

2016年12月
東京学連剣友連合会

外国大学 OB 連合メンバーによる第27回学連剣友剣道大会の感想

(男子Ⅰ部：北海道大学と対戦)

(男子Ⅱ部：國學院大學と対戦)

第26回に続き、男子Ⅰ部、Ⅱ部に招待チームとしてご参加頂いた外国大学 OB 連合の皆さまから、下記感想をお寄せ頂きました。(以下、原文のままご紹介します)

【男子Ⅰ部 三将】 Mr. Michael Ishimatsu-Prime / UK

Dear Gakuren,

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in such a big and illustrious tournament. It was a great honour.

This is the biggest tournament that I have ever participated in, and when I saw for the first time the number of people and ten shiai-jo, it was a little intimidating. However, all of the organisers and staff that we spoke to were very helpful and put our minds at ease.

At the beginning of the day I was called to the honbu and asked to give the participants names in katakana. If we are allowed to participate next year, I will make sure that when we register we provide you with the katakana readings of our names.

As we all come from different universities, countries, and cities in Japan, we are not a club or team like many of the other entrants. Therefore we didn't have any red or white tasuki to wear before our matches. It was very helpful that each shiai-jo had them that we could use.

It was quite easy for us to find the members to make the Men's 1 team. In fact, we could possibly have found enough people to make two Men's 1 teams. It was a little difficult to get the members for the Men's 2 team, but we couldn't find anyone for the Men's 3 team. Regarding the women's team, we could only find one person. Hopefully, if we are allowed to participate in this competition again in the future, it will become easier for us find members.

From the two teams, we only scored one ippon, drew one match, and lost the rest. We were all disappointed by our performances, but it showed us many things that we need to work on in the future. We will try even harder next time.

As I mentioned above, we all come from different places, and we don't have a real "base" like the other alumni in the competition. Tournaments like this give us an opportunity to make friends, both Japanese and foreign, and for that, I am very grateful.

It was also very good to see 8-dan sensei taking part in a competition. This is something that we do not see very often so it was a great opportunity to see very high level kendo.

Thank you once again for this opportunity. I hope that we will be able to take part again in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Ishimatsu-Prime
University of Sheffield

【男子 I 部 五将】 Mr. Edison Eduardo Varela Solano / Ecuador

Thank you very much for this opportunity. Please let's do it again!

Regards,

Eddy

【男子 I 部 大将】 Mr. Jonathan Levine-Ogura / USA

To whom it may concern,

I want to thank those who invited us to participate in a wonderful event. This event really showed the true aspect of lifelong kendo. The camaraderie that the art brings certainly supersedes the want for victory at all costs. I think a competition like this really showed it.

Before the match, I thought we were in an unfortunate position not to have red or white ribbons. Thanks to great organization and preparation, we were able to borrow the ribbons that were supplied to the court.

In all, it was an honor to be part of a team where we all came from different backgrounds and schools. Through kendo and through your kind invitation and openness we were able to spend the day with those who share the same values that are inherent in kendo.

Thank you

(和訳)

男子 1 部に出場した外国大学OB連合の大将を務めたレヴィン小倉ジョナサンです。先日行われた学連大会に参加させていただきありがとうございました。本当に光栄です。この大会は生涯剣道の定義であり、勝負だけではなく交剣知愛を大切にしているのではないのでしょうか。何よりこの大会では剣を交えて友情を持つことが大切です。

試合直前に私たちのチームの目印がないと気づきましたが、すでに各試合場に準備されていました。他チームと違って私たちは現学生のサポートはないので本当に助かりました。ありがとうございました。

私たちの団体メンバーの構成は多国籍で住む場所も様々でした。そのためチーム内でも多様な交流ができました。試合会場ではもちろん日本の方々と試合だけではなく様々な交流ができたと思います。招きいただき、剣道の理念を実践している一員として、国境線を超えて他の参加者と一緒に一日楽しい時間を過ごしました。ありがとうございました。

レヴィン小倉ジョナサン

【男子Ⅱ部 先鋒】 Mr. Eric Skier / USA

It was an honor to be allowed to participate. I know this tournament and it is a bit of a big deal.

And it was quite the honor to be mentioned in the opening speech. I did not expect that at all. I was impressed that we were acknowledged from the start.

Anyway, I hope this kind of thing continues in the future. I for one had a great time.

Thank you for reaching out to us. I sincerely appreciate it!

Eric

【男子Ⅱ部 中堅】 Mr. Stefan Sandström / Sweden

Dear Organisers,

My personal experience from this taikai: a neatly arranged taikai making for all people to enjoy both watching and doing kendo. Kudos to the arrangers and shimpan! I would be greatly honoured to participate again, and I will help to make sure that my team is in place by the court in good time, coordinated, and correctly dressed for "rei".

Stefan Sandström (5-dan kendo)

【男子Ⅱ部 副将】 Mr. Charles Hunter Watson / USA

みな先生、

ありがとうございます! 本当に、ありがたいです! 夢 みたい!

どうぞ よろしく。

和友尊(Watson)

【男子Ⅱ部 大将】 Mr. Theodore Iriye / USA

To the Gakuren Taikai Organisers,

I really appreciate this opportunity given to Gaijin uni-graduate Kendoists in Japan to participate in such a high level tournament. This is rare and will certainly motivate us to get better in Kendo skills as well as spirit. And in a small way we can pass our Budo knowledge to those outside of Japan. Thanks very much.

以上です。

Ted Iriye
