

# WORLD SUPERGRANDS GAMES

As our Thirtieth Anniversary rolls around I thought I might reflect upon the history of the NBL a bit, as well as give you an insight as to where I came from and how it came about that I created the NBL. As many of you are aware, I've spent



the last two years moving the entire NBL & my home from Lakewood, NY to Jamestown, NY, three miles down the road. I was actually born in Jamestown on the New York/Pennsylvania border but lived, until my late 20's, in Ashville, NY, seven miles away. It was there





in the tiny, 4 corners, blinking light village of 500 that I was first exposed to martial arts.

In 1979 a local teenage girl that would frequent my antique shop encouraged me to visit a taekwondo instructor who was teaching out of his living room down the street. After a couple of visits later, his class was moved upstairs into



my historic antique building that I owned in the village. Within a

couple of years, he moved away and I “inherited” the school. I continued to train, converting to a Japanese based system and named the school Bonsai Martial Arts. As we were a very competitive school, I was discouraged to discover that there was no ranking system for underbelt competitors and in that same year, 1986, Karate Illustrated further



dropped its rankings for black belt competitors.

I decided to create a newspaper to highlight the happenings at local karate schools and to post tournament results and called it the ‘Serious Martial Arts Students Handguide’ or SMASH. With the help of a local talented competitor, Billy Blanks, the paper was carried off to New England where he was relocating from Erie, PA, the city I was



training in at the time. A New England tournament promoter in the newly formed PKL (the ranking system bought from Karate Illustrated magazine) invited me to cover his tournament. From there I

became involved in the PKL and published their rankings in the revised SMASH...Sport Karate Magazine.



The PKL split into PKL & NASKA and the magazine I created became the publication that karate players turned to for info on all sport karate happenings. By 1990 it was time to move on and the NBL & Super Grands were created. By this time my school and the NBL had moved to Lakewood. Halfway between Asheville and Jamestown. The NBL grew and became the premier league for blackbelt competition, gaining notoriety as the yearly Super Grands crisscrossed North America from coast to coast to choose the best of the best in head to head world title blackbelt competition.



A lot has transpired in the NBL over 30 years and the decision to move out of Lakewood after 35 years was a difficult choice but one that needed to

happen at this stage of my life. The opportunity to purchase a building that could become everything I needed for the rest of my life became available. It was perfect. It was however in the nearby city of



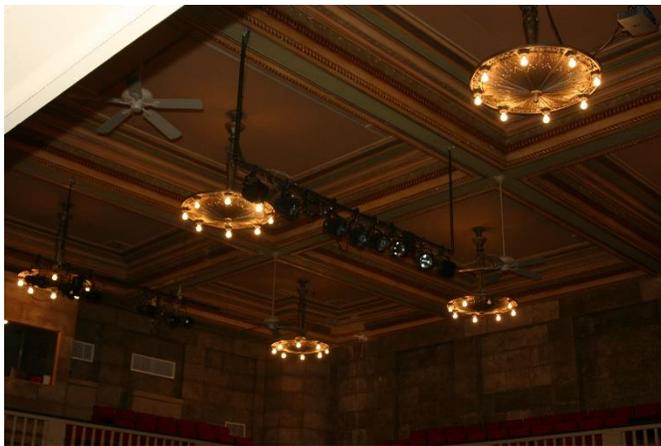
Jamestown (only 3 miles away) that I never really visited, nor wanted to, as being a city dweller in the rust belt wasn't for me. But the building I had to have. After purchasing it I came to discover a very transpired and revitalized

Jamestown. As the birthplace of world-famous comedienne Lucille Ball, the city has developed into a massive tourist destination centered around comedy with the construction of an Arena, restoration of several historic theaters and the world renown National Comedy Center opening last year.

Coupled with museums and other attractions; escape rooms, indoor skate park, ice bumper cars and a brand-new hotel (opened in March), I had an epiphany of 'What if I held the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Super Grands here?' With the help of the city I was able to secure the Northwest Arena, Historic Willow Bay Theater (with wrap around balcony seating) and the hotel to indeed



be able to present Super Grands 30 here in the NBL Headquarters city. With all venues, including the NBL Headquarters, within two blocks of each other and nearly all on the same thoroughfare...3<sup>rd</sup> Street.



Everything is also within two blocks of the National Comedy Center, Historic train station, Shawbucks Night Club, Jamestown Brewery Co., Escape Rooms, The Indoor Jungle Skatepark, The Lucille Ball/Desi Arnaz Museum, ice bumper cars and a multitude of restaurants. Holiday time on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is festively decorated, and you'll have the opportunity to visit where the NBL operates from just 3 doors down from the eliminations arena.

I am thrilled to present the 30<sup>th</sup> World Games in the NBL Headquarters' hometown, Jamestown, New York. This will be the best and a very special Super Grands. 30 YEARS OF SPORT KARATE HISTORY!



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