with bare hand too"*, again said the promoter. It has only been in recent history women were banned from fighting and it was mostly due to superstitious reasons.



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1990'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: *(Above photo)* Uppercut Magazine French magazine concentrating on the pugilistic arts of Muay Thai, Kickboxing, Full Contact, Boxe Francaise-Savate and international boxing.

AUGAIS FIGHTS IN THE CLASSICAL TRADITION

Young **Patrick Augais** reminded veteran spectators of their old time heroes when he fought in classical fashion to win the 1973 'La Boxe Francaise' Championships. Augais tried to stay away from the modern tendency of trying to punch and he relied mainly on kicks. Augais appeared to restore tradition to the French art of Savate.

FIGHT TURNS INTO A SLAUGHTER

In Wichita Kansas in 1973 **Roger Carpenter** battled **John Bal'ee**. This bout started off under the agreed upon rules but soon developed into a full fledged street fight in the ring. Bal'ee was cut across the face and most Boxing and Kickboxing matches would have called the fight but not here. The bout had to go to knockout. Carpenter elbowed his foe in the face further opening the gash and then continually

kneaded his foe in the face. A knee sent Bal'ee through the ropes and referee **Jim Harrison** did not start counting until Bal'ee was back in the ring. This happened several times. 3000 nauseated spectators witnessed the bout which turned out to be a slaughter. The referee asked Bal'ee if he could continue and he barely nodded no. The fight was stopped and Bal'ee was taken to the hospital by ambulance.



MUAY THAI BOOK FROM THAILAND: (Above photo) Thai language Muay Thai book published in Thailand.

THE 6TH ORIENTAL WORLD OF SELF-DEFENSE

On October 14th, 1973 **Aaron Banks** hosted this event to a packed house at Madison Square Gardens. At this event Banks had 2 Thai athletes perform their ceremonial Ram Muay. The 2 athletes did an exhibition bout exchanging punches and kicks. *"Both athletes tried their best but their techniques are not up to the standards of World (Martial Arts) Champions"*, said Banks. The crowd began to berate the lack of skill. In the third round one athlete took a knee to the chin and he went down much to the chagrin from the audience, thinking the one Thai went down on a dive.

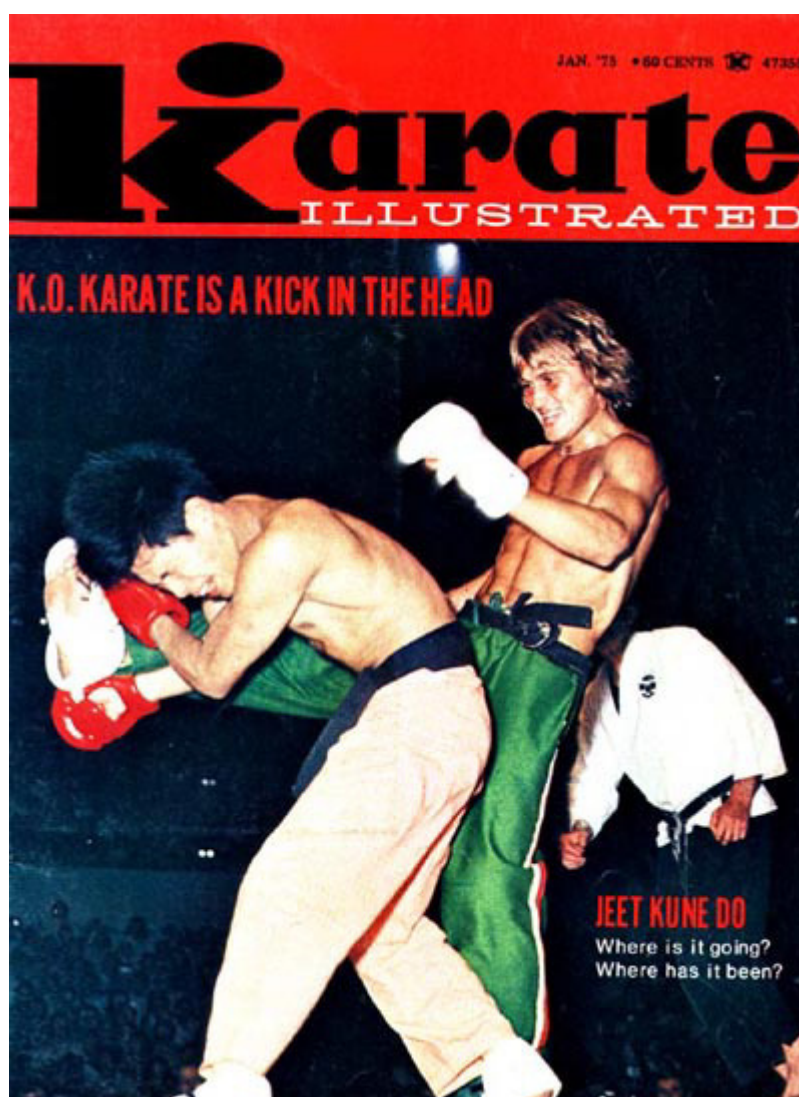
Continued on the Next Page! - 1974 -

"KICKBOXING"

NORTH AMERICA'S SURPRISINGLY TABOO

'KICKBOXING' HISTORY! (Part 6)

1974



**MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1970'S FEATURING
KICKBOXING: (Above photo) Karate Illustrated Magazine (January 1975):
Coverage of the 1st PKA World Championships in L.A.**

1974

AMERICAN REBIRTH UNDER A NEW NAME

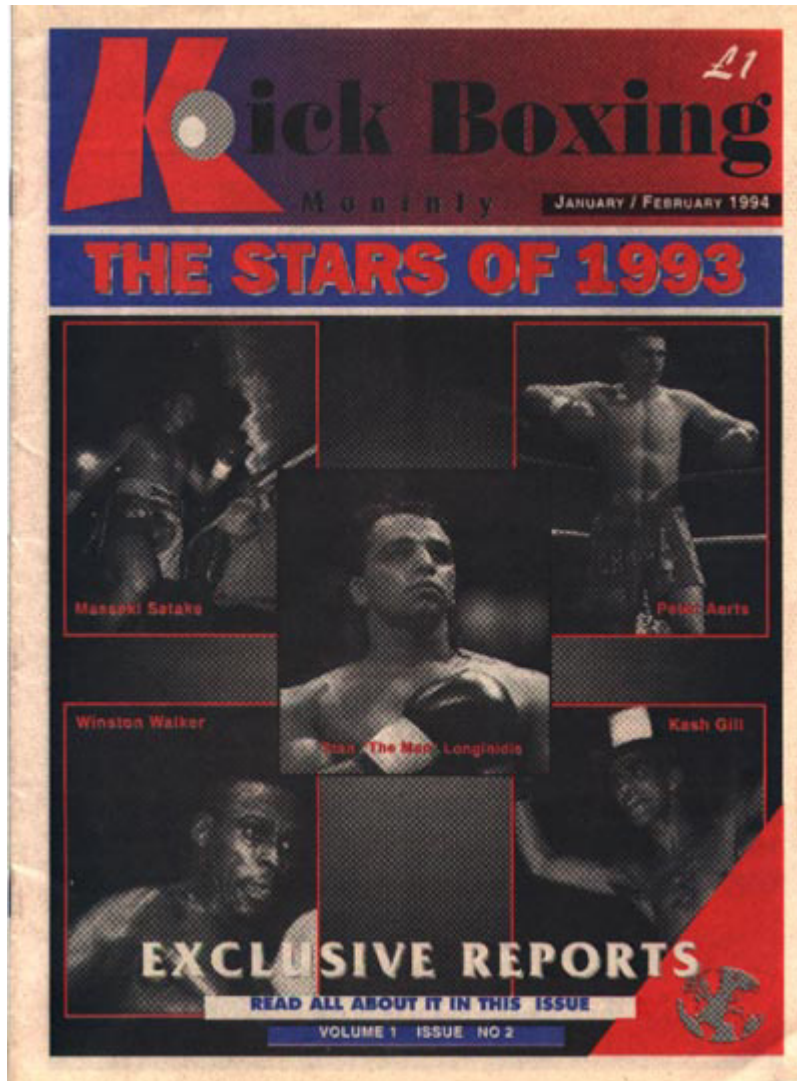
In North America mid way through the Bruce Lee boom (1974), there was a renewed attempt by **Joe Lewis** and **Tom Tannenbaum** to create a new "realistic" type of competition in the Martial Arts, and the (re)birth of Kickboxing under the name of **Full Contact Karate** resulted. Lewis brought in promoter **Mike Anderson**, and one of the most extraordinary events in American Karate history took place. Anderson figured it was the best (and only) way to increase spectator interest in Karate. Anderson made a contact with German Karate entrepreneur **George Bruckner**. The German conducted an elimination event in Europe to determine the European Full Contact Karate representatives. In America, three of the four representatives were chosen on the basis of their divisional supremacy in the USA point Karate ratings. Several months before the event Anderson formed a promotion company with **Don** and **Judy Quine** who in turn finalized the negotiations with Universal Television. The event turned out to be very successful and it was televised (*ABC's Wide World of Entertainment*) from the Los Angeles Sports Arena and it also received non-Martial Arts related magazine coverage. The event grossed \$50,000 US at the gate. Legendary American athletes who had made a name for themselves in Point Fighting (**Bill Wallace, Jeff Smith, Joe Lewis, and Howard Jackson**) made the transition over to "**Full Contact Karate**". Fourteen athletes competed at the event and three of the four Americans won World Karate Titles (Wallace, Smith & Lewis) and were paid \$3000.00 US each for winning (Jackson was suffering from a severe knee injury and lost his bid for the title). These athletes were supported by the first "American Full Contact Karate" sanctioning body known as the **Professional Karate Association (PKA)** which was formed by both Quine's and Anderson a month before the event. At this event Anderson reported a personal loss of \$60,000 and Tannenbaum sold the rights of the event to ABC.

CONTROVERSY IN THE NAME

The success of Full Contact Karate at this time brought criticism and controversy from the traditional Martial Arts community. It was contended that Full Contact Karate degraded the art form and that it would affect the enrollment in these schools. It was also felt that the televised **Full Contact Karate** would lead viewers to believe that this was the required course of learning in the traditional schools. These detractors felt that there should be no association with the word "*Karate*" to the new sport and they vocally sought for the sport to be known as "**Kickboxing**". Initially this was not to be, the sport could only be sold to television because of the popularity of Karate. "**Kickboxing**" on the other hand was associated with the far more brutal sports in Thailand and Japan. Kickboxing was viewed as too violent and so there was a push for the name of the sport to be known as **Full Contact Karate**. The name worked at the time and thus the sport was broadcast as such. It was not until the 1980's that the term "Kickboxing" would start to surpass the use of the term "Full Contact Karate".

OLD BOXER UPHOLDS MUAY THAI'S HONOR

Responding to a challenge from a Karate Instructor in Japan who is 40 years old, 48 year old **Chuckai Prakarnchai** defeats the Karate stylist by TKO in the second round.



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1990'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: *(Above photo)* Kickboxing Monthly Magazine (January/February 1994): Keith Allen's highly informative UK magazine. No longer being published.

MUAY THAI DEFEATS KARATE CHAMPION IN USA

2000 spectators came to watch the Black Dragons Production. The event featured Full Contact fighting interspersed with Martial Arts demonstrations. One of the most exciting matches of the evening featured **Steve Fisher** against **Manny Charusarn**, a Thai boxer. The Thai kept landing hard roundhouse kicks in the first round which resulted in Fisher stumbling awkwardly around the ring while red welts appeared on his body from where the Thai had kicked him. In the 2nd round Fisher began to score with his hands as the Thai legs began to tire. The Thai boxer

could not punch as well as Fisher but Fisher couldn't get by the kicks. The Thai boxer won the match. Charusarn took the Middleweight Title with dojomate Manuel Urquidez* bowing out giving the Thai the title.

*(*I do not understand how the Urquidez family has a Thai boxer, Charusarn, training in their camp in 1974, yet prior to Benny's bout with Narongnoi Kiatbandit (1977), Benny Urquidez claims to have never heard of 'Muay Thai'. It does not sound right.)*

THAILAND MAINTAINS HONOR OVER JAPANESE KICKBOXERS

Thailand scored another victory over the Japanese at Hua Mark Indoor Stadium. 20,000 spectators came to witness the event in Bangkok. Thai flyweight **Rojanadet Rotsongkram** battled **Kosiyu Kawasaki**. As soon as the bout started, the Thai moved in with strong kicks but the Japanese fought back with determination. Halfway through the 2nd round, The Thai caught the visiting athlete with a well placed knee to the solar plexus. He then followed with 4 roundhouse kicks to the head. Kawasaki was floored for the count. In the next bout Thailand's **Prayoud Sittiboonlert** (145 lbs.) battled Japan's **Genshu Igari** (147 lbs.). The Thai made short work of the muscular Igari in the 2nd round with a powerful left kick to the midsection that drove the wind out of the Japanese. Prayud followed with a left elbow to the face which sent the Japanese reeling back half way through the ropes. Swollen, the Japanese athlete attacked and ran into a knee that gave the Thai the win by the count. Bout 3 had Thai Welterweight Champion **Khunpon Sakornpitak** (149 lbs.) battling with Japanese welterweight **Go Yokohama** (148 lbs.). Both athletes lacked fighting spirit and started clowning with the Thai running away from the Japanese. In the 3rd round, Khunpon was told to start fighting or the bout would be declared a no-contest. Thai fans were thoroughly disappointed and started jeering as well as throwing garbage into the ring. In the final round, the Thai floored the Japanese athlete 5 times and won the decision. The 4th fight featured former Thai Flyweight Champion **Chenoi Sawsiriphan** (124 lbs.) battling Japanese Featherweight Champion **Kunimasa Nagae**. This was a great fight with both athletes displaying heart during their bloody confrontation. In the final round, the Thai threw a straight punch followed by an elbow that hit the same spot dropping the Japanese that could have been long after the count. The Japanese was saved by the bell at the sound of 6. The Thai won the bout.

CHINESE HAVE A BAD NIGHT IN BANGKOK

Hong Kong Kung fu exponents who were still nursing their wounded pride after the humiliation they had suffered at the hands of the Muay Thai athletes in late 1973, had come back to Bangkok to challenge the Thai's in a return match. Two of their Kung fu brothers had been knocked out in the 1st round by the Thai boxers and now it was time to exact revenge. Hong Kong team manager **Wai Chin** explained that his team had been at a disadvantage in the first encounter by having to wear gloves. *"Our trained hands are our most effective weapon, and we have to insist on*

a bare-handed fight this time. We will have our revenge all right", said the manager. After a rule meeting between the Chinese and the Thai's the following rules were agreed upon; 1) Each contest and can fight according to their own style. 2) Each round would consist of five 3 minute rounds with a 2 minute rest period between rounds. 3) Each bout would be scored by the referee and 2 judges and it would be scored according to the Muay Thai system. 4) The only illegal techniques would be biting, finger stabs to the eyes, ears and nostrils; scratching; and attacking a downed opponent. The 'barehand' decision found some concern among the Thai athletes but the promoter **Col. Thongterm Pobsook**, said any athlete found clowning or not fighting to their full ability would be banned from the stadium (Lumphini) for life. 15,000 fans packed the huge Hua Mark Stadium (an affiliate facility used by the Lumphini organization). An unusually large contingent of Chinese came to watch the bouts excitedly shouting, "*Bruce Lee, Bruce Lee*" and "*Enter you Dragons!*". The event opened with an exhibition between 2 members of the Kung fu team. It proved unpopular as the crowd had come to see blood. In the first bout Thai flyweight **Krengprinoi Sawsakyon** (103 lbs.) squared off with **Chen Yew-kuang** of Hong Kong (105 lbs.). The Thai was apprehensive about his opponents exposed fingers and moved cautiously, attacking with only a few long range kicks. The Chinese was fast enough to dodge the kicks and he countered quickly with some punches to the Thai's face. Suddenly the Thai delivered a high roundhouse to the face of his foe followed by a second to the neck which floored the Kung fu man. Clearly shaken, the Chinese struggled to his feet and then moved straight into a powerful punch that put the Chinese out for the count of 10. In the 2nd bout, **Samarn Lukpanpo**, former Thai Flyweight Champion (114 lbs.) met **Tang Li-yuan** (111 lbs.). Samarn missed a few round kicks and traded punches while close before landing a kick to the neck that sent the Chinese reeling into the ropes. The Chinese came immediately back with a series of knife hand attacks to the Thai's body. Unfortunately, he got trapped in the corner. The Thai let loose with a series of elbow and knee attacks, then used his gloves to grab the Kung fu mans head, pulled it down and smashed a knee into the Chinese mans face. Bleeding heavily Tang got back up to continue but gave up when he noticed the blood. The fight ended at 2 minutes 20 seconds of the 1st round. The third fight had Thai flyweight **Rerngsak Pornthawee** (114 lbs.) matched against 115 lbs. **Ou Joon-hai**. The Chinese was nervous and started running around the ring to stay out of the Thai's reach. The Thai caught the Chinese with a kick to the leg that sent him sprawling to his face on the canvas. After the 8 count, the Kung fu fighter refused to fight and he was booed out of the ring. Time: 1 minute, 22 seconds. The fourth fight was the main event between Thai Bantamweight Champion **Nongkai Sawprasorn** (119 lbs.) and Hong Kong's **Teng Oui-hong** (122 lbs.). The Chinese went through a lot of flashy moves and then attacked the Thai with a jumping front kick. The Thai dodged the kick and countered with a roundhouse kick to the kidney region of the Chinese. The kick stopped the Chinese in mid-air and he dropped to the canvas like a sack of rice. The bout lasted 20 seconds. The final bout of the event featured Thai flyweight **Payon Sermviset** (110 lbs.) against **Loo Ui-liang** (108 lbs.). With some very fast and powerful hand combinations, the Chinese drove

the Thai into the ropes. The Thai had to use some vicious elbow work to get out of trouble. The Thai followed with some strong leg kicks which landed before following up with a head kick which drove the Chinese athlete to the canvas. Payon waited for the Chinese to get back up and then landed a kick to the neck. Loo crumbled to his face and stayed there a lot longer than the 10 count. The Kung fu artist was carried from the ring on a stretcher. In the five matches the Thai's had knocked all their opponents out in the 1st round and total action came to barely 6 minutes. The Chinese spectators started shouting, "*cruelty*", "*torture*", and "*Barbarians*" were answered with jeers from the Thai audience. According to records this event marked the 4th time there was a confrontation between Kung fu and Muay Thai. In 1921, **Tse Shang**, a famous Chinese fighter challenged a Thai boxer by the name of **Yang Hantalay**. Eye witness reports claim that it was the most brutal fight ever seen. It lasted under 3 minutes and the Chinese needed months of medical care to recover. Then in 1958 a team of Tai Kek were all beaten by Thai boxers. All the fights ended in 1st round KO'es. None of the fighters from the 1973 matches appeared in the 1974 matches. The Hong Kong manager Wai Chin said, "*I've had enough. Never again. Muay Thai is too dangerous to be a sport.*"

SINGAPORE KUNG FU STYLISTS FAIL TO DEFEAT MUAY THAI

Disturbed by the losses of Kung Fu fighters from Hong Kong at the hands and feet of Thai boxers during a number of recent challenge matches, and annoyed at the increased arrogance of Muay Thai followers who claim Muay Thai is unbeatable, a group of Martial Artists from Singapore issued a challenge to fight the Thai's anywhere in the world. This turned out to be Bangkok, where 3 chan tung stylists arrived to battle with the Thai's. Chan tung is reported to be a mixture of Tae Kwon-Do and Kung fu. 20,000 fans came to Radgdamnern Stadium to watch what turned out to be another disaster for the Chinese. Thailand's number 1 rated middleweight **Prapai Sitchumpon** and **Michael Lee**, a well known Lightheavyweight on the Singapore tournament circuit battled in a bout that lasted only 90 seconds. The Thai finished the bout with a flying knee to Lee's solar plexus. Radgdamnern's Welterweight Champion **Saensak Muangsurin** battled Singapore's **Tae Yien-chen**, nicknamed the "Black Killer" because he is reported to have killed an opponent with a chop during a tournament a few years earlier. It was Tae's reputation that made the Thai's insist that the Singapore athletes wore gloves. The first round had both athletes cautiously eyeing each other to find defensive weakness. In round 2, the Thai moved in with heavy body punches, driving the Chinese into a corner. A high left kick dropped the Chinese who at 1 minute and 20 seconds into the second round, had lasted longer than any other non-Thai stylist in the recent grudge matches. Radgdamnern's top lightweight **Netr Saknarong** battled **Yia Lee-lee** in about which also never lasted through the first round. An early left kick by the Thai dropped the Chinese, who staggered to his feet and received a vicious left hook to the neck that put him down for the count.



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1990'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: (Above photo) Japanese Martial Arts Magazine (1993): This particular issue covers the first K-1 Grand Prix..

MUAY THAI DEFEATS 'MUAY KHMER'

Khmer Kickboxers no match for Bangkok fighters. A Muay Thai event held between Thailand and Cambodia was held in Bangkok before a capacity crowd. The event was completely dominated by the Thai athletes. The Khmer's also consider Muay Thai as their indigenous art of self-defense. In the 145 lbs. weight class, **Surakant Klongpachon** bested **Chia Sala** by a 4th round KO. At 126 lbs. **Singhkanong Petchthanin** KO'ed **Mye Polra** in round 4. In the 2nd round of 121 lbs. bout, **Rungsang Lukkhongsong** KO'ed **Jimmy Sawuth**. **Chid Salim** was outpointed by **Prasit Lukchaopraya** in the 118 lbs. contest. The main event featured **Weeraphan Singhpayong** outpointing **Lem Pata** to win the 110 lbs. title. The Khmer's techniques and endurance appeared more effective than those of other styles who, in recent tournaments, had all lost by 1st round KO'es.

MUAY THAI AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN?

Fight manager **Chana Sabkaew** returned from the USA and has started screening the country's top fighters to be included in a team to appear at Madison Square Garden. Invited by US promoters **David Chow** and **Flores Hamilton**, the Muay Thai stylists are to meet a team of Kung fu fighters during the Chinese New Year celebration in 1975. Arrangements were also said to be made to have the Thai's meet with a team of Tae Kwon-Do stylists and a team of Karate stylists. "Should

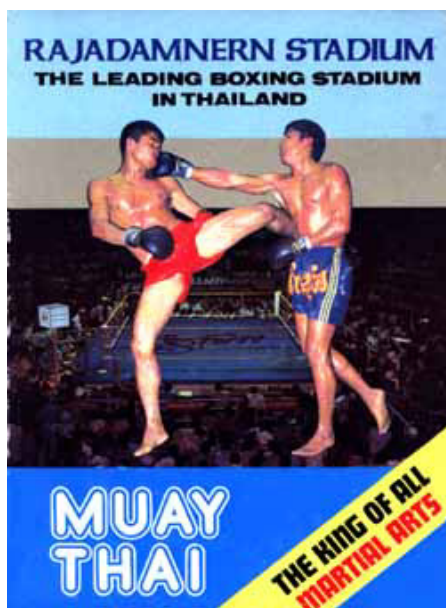
this tour end successfully for us, we will set up a permanent fight camp in the United States immediately," said manager Chana. The event never takes place.

MUAY THAI FATALITY IN THAILAND

The main bout in a Muay Thai tournament in Chaing Rai ended in disaster when the winner suffered fatal injuries. **Singthong Chaoneua** had narrowly beaten **Singhdeo** on points in a vicious battle where both athletes endured an extraordinary amount of punishment. The referee lifted Singthong's hand at the end of the final round and before he could receive his prize, he fainted and collapsed. Singthong died on the way to the hospital as a result of internal injuries.

FEMALE MUAY THAI COMPETITION

A 9 girl Muay Thai team was scheduled to go to Japan for a tour of exhibition fights lasting 6 months. Led by **Banjamas Chunhasvee**, the young women are all ring veterans who make their living at sideshows and unofficial tournaments in Thailand. Female Muay Thai fighters are still not recognized by any Thai Boxing Associations. The tour was to be organized and financed by **Teruo Kusomoto**, president of the Japanese Women's Kickboxing Association, and who was trying to get Japanese girls interested in the Thai art.



MUAY THAI BOOK FROM THAILAND: (Above photo) **RADGDAMNERN STADIUM - MUAY THAI - THE KING OF ALL MARTIAL ARTS** English language book published in Thailand.

BURMESE FIGHTING STYLES

Myanmar Letwhei (the traditional fighting art of Burma) is a mixture of Karate and Boxing techniques. It is one of 3 kinds of **Myanmar Thaing** (unarmed Burmese self-defense). The other 2 being **Bando** and **Naba** (wrestling). Competitors fight in this art both barehanded and bare fisted and concern for their safety are essential elements in the art. During a contest, as soon as an athlete

bleeds, the fight is over and the winner is the athlete who did not bleed. Strangely during a bout a contestant can raise his hand to stop the bout, and then when he is ready to continue, the athletes will. Also if an athlete is injured, his opponent will be the first to rush to his opponents aid. When a bout begins neither athlete will fight until absolutely sure both are ready for combat. This is done by a signal called *letkhamaungkhat* (by slapping the elbow with the other palm). There is no weight limit and there is no time limit during the fights. When the boxers are engaged in a fierce struggle, the referee may signal a break. 4 breaks constitute a round and 4 rounds constitute a contest. Should the match be a tie, the athletes proceed to a non-stop fight to the finish where one will either submit or is injured. Under these conditions a fight can last up to several hours. A fight is won by an opponent bleeding or being injured. There are 2 types of bleeding: internal wounds accompanied with bleeding from the nose or the mouth, and external bleeding from when the skin is pierced. If an athlete is bleeding he can wipe away the blood 3 times, if it continues, he loses the match. Decisions can also come by an opponent submitting or disqualification. Fists, elbows, knees, toes, and the head are weapons usually used in this type of fighting.

MUAY THAI DEFEATS KARATE IN PHILIPPINES

Nirund Boonyanet, a college student from Thailand studying in the Philippines knocked out Karateka **Candido Piket** in the 2nd round of a scheduled 5 round freestyle bout in Rizal Coliseum Stadium in Manila. The Thai is considered an amateur in Muay Thai circles, opened the 1st round with a high kick that sent the Filipino to the floor. Before the round was over, an elbow opened a cut on the Karateka's lips. The 2nd round saw the Thai using knees to the lower body before a high kick ended the fight.

PROFESSIONAL BOXERS TURN TO KICKBOXING

Former World Bantamweight Boxing challenger **Katsuyoshi Kanasawa** of Japan who turned to fighting in Japan's Kickboxing rings, lost a fight on points against former Muay Thai Champion **Chennoi Sawsiriphan** in Radgdamnern Stadium in Bangkok. For 5 rounds, the Thai chased his foe around the ring with long range kicks which floored the Japanese athlete several times. The Japanese athlete lost by a wide margin but the Thai athlete was unable to knock him out. Kanasawa was originally supposed to meet former World Flyweight Boxing Champion **Berkrek Chartvanchai** whom he once knocked out in a boxing bout. The Thai has taken up Kickboxing as well and ended his boxing career. But the Thai decided to retire from pugilism altogether.

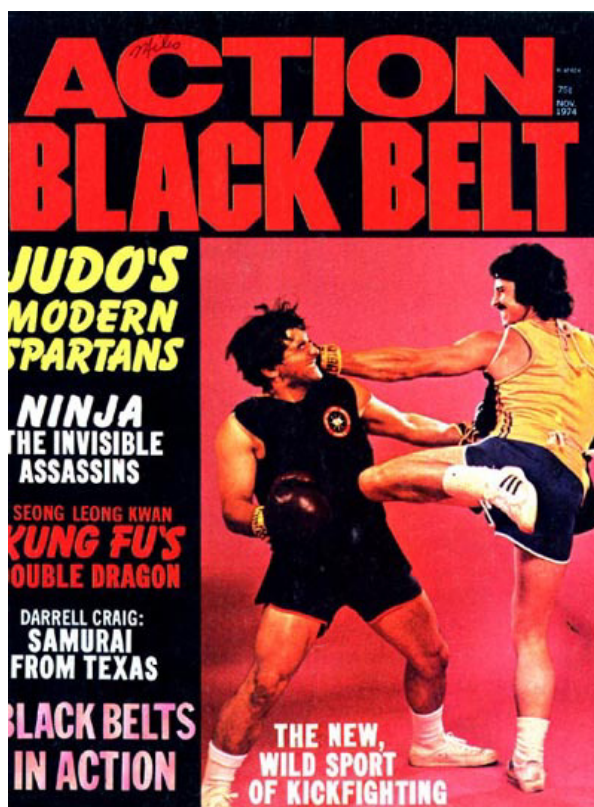
KICKFIGHTING ADDS TO THE CONFUSION

Gary Alexander* comes out with **Kick Fighting** (not boxing, Fighting). Athletes will wear regular boxing gloves and besides punching will be able to use grabs and throws. Feet will be padded as well. Athletes are also allowed to attack downed opponents. Each bout will consist of 3 rounds of 2 minutes. *"It's Kickboxing plus..."*

which means it should turn out to be the roughest, wildest sport around." With claims like that, it turns out to be the kiss of death for the sport which never really takes off or gets much publicity.

***GARY ALEXANDER**

'Kickfighting' One of the East Coasts most prominent promoters Gary Alexander took his step into the full contact world with his promotion of his sport of Kickfighting.



MARTIAL ARTS MAGAZINE FROM THE 1970'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: (Above photo) Action Black Belt Magazine (1974): Features a story on Kickfighting and founder Gary Alexander.

MUAY THAI INVADES EUROPE

Muay Thai was introduced into Europe by a team of professional fighters from Radgdamnern Stadium. Exhibition bouts will take place in England and Germany. The trip is organized by the Tourist Organization of Thailand.

ALEXANDER PROMOTES EVENT

Gary Alexander hosted Kickboxing at his July 13 Pro/Am event.

WORLD OF MARTIAL ARTS 12/20/74 12/21/74

Convinced that Full Contact was the way to go, **Benny Urquidez** entered the World Series of Martial Arts in 1974. There were 58 entries including Boxers, Wrestlers, Street Fighters, Sumo Wrestlers and Martial Artists. The rules allowed

everything including elbows, knees, and head butting. The Grand Championship was worth \$5000. In the first day Urquidez and **Dana Goodsen*** were knocking everyone out. On the second day people were badly injured and pulling out which left 10 entrants left in the competition. Urquidez defeated Goodsen by third round decision (not by fourth round KO as Urquidez has claimed).

***DANA GOODSEN (now deceased)**

*Benny Urquidez claims to have knocked Dana Goodsen out in Tommy Lee's World Series of Martial Arts Championships. The Championship took place in 1974 (not 1973 as Urquidez has stated). Benny has said he knocked Goodsen out in the fourth round. Urquidez did not knock Goodsen out and all the fights in the event were fought over 3 rounds, not 4. This was Dana's first professional fight. Goodsen had 3 grueling rounds with **Blinky Orderlies** before meeting Urquidez. On the other hand Urquidez had had fought and won a TKO in the fight before meeting Goodsen.*

THE HUMBLE START OF THE PKA

11,500 fans saw **Mike Anderson's*** induction of the World Professional Karate Championships. This televised event was to set the stage for the new **Professional Karate Association (PKA)** and was in fact sanctioned by the PKA. Athletes came from Seoul, Hakata, Mexico City, Montreal, Toronto, Berlin, Belgrade, Santa Domingo and Memphis and all would battle for \$20000 in prize money. 4 divisions were set up: lightweight (152 lbs. and under), middleweight (165 lbs. to 152 lbs.), lighth heavyweight (182 lbs. to 165 lbs.), and heavyweight (183 lbs. and over). Bouts were to be 3 rounds of 2 minutes. A round would end by a knockdown and the athlete knocking the other athlete down would automatically win the round. When the event was over 4 men received cheques for \$3000 each. They were **Bill Wallace, Jeff Smith, Joe Lewis** and the big upset of the event Mexico's **Isaiah Duenas** (the lightweight division was suppose to go to heavily favored **Howard Jackson**). The first of 2 lightweight elimination matches featured American **Howard Jackson*** stepping into the ring against Dominican Republic's **Ramon Smith**. Both men exchanged punches in bunches and each delivered token kicks during the exchanges. Jackson showed none of his fast kicking and footwork because a week before the event he had injured his knee in a tournament (stepping on a paper cup and twisting the knee). Smith no longer fearing Jackson's kicks, attacked with punches and kicks. Jackson attempted an unsuccessful takedown and Smith countered with his own successful takedown as well as a punch to the head. Smith was awarded the bout. Mexico's **Isaiah Duenas** stepped into the ring against Germany's **Frank Knittel**. Duenas was in control of the bout. Knittel was knocked out midway through the 2nd round. The first of the middleweight elimination matches featured **Bill Wallace** stepping into the ring against Germany's **Bernd Grothe**. Wallace easily won the first 2 rounds and in the final round knew all he had to do was simply avoid getting knocked out and he would win the fight. Wallace toyed with the German. Canada's **Daniel Richer** battled with Korea's

Byong Yu. Richer won the first round and the 2nd and 3rd rounds were won by split decision in favor of the Canadian. In the Lightheavyweight division, Canada's **Wally Slocki*** stepped into the ring with Japan's **Ryu Kenji.** The Japanese athlete had come in due to communication error almost 30 lbs. less than the Canadian. Slocki laid a beating on the Japanese to easily win the fight. American **Jeff Smith** stepped into the ring against Yugoslavian **Budimir Yejnovic.** With 12 seconds left in the first round, Smith caught his foe with a ridgehand followed by a kick and his foe slumped to the ground. There was no need to count. The lightweight final had **Isaiah Duenas** (Mexico) against **Ramon Smith** (Dominican Republic). In the 3rd round the fight ended with a TKO of Smith by a punch from his Mexican foe. Duenas had won the first 2 round convincingly. **Bill Wallace** (USA) squared off with **Daniel Richer** (Canada) for the middleweight final. Wallace won all 3 rounds convincingly. Lightheavyweights **Jeff Smith** (USA) stepped into the ring with **Wally Slocki** (Canada). Smith won the 1st round and Slocki won the 2nd round. Pandemonium took place in the final round with confusing instructions being told to the Canadian and the result was a deduction of a point. Smith won the bout but the fight had great promise for a rematch in Toronto. In the final heavyweight bout **Joe Lewis** (USA) stepped into the ring with **Franc Brodar** (Yugoslavia). Lewis played with his foe and dropped him with a solid punch to the nose to win round 1. Lewis started the 2nd round slow but picked up the pace and dropped his foe in the second round with a combination of punches and kicks. The biggest problem with the tournament was the rules. The athletes could not throw too many punches in a row or they would be warned. There was a definite push to see kicking taking place (the beginning of the minimum kick requirement rule).

***MIKE ANDERSON**

*One of the founders of the PKA (with the Quine's) criticizes **Aaron Banks** for televising 'sloppy and out of shape' champions on television. Splits involvement with the Quine's and the PKA. He founds the World Martial Arts Association after and makes big contacts. However, the project fizzles out.*

***HOWARD JACKSON**

*Originally scheduled to fight on the first PKA World Championships, Jackson destroyed his knee twisting on a paper cup the week before the championships. The knee injury was to plague him and it would be 6 years before he would finally win his first world title, the WKA World Welterweight Championship, winning it in Las Vegas defeating Japan's **Yoshimitsu Tamashiro** soundly. Jackson's buddy Steve Fischer's dad (also Steve) struck up a friendship with the fighter. Steve convinced Jackson to try his hand at boxing.*

***WALLY SLOCKI**

*A student of **Benny Allen.** Slocki announced his retirement from competition in*

*1974 when he was asked to fight in the World Professional Karate Championships in LA. His first opponent **Ryu Kenji**, was supposed to be the Japan Karate Champion but he was over rated, under powered and underweight, so much so, that he looked like a puppet dangling on the end of Slocki's punches and kicks. The fight prompted a lot of sympathy for Kenji and made Slocki look like a bully.*

Continued on the Next Page! - Late 1974, 1975 -

"KICKBOXING"

NORTH AMERICA'S SURPRISINGLY TABOO

'KICKBOXING' HISTORY! (Part 7)

1974 and 1975



Karate Magazine (Nov-Dec 1975):
This magazine was the big promoter of the early PKA.

Late 1974
RIVAL ORGANIZATION CHAMPIONS CROWNED
Aaron Banks hosts his World Championships crowning champions in the World Professional Karate Organization at Nassau Coliseum. Those winners included **Joe Hess**, **Fred Miller**, **Kasim Dubur** and **Benny Urquidez**.

FULL CONTACT BARE KNUCKLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fred Hamilton hosted his 1st Bare Knuckle Karate Professional Championships. Only around 100 paying customers attend the event. There were heated arguments over rules, but finally Aaron Banks gets the event organized. Another farce and black eye for the Martial Arts.

RULES

The goal of these organizations was to establish Karate as a professional sport with champions, rules and television coverage. Early in the PKA's development and unsure of which direction to steer the sport or its rules, the athletes did not fight in a boxing ring, but in a taped out Karate tournament ring. As the sport progressed this proved unsatisfactory for many reasons (including safety and to ensure the action took place in a confined area because in the Karate ring action was stopped when an athlete stepped out of bounds) the sport evolved into requiring a boxing ring. Further steps were taken with the establishment of additional weight categories (not exactly the same as those used by boxing, Kickboxing or Muay Thai organizations) and the institution of fight rules which encouraged kicking (a mandatory 6 or 8 kicks per round depending on where you fought was to ensure that bouts would not digress into boxing matches). It is interesting to note that in the rematch of PKA World Champion **Jeff Smith** against Canadian **Wally Slocki** (1976), the general thought from critics was that the *quota* kicks were used more so to avoid losing points rather than gaining points. To quote a critic: *"Why is there not a mandatory 6/8 count on punches as well!"* Athletes that were world calibre should have had the right to use their tactics and techniques at their own discretion. Low kicks were never allowed or ever considered by the PKA. This is why Full Contact Karate has never been a true world sport with true World Champions. It is ironic that a sport based on Martial Arts was never accepted or respected in the Orient. Without the acceptance of leg kicks (at the minimum), Full Contact never took off in the Orient. The PKA approach can ironically be viewed like a 'reinvention' of the wheel. Muay Thai had already been using a standard set of rules in the Orient for ring competition. The PKA made the use of the elbow, the knee, the clinch, and the leg kick illegal. Foam foot protectors became mandatory to protect both fighters. By modifying the risk and the amount of damage an athlete would be subjected to, it was viewed it would make the sport more appealing. Another reason/excuse for this (depending on which camp you take), was that such a brutal sport like Muay Thai would not be acceptable to the American public.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The success of the first PKA event inspired a rash of new organizations wanting to capitalize on the new sports popularity. Included were Tommy Lee's **World Series of Martial Arts - WSMA** (**Benny Urquidez** was the first big name to be produced by this organization), Jhoon Rhee's **World Black Belt League - WBBL**, a team concept, Joe Corleys' **South East Professional Karate Commission - SEPKC**, Aaron Banks' **World Professional Karate Organization - WPKO**, and the

National Karate League - NKL which was also another team concept (a **Chuck Norris** brainchild - by the way, Mr. Norris never fought in Kickboxing). Each association created its own rules, sanctioned its own events, established its own champions, and sought television exposure for its events.

1975

'KICKBOXERS' LOSE FACE TO BOXERS

Aaron Banks Oriental World of Self-Defense featured a female against a male in a female boxer and a male Kickboxer. **'Female Ali' Jackie Tonawunda** battled with male Kickboxer **Larry Rodania**. No one ever heard of the Kickboxer. Rodania was credited with being the most incompetent man to ever put boxing gloves on or the worst diver (fall guy). His blows had no effect on his foe. The fight was viewed as a farce because it ended with a 'phantom punch' (like Ali), in the round the female picked (like Ali). **Jose Casado**, a boxer pounded a sound victory over Martial Artist **Sam Jones**.



MARTIAL ART MAGAZINE FROM THE 1990'S FEATURING KICKBOXING: *(Above photo)* **Fist and Feet Magazine (May 1992):** Australian Kickboxing News magazine that lasted a very short while. Interesting articles though.

KICKFIGHTING EXPANDS

North Bergen New Jersey featured **Gary Alexander's** United States Kick Fighting League matches. No kicks are allowed below the waist.

FULL CONTACT TAE KWON-DO VS. BOXING

During this year Houston is host to one of the biggest farces ever. The event is called '**Karate Masters versus Boxing Professionals and International Martial Arts Demonstrations**'. Barely 300 fans attend what has been billed as the *"first major fight between professional Boxers and Karate Masters."* It was not Karate's finest hour with Karate losing all of the bouts, 2 by knockout, resulting in the Martial Arts losing face. Lightweight **Chong Lee** (2 time Korean Champion) against boxer **Termite Watkins**. Lee looks great in the 1st round with fast high kicks but Watkins just slips the kicks and forces the Korean to the ropes and drives in flurries of body punches. It is 3 rounds of the same. By round 4 and at 1 minute and 53 seconds into the round Watkins drives in punches that drop the Korean for the count. **Dong Wook Lee** (World Champion and 2 time member of the Korean National Tae Kwon Do Team) against Boxer **Gene Wells**. Wells midsection becomes red from the kicks but he drops the Korean in the 1st round. In the 2nd round and at 1 minute and 5 seconds (after 3 more knockdowns of the Korean) Wells puts an end to it with a blow flush to the jaw of the Korean. The final bout featured Master **Yong Tae Lee** against Boxer **Mike Quarry**. Lee can not get his way and he resorts to headbutting the boxer. Lee storms out of the ring when he is informed to cease and desist from using the head butt. Spectators were convinced they were ripped off and many demand their money back or leave the facility shaking their heads.

FIRST WOMAN TO WIN AGAINST A MAN UNDER FULL CONTACT RULES

Marion Bermudez became the first woman in history to win a Full Contact bout in a professional tournament against a man. Bermudez was dropped but she got back up and dropped male **Anthony Suarez**.

BOXING VS. MARTIAL ARTS

Hamilton Ontario was the place for **Don Warrener's** 'Battle of Champions'. At this event was featured the typical question at the time, *"How would a Karate man do against a Boxer?"* It did not turn out well for Martial Artist **Duane Watson**, Boxer **Chuck Finlay** pounded him into submission with little resistance.

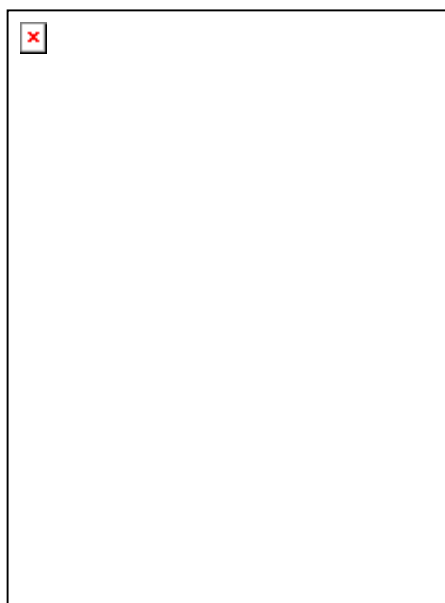
FULL CONTACT FIGHTS ALLOWING KNEE ATTACKS AND PINNING

This event was staged in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and lacked professionalism on the part of the athletes. The venue was only 1/2 filled to capacity. The main event was California against the Midwest in team Full Contact competition. Points were given

for pinning an opponent to the canvas as well as knee attacks were allowed (except to the kidneys and the groin). The main event featured **Manny Charusarn** (billed as a Muay Thai boxer from Bangkok) against **Preston Baker**. The Thai thoroughly dominated the first 2 rounds. Baker won the bout by TKO in the 3rd when the Thai injured his ankle. California's **Blinky Rodriguez** and **Mike Cass** appeared to be a mismatch. The California athlete won the bout and took all 4 rounds. **Benny Urquidez** squared off with **Ken Kolodziej** in another mismatch. Urquidez floored his foe in the 3rd round for the win.

TEAM COMPETITION

The NKL had the **LA. Stars** battling with the **Texas Gladiators**. 2000 spectators showed up to witness the event. **Benny Urquidez** did not fight at this event because of a thumb injury. LA's **Ernest Russel** stepped into the ring against **Monte Elliot**. Russel won the bout by with a 2nd round KO. LA's **Blinky Rodriguez** lost a decision to **Craig Leach**. **Manuel Urquidez** (LA) was KO'ed in the 1st round by **Adams Robinson**. **Smiley Urquidez** (LA) faced **Doug Dyess** and won his bout by decision in 3 rounds. LA's **Linny Ferguson** battled **Paul McCullough**. McCullough won the bout by decision. LA's **Everett "Monster Man" Eddy** battled with **Ed Daniel**. Eddy won the bout by 2nd round TKO after cutting Daniel over his eye.



MUAY THAI BOOK: *(Above photo)* **Russian Muay Thai instructional book :**
Russian language Muay Thai book published in Russia.

FIRST WORLD FULL CONTACT TITLE DEFENSE

May 3rd, 1975 saw **Bill Wallace** defend his title against **Joe Corley**. This was the first title defense in PKA* history. Wallace won by a 9 round decision over Corley in front of 10,000 people in Atlanta.

***PROFESSIONAL KARATE ASSOCIATION**

*Received a lot of flack from supporters of the WKA and KICK in the 1980s. The organization was accused of being protective of their own champions, using what was humorously called the 'chicken policy', demanding that when PKA Champions meet WKA/KICK Champions in a bout, the bout is non-sanctioned, non-televised, and in the PKA Champions hometown. The PKA even insisted on the signing of a management contract, forcing WKA Champions to relinquish their titles or vice versa. Most of the PKA sanctions to date were in the USA and eastern Canada with very little work in Europe. The WKA had fighters and promoted events in Japan, China, Korea, Cuba, Puerto Rico, etc. **Maurice Smith** offered to fight **Brad Hefton** under Full Contact rules for free in Hefton's hometown if Hefton put his PKA title on the line. Obviously, it never happened and Smith went on to be a legend whereas Hefton disappeared into obscurity.*

WPKO CROWNS CHAMPIONS

May 10, 1975 **Aaron Banks** hosted his World Professional Karate Organization Championships. Presented at Nassau Coliseum in New York it crowned 4 champions other than those established by the PKA. They included: heavyweight **Joe Hess**, Lightheavyweight **Fred Miller**, middleweight **Kasim Dubar** and lightweight **Benny Urquidez**.

FULL CONTACT TAKES OFF

Following these occurrences a series of full contact title defenses and contender bouts were produced by both the PKA and the WPKO. Other promoters and organizations jumped into the Full Contact presentations. **Tommy Lee** and his World Series of Martial Arts, **Jhoon Rhee** and his World Black Belt League, a team concept, **Joe Corley** and **Chris McLoughlin** and the South East Professional Karate Commission and **Valerie Williams** with her National Karate League, a now defunct team network.

PKA SPLIT

In 1975, Quine* and Anderson decided to pursue their interests individually. The Quine's took complete control over the PKA. Anderson formed the World Martial Arts Council, which presented one full contact event in Paris, France in 1976 before Anderson surprised everyone and unexpectedly retired from Karate promotion altogether. 1975 was a milestone for the sport. It gained more television exposure than ever before. Before an estimated 50 million viewers **Jeff Smith** fought against **Karriem Allah** on the **Muhammed Ali/Joe Frazier 'Thrilla in Manila'** undercard on closed circuit television. **Jhoon Rhee** presented Washington vs. the Dominican Republic. It also featured a semi contact division between politicians. In 1976 the Full Contact movement tamed down considerably. Most promoters found the expense prohibitive. In September 1976, California passed a law which placed Full Contact under the jurisdiction of the California Athletic Commission. It was the first time Sport Karate was regulated by a government

body. The organization sanctioned the Full Contact Karate Advisory Board to assist the state Athletic Commission. On the board was **Judy Quine**. They went about to establish standard rules and procedures for all Full Contact events held in the state. Full Contact promoters were in a position to learn from their Boxing predecessors. One problem remained and that was lack of standardization. But almost as soon as the sport was born, promoters struggled for kingship. Full Contact had seven organizations at this time and it quickly whittled away to 4 organizations in the USA.

***DON & JUDY QUINE**

The purpose of the PKA was to establish Full Contact Karate as a major sport by landing lucrative sponsorships for televised title fights. By February 1975 the dream began deteriorating. There appeared to be a lack of cooperation in part by the PKA principles. The split of the Quine's and Mike Anderson took the karate community by surprise. The friction began in October of 1974 when Aaron Banks sent a controversial letter to ABC protesting the PKA's use of 'World Professional Karate Championships' title. Banks stated he used the title in his 1968 event, and he did not start reusing it until after the PKA restored it. Banks later held his own 'World Professional Karate Championships' and it was televised on ABC's Wide World of Sports. What ensued was the most strategic behind the scenes battles in Sport Karate's history. The PKA threatened to sue ABC for conflict of interest since their presentation of the World Professional Karate Championships had been broadcast by ABC's 'Wide World of Entertainment'. The Quine's spearheaded an attack while Anderson concentrated on his magazine and his supply company. Don Quine sent a letter to ABC protesting Banks event. The telegram contained dozens of names of prominent Karate leaders and fighters, though Quine never received individual permission to use the names. This act of Quine's was the main reason that Anderson decided to withdraw from the PKA. Heated repercussions came from people whose names were used on the telegram. In fact, very few cared about the position taken against Banks. ABC subsequently televised Banks show, despite the efforts to stop it. Considering the initial harassment and the outcome of Banks' tournament, many doubt ABC or for that matter 'Wide World of Sports' will ever televise any Karate again. Regardless the Quine's invest money to reach their necessary goal of making Full Contact Karate a major spectator sport. The Quine's state that Anderson is not doing what is expected of him and that is coming up with a comprehensive set of rules for the sport. The Quine's complain that Anderson never did what he told them he would do. The Quine's form the Kicks Organization after their split with Anderson. The company operates marketing, merchandising and management. The Quine's state their only beef with Aaron Banks is the fact that his event was the first Full Contact event and that it was a World Championship. Banks event is criticized as really being a local New York show (mostly New York talent and fighters) but claiming to be a 'World Championship'.

FIRST FULL CONTACT KARATE WORLD TITLE DEFENSE OFF OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT

For the record the first Full Contact Karate World Title fight to take place off of the North American continent took place in 1975 in West Berlin, Germany between the USA's **Gordon Franks** and Mexico's **Ramiro Guzman**. Franks won a nine round decision in the newly created Superlightweight Division. George Bruckner treated over 5000 spectators to the first ever World Title fight to take place outside of the USA. This was Franks first ever fight in the ring and it was to be for a World Title. The bout went the full nine rounds with Franks winning the title. This was the first time an American became a champion in Full Contact on foreign soil. Franks was paid only \$3000 US instead of the customary \$5000 paid to World Full Contact Champions for the PKA at the time.



**MARTIAL ARTS MAGAZINE FROM THE 1970'S FEATURING
KICKBOXING:** *(Above photo)* **Fighters Magazine (October 1974):** Short lived
magazine that concentrated on Full Contact fighting.

FULL CONTACT KARATE ON WORLDWIDE PAY PER VIEW

One of the most important matches of the 1970's for **Full Contact Karate** was a World Title bout telecast as a preliminary bout before the **Ali-Frazier "Thrilla in Manilla"**. The bout featured World Champion **Jeff Smith** against **Karriem Allah** (a controversial unknown self proclaimed 10th degree Black Belt at the time). It was witnessed by 50 million viewers worldwide. Smith won a split decision. Smith was recognized as one of the best Karate fighters of this era and the split decision win gained a lot of respect for Allah. Allah though weak in kicking proved to be a very tough opponent. Though Smith can kick and his kicks got through consistently, they had little effect on Allah. For the first 7 rounds Allah stuck close with Smith even egging the champion on to hit him by hanging his arms at his hips. In round eight, this tactic failed and Smith scored a crunching combination and poured it on for the rest of the round. Allah stayed on his feet not being knocked down even though Smith was landing at will. The final round was a tribute to Allah's stamina, who won it easily and so impressed the judges, Smith was only awarded a split decision. Being the first Full Contact rules bout on close circuit, not one of the pro boxing fans laughed at what they had seen. But the bout did not ignite the spark that Full Contact Karate needed. Allah laid on the ropes and tried to pull a rope-a-dope (a la Ali). It was a pretty lame tactic when you consider the main event featured Ali in a bout that he, the 'Greatest' claimed *"was the closest he ever came to death"* (in a bout). After the bout, Allah was to disappear from the fight scene while Smith was to hang onto the Championship title for a few years longer.

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