



Judo Bio of David Guerrero 4-24-22

I started Judo in 1969 at Rendokan Dojo in Tucson AZ Under Sensei Ken Carson. As a kid I won medals often until my large size started to put me in groups 2-3 years above my age. I took a few breaks in High School for football, wrestling, and track. Then I trained under Eli Noble at Pima Community College.

When I joined the workforce I was a lineman for several contracting firms working in a variety of areas across the west. During this time I worked out at Tucson Dojo my Sensei was Steve Owens.

From the early 80's I bounced around Tempe and Glendale working out at a small Dojo in Mesa, Arizona, All American Judo.

In 1986 my brother Mark Guerrero asked me to go with him to the Silver State Judo Championships. Steve Owen was there and talked me into competing without training for months. I placed second losing only to my brother.

By 1986 I was living and working in Southern California. I was looking for a local dojo and this was before the internet. I tried Lakewood Judo Club but it was mostly children and I wanted a competitive club. In 1987 I joined Ogden Judo School. Ogden Sensei and all the Blackbelts at Ogden Judo School were very impressive.

Ogden's was a very competition oriented dojo. I began to train and started competing about every other weekend for the next 4 years. Southern California was a Judo mecca I did not have to drive very far to get to a tournament.

Ogden Sensei presented me with my Shodan, It was a very proud moment for me. When I was young like my sensei would tell me when I was ready for my promotions and I was very naïve about the process. I had a book of tournament points but I did not do any of the paperwork to register my rank. It was not until a tournament that I realized I needed to register when they asked me for my black belt waiver.

I was a member of Ogden's from 1987 to 1999. In 1999 I won the silver medal at the Senior Nationals in the M2 Heavyweight division in Spokane WA.

In 1996 I had moved to Chino California and I was only able to drive to Long Beach once or twice a week. I had met Gary Goltz many times during my competition days and when Goltz Judo would do a club visit to Ogden's. I sought permission from Ogden Sensei to move to Goltz Judo and he was happy that I would be joining the club in Claremont.

My relationship with Ogden Sensei was very important to me. As I look back upon my Judo career I realize how much of himself he gave to Judo and the community of Long Beach.

When I moved to Goltz Judo Club I continued to compete in local, regional and national level tournaments. I have won 4 Bronze medals and one Gold medal at the Senior Nationals from 2000 to 2004. I remarried in 2004 and by this time I was a higher level manager at a Southern California Edison. In 2006 I retired from competition.

I come from a judo Family. 3 of my brothers were judoka. Two of my brothers wives were Judoka, all three of my sons are judoka, I have a grandson that just started judo he is five years old. Ten of my nieces and nephews are judoka. Judo is what the Guerrero family does for exercise.

Over the past several years I have taught judo in a number of different BJJ schools at the request of their professors. I learned that giving back is as rewarding as winning the medal. My focus has been coaching kids and young adults and the occasional master competitor.

I had been involved with the Winter Nationals® from its inception. My job was always the operations section of the tournament making sure the pools are sent to the tables and keeping all the tables running smoothly.

The pandemic basically shuttered all the Dojos in Southern California. Goltz Judo Club was one of many. But as the Pandemic started to subside and we were given the opportunity to start a judo pilot one day a week I was back on the mat with the club. I have been helping to train the kids and adult classes since the re-instatement.

Needless to say that judo has been a big part of my life!

[More on Dave](#)

In the Summer/Fall of 2022 Dave was promoted to 6th Degree black belt in judo and retired from Southern California Edison and in the Winter of 2023 Dave became UCLA's wrestling coach and also helps out with their judo program.

