

“Square of DOOM” Competition

Sunday 5th October 2008

Well the day finally arrived! After numerous meetings and considerable preparation the competition was going to take place. At 9am both Nigel (KIXX) and Andy (Jo’Li) waited with baited breath as the first of the competitors arrived. The Team of helpers from KIXX (*Green T-Shirts*) and Jo’Li moved into positions like a rehearsed, well oiled machine. The height of the competitors was noted as they entered the building whereupon they were guided to the lower training hall to warm up and stretch ready to compete. The children were divided into three height categories i.e. **1) Grasshopper 2) Tiger Cub** and **3) Dragon**.

Registration was to take place between 9am and 10am and was completed on time. Following a brief introduction from both Nigel and Andy the competition began.

The first section was the **Grasshoppers**. The list as below...

<i>First Round</i>	<i>Semi-Finals</i>	<i>Finals</i>	<i>Winner</i>
Erin Holloway-Weller (Jo’Li)	Erin Holloway-Weller Elijah Way	Erin Holloway-Weller Courtney Buckley	Courtney Buckley
Ocean Quang Vi Banh (KIXX)			
Cameron Morris (Jo’Li)			
Elijah Way (KIXX)			
Alex Hunt (Jo’Li)	Mitchell Maybourne Courtney Buckley		
Mitchell Maybourne (KIXX)			
Courtney Buckley (Jo’Li)			
Ellie Smith (KIXX)			

Without doubt there were a few surprises in store in this section. The first bout for the first competition at KIXX in conjunction with Jo’Li, took place between Erin and Ocean. Despite a spirited performance from Ocean, Erin took the bout and moved to the semi’s. Elijah met with Erin in the first of the semi-finals and won over the crowd in the process. Giving away a lot of height to Cameron was not a problem for this determined young man. This provided the reason for Erin to try harder in the semi’s and beat Elijah. We had our first finalist.

Alex and Mitchell provided the crowd with a very exciting bout of pushing. Mitchell took the bout to go forward. Courtney and Ellie worked hard in their bout with Ellie proving to quite elusive. However Courtney got the measure and won the round. Mitchell and Courtney fought well semi’s and seemed evenly matched. Courtney had the edge on the day and won through to the finals. We had our second finalist.

The finals all took place after the eliminations.

This first round had produced a high standard of sparring that was difficult to follow. There were some commendable examples of good sorting behaviour for all of the children.



The second section was the **Tiger Cubs**. The list as below...

<i>First Round</i>	<i>Second Round</i>	<i>Semi-Finals</i>	<i>Finals</i>	<i>Winner</i>
Kai Hulus (Jo'Li)	Eli King James Hunt	Eli King Bethany Harris	Eli King Harry Harding	Eli King
Eli King (KIXX)				
Rhyece Harris (Jo'Li)				
Bethany Harris (KIXX)				
Jordan Stevens (Jo'Li)	Bethany Harris Scott Harding			
Scott Harding (Jo'Li)				
Alex Curling (Jo'Li)	Harry Harding Chris Post			
James Hunt (Jo'Li)				
Gary Caffell (Jo'Li)				
Harry Harding (KIXX)				
Antonia Griffin (Jo'Li)	Chris Post Curtis Bailey			
Lewis Smith (KIXX)				
Ross Greig (Jo'Li)	Chris Post Curtis Bailey			
Chris Post (Jo'Li)				
Bonnie Ball (Jo'Li)				
Curtis Bailey (KIXX)				

This section, as expected, provided the largest number of competitors. The eliminations bouts were all excellent and highly contested. The decision was made to allow KIXX students to spar Jo'Li students wherever possible to enable the children to gain experience sparring with 'strangers'. That being said, the final ended up with two youngsters from KIXX, Eli and Harry. Neither of them had an easy route to the final with some good display of skills by both. Harry in particular did very well against some considerably taller opposition. Many of the kids surprised themselves with their performance at it was clear to all that they were enjoying themselves whilst competing



The third section was the **Dragons**. The list as below...

<i>First Round</i>	<i>Semi-Finals</i>	<i>Finals</i>	<i>Winner</i>
Liam Carter (Jo'Li)	Will Harris Josh Smith	Josh Smith Spencer Bailey	Josh Smith
Will Harris (KIXX)			
Morgan Graves (Jo'Li)			
Chris Rodrigues (KIXX)			
Ricky Cameron (Jo'Li)	Spencer Bailey Tyler German		
Spencer Bailey (KIXX)			
Jack Munro (KIXX)			
Tyler German (Jo'Li)			
Josh Smith (KIXX)			
Joe Simmons (KIXX)			
<i>Special Eliminator (To get to last four)</i>			
Josh Smith	Josh Smith		
Chris Rodrigues			

Well we had arrived at the final section; the Dragons. These were the ‘biggest’ of the kids to take part in the competition. Sadly there ten it this category so two of them would need to fight for a place in the semi-finals. Nigel and Andy decided that the fairest way forward to was to put all the names of the first round winners into a ‘hat’ and as one of the parents to draw out a name for the fight-off. The names drawn were Chris and Josh, both from KIXX. The fight off was very exciting and went in favour of Josh. This provided us with the semi-final line up. Both matches were close and nail biting with the winners having to fight hard for a place in the finals.



The finals took place at the end of the day following a short break for the ‘Dragons’ to get their breath back.

The first bout in the finals was the **Grasshoppers** with Erin (Jo’Li) and Courtney (Jo’Li). Courtney started strong using good tactics to get Erin out of the square. Erin was unable to recover from a couple of quickly lost points and the match went to Courtney. It is always a shame when team mates have to fight for first place but there has to be a winner.



The second bout in the finals was the **Tiger Cubs** with Eli (KIXX) and Harry (KIXX). This final really lived up to expectations with excellent examples of skill, determination and good sporting behaviour. It was a very closely fought match. As we have said above with the Grasshopper finals, it is always a shame when team mates have to fight for first place but there has to be a winner. Well done both of you.



The third bout in the finals was the **Dragons** with Josh (KIXX) and Spencer (KIXX). WHAT A MATCH! The crowd nearly took the roof off with the cheering. Most people expected to see Josh beat Spencer easily with the height / weight advantage. But no! Josh fought hard and well to beat a very awkward opponent. The audience could clearly see a very tired and determined pair of athletes in this final. The first 2 points were awarded to Spencer. The time ran out at 3 points to 2 to give Josh the first place position.



Some of the other awards to be given on the day included the following...

A Merit Medal:

Elijah Way	Grasshopper	Determination, courage and effort.
Chris Rodrigues	Tiger Cub	Good sport, future talent.
Tyler German	Tiger Cub	Good sport, future talent.
Joe Simmons	Tiger Cub	Very good technique (takedown on a much larger person).

A Merit Certificate:

Ross Greig	Tiger Cub	Good sport, future talent.
Eli King	Tiger Cub	Good sport, future talent.
Chris Post	Tiger Cub	Good sport, future talent.
Bethany Harris	Tiger Cub	Good sport, future talent.
Liam Carter	Dragon	Good sport, future talent.
Will Harris	Dragon	Good sport, future talent.

The Award Ceremony.

Following the last event we were pleased to have the award ceremony. All of the trophies, medals, certificates and participation certificates were on display as the winners and runners up from each category were announced. The children were invited up to receive their awards and certificates then shake hands with the judges, assistants and helpers on the day. There was considerable reason for clapping and it seemed to last for ages.



To **EVERYONE** who helped to make this an exceptional day for the children, **THANK YOU.**