



Press Release

On July 14, 2007, two youths from the Vacaville Police Activities League Judo club competed in the United States Judo Federation National tournament. The tournament was at the Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The tournament had almost 400 competitors from all over the United States, Canada and Mexico. In this tournament, competition groups were divided by age and weight, with no reference to belt rank. The tournament was a double elimination format.

The Vacaville PAL youths that went to the event were John Fife and Michael Fife. John and Michael have been with Vacaville PAL for almost two and a half years.

John lost his first match, being thrown for a full point. He then went on to win his second match by throwing and then pinning his opponent. However, he lost his third match by being thrown and was eliminated from the tournament.

Michael had a strong start. He won his first two matches by throwing his opponents. His next match was for first place. He lost the match by being thrown for a full point. Michael won his next match by throwing his opponent and placed 2nd, receiving a silver medal.

Judo is a grappling martial art that originated in Japan. Competition judo matches are won by throwing or pinning your opponent. For older competitors, wins are also attained by making your opponent submit by applying a choke or armbar.

Officers Gordon and Lucy Makimoto of the Vacaville Police Department coach the Vacaville Police Activities League Judo club. For questions about the Vacaville PAL program, please contact Officer Gordon Makimoto at 449-5200 or the Vacaville PAL office at 449-5616.