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Giordano Family
Methuen Karate Association (MKA)
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Press Release

Giordano Family MKA Holds 40-Man Kumite

40-Man Kumite Event Matches Contender in 40 Consecutive Fights Against Black Belts to Demonstrate Kyokushin Mastery and Ultimate Endurance

Methuen, MA April 20, 2009: The Giordano Family Methuen Karate Association held its first 40-Man Kumite competition in March 2009, the ultimate test in endurance for Kyokushin Karate black belts. In this event, Sensei John Goddard accepted the challenge to compete in 40 consecutive one-and-a-half minute fights against other Kyokushin Karate-Ka. Sensei John fiercely competed and successfully completed the challenge.

"The 40-Man Kumite competition is a rigorous endurance test for any black belt," stated Shihan Larry Giordano, founder of the Giordano Family Methuen Karate Association. "Sensei John Goddard is the only Black Belt who has successfully finished two Iron Mans Kumite events organized at our school. This is both a physical and mental competition, and John with all our black belts stood up to the task and demonstrated their Kyokushin spirit. This is the most intensive, competitive event we hold, and look forward to more black belts taking the challenge next year."

About 40-Man Kumite

Iron Man Kumite, originally called 100-Man Kumite, was created by Kyokushin Karate's founder, Mas Oyama. Mas Oyama's students were trained to devastate their opponents with one technique, and Kyokushin students are known as "Full Contact, Knock-Down" fighters. The 100-Man Kumite is considered the greatest challenge in Kyokushin Karate. The original concept was to fight 100 fights in a row to demonstrate a fighter's true test of endurance.

The Giordano Family **40-Man** adopted the principles of 100-Man Kumite, with some minor adjustments, to achieve its ultimate goal. In this tournament, participants fought 40 consecutive fights. Each round was 1.5 minutes long, with 2 short breaks to dress injuries and rehydrate. Points were not counted, each participant had to fight for the full 1.5 minutes, despite injury and fatigue. Sensei John Goddard is the only black belt to complete this test twice, in 2007 and 2009.

About Giordano Family MKA

Giordano Family MKA, formerly known as MKA, was founded in 1968 by Shihan Larry F. Giordano. The "school of the rooster's" mission is to promote the traditional, spiritual, and educational goals of karate do through the discipline of Kyokushin Karate. Shihan Giordano holds the rank of Haichidan 8th Dan. His efforts have been recognized internationally, including being inducted into the Martial Arts Hall of Fame and the Hawaiian International Martial Arts Hall of Fame, and named Master Instructor of the Year by the International Hall of Fame for World Head Sokeship Council. To date, the school has graduated more than 70 black belts. For more information, visit www.methuenkarate.com.

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