



Newsletter of the American Sambo Association. Vol. 6, Number 7&8. July/August, 2008

## End of Summer Issue!

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## A Word from the President:

Greetings everyone,

July and August have been great months for Sambo and the ASA! Sambo has gained quite a reputation as Fedor Emilianenko brought the art to a mainstream American MMA audience during his 36 second defeat of former multiple-time UFC champ Tim Sylvia at the Affliction Banned card. Similarly, Sambo practitioner Andrei Arlovski brought down former IFL champ "Big" Ben Rothwell on the same card.

Aside from these great victories, Sambo has made the press quite a bit in the past two months. Be sure to check out the rundown of these articles listed below.

September and October will offer plenty of training and competition opportunity! Be sure to register for September's West Coast Sambo Summit Training Camp; October's North American Freestyle Sambo Championships; and October's Disney Martial Arts Festival Modified Sport and Combat Sambo Tournaments.

Information for all these events are listed in this issue!

Lastly, I would like to welcome our new ASA members and congratulate many of our member clubs that have made news at various martial arts events around the country. Be sure to read about how the ASA is making an impact with these top athletes!

Sincerely,  
Stephen Koepfer  
ASA President

## Sambo and ASA News:

- [American Sambo Association in the Press!](#)

July and August saw lots of media and press attention for Sambo and the ASA!

- On July 19, the New York Times ran a feature story on Sambo with quotes and interviews from several ASA members including Vlad Koulikov, Dayn DeRose, Serge Gerlach, Stephen Koepfer and others. In addition to a great article explaining the history of Sambo, the Times also ran a companion video on their website – featuring NY Combat Sambo and Sambo legend David Rudman. As it turns out, this was the most e-mailed sports article in NY Times history!

You can check out the Times article and video here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/19/sports/other>

[sports/19fight.html?\\_r=2&hp&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://sports/19fight.html?_r=2&hp&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)

- Stephen Koepfer published an article on some of Sambo's offensive rolling techniques in the current issue of **Journal of Asian Martial Arts** (Vol. 17, Number 3 – 2008). Stephen Koepfer and New York Combat Sambo assistant coach Reilly Bodycomb are also featured on the cover of this issue of JAMA. The Journal is available at Barnes & Noble and most other major booksellers. It can also be ordered on-line here:

<http://journalofasianmartialarts.com/cms2/>

- The August, 2008 issue of WWE Magazine (yes...that WWE) features an interview with Stephen Koepfer. The WWE ran a story covering the various martial arts which some of their wrestlers have trained in...including Sambo!

- **Sport and Combat Sambo come to Disney in 2008!**

**October 24 - 26, 2008. Orlando, Florida.**

**Disney Martial Arts Festival.**

Sambo seminar with Vladislav Koulikov, Modified Sport (chokes allowed) and Combat Sambo tournaments. All medalists in Combat Sambo will earn points towards **ASA National Combat Sambo Rankings:**

<http://ussambo.com/rankings.html>

For registration, rules, and travel information please visit:

<http://tournament.info/do-sambograppling.htm>

For additional questions regarding this event, contact Yvonne Koulikov at:

[ykoulikov@optonline.net](mailto:ykoulikov@optonline.net)

- **US Team prepares for FIAS World Combat Sambo Championships!**

The AASF has chosen Red Bear Sambo Academy's head coach Oleg Savitsky (multiple time medalist at the FIAS World Combat Sambo Championships) as head coach for the 2008 US Team. The Worlds will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia in November.

It has been several years since a full US team has represented at the Worlds. Oleg is working hard towards putting together a solid American team that will be able to represent the US in the most successful fashion. Applications are in and trials are still underway for team selection.

The team roster should be announced in approximately two weeks. However, this insider knows who is on the short list and it seems that the 2008 US team will surely be a solid representation of American Combat Sambo skill! Many prospective team members are also members of the ASA!

It is very exciting to see the ASA work with the AASF to achieve this very important goal!

- **5<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Freestyle Sambo Championships is Gearing Up!**

Pre-registrations are already rolling in for this 5<sup>th</sup> annual tournament. This year the ASA goes international as we have confirmed that the Nepali Sambo Federation (member of the Asian Sambo Federation) will be attending with three team members.

Pre-registration deadline is September 5<sup>th</sup>! Be sure to get your application in ASAP if you don't want to pay a higher price at the door! Don't miss the hotel pre-registration either...the clock is ticking!

All travel and registration information can be downloaded here:

[http://ussambo.com/pdfs/NAFSC\\_forms.pdf](http://ussambo.com/pdfs/NAFSC_forms.pdf)

We will also host an 8 team no-gi submission or draw challenge at this tournament. While the Freestyle Sambo tournament is open to same day registration and individual athletes, this no-gi event is pre-registration only and for full 5 man teams only! **So, if you want your team in, you must pre-register for this!** We have decided to drop the lowest weight class of 60kg for this event. To participate, you must have a team with 5 members in the following weights:

**66kg(145.2lbs)**  
**74kg(162.8lbs)**  
**84kg(184.8lbs)**  
**96kg(211.2lbs)**  
**96+kg(211.2 - 249.9lbs)**

- **2008 Sambo Training Camps are a Success!**

- Igor Kurinnoy, multiple time World Sambo Champion and head coach of Moscow's Borec, completed his ASA training camp tour, making stops in Bettendorf, Iowa and San Francisco, California (hosted by Gregg Humphreys and Serge Gerlach). The camps were well attended and all had a great time as he put them through some grueling paces! Igor was presented a plaque of gratitude by Gregg Humphreys, ASA Midwest Vice President, on behalf of the ASA. Igor's willingness to travel to the US has helped a great deal in spreading the word about our beloved art!

- Along with Mas Oyama's Karate, the ASA sponsored the 4<sup>th</sup> annual without limits training camp in East Stroudsburg, PA. For the fourth year in a row, this 4 day camp offered training in Combat Sambo, Kyokushin, and Boxing. We can't wait till next year. This year's camp was the best yet with high attendance and instruction from Stephen Koepfer (Combat Sambo), Tony Capraro (Kyokushin), and Gary "the KID" Stark (Boxing).

- **2008 Sambo Summit: Lincoln City, Oregon! Register Soon!**

**Less than one month to register!** To date we have 20 attendees scheduled including 6 members of the Columbian National Military Sambo team. This camp is open to beginners and advanced practitioners alike...so register ASAP!

The **2008 Sambo Summit Training Camp** is a three day live in camp with room and board included. This year the camp will be held in

Lincoln City, Oregon. It will be held from September 12-14. The rate for this camp is \$450 USD.

This year the camp coaching staff includes:

#### **Dayn DeRose**

Head Coach of South Mountain Martial Arts in Madison, New Jersey. Dayn has been a fixture in the US Judo and Sambo community for over 30 years. He is an Honorable Master of Sport in Sambo and has coached and trained numerous students to notable wins in Sambo and Combat Sambo. Dayn was a founding member of the American Sambo Academy and American Amateur Sambo Federation. He is a Professional Member of the American Sambo Association. In addition to Sambo, Dayn is an instructor of several other martial arts and is one of America's leading fencing coaches.

#### **Aaron Fields**

Aaron Fields makes his living as a firefighter. He is an independent scholar specializing in Mongolian history and has made several visits to live and train wrestling/Sambo in Mongolia. Aaron holds a teacher's grade in Ju-Jitsu, a dan grade in Judo, has considerable experience in Sambo and Mongolian folk wrestling, and has coached high school wrestling. Aaron is the chief instructor at Seattle Ju-Jitsu Club/Sea Town Sambo Club and is the West Coast Vice President of the American Sambo Association.

#### **Gregg Humphreys**

Gregg Humphreys is a long time Judoka and Sambist. He has travelled to Russia for Sambo training bi-annually since 1987 and is considered one of the most skilled and knowledgeable American Sambo coaches. He currently is the Judo and Sambo coach at Miletich Fighting Systems in Bettendorf, Iowa and is the Midwest Vice President of the American Sambo Association. Additionally, Gregg is the North American representative for Igor Kurinnoy's Sambo for Professionals.

## **Stephen Koepfer**

Stephen is the head coach of New York Combat Sambo; Head Coach of Team American Sambo; and the President of the American Sambo Association. He has coached his NYCS team to wins in national and international Sport & Freestyle Sambo, Submission Grappling, Combat Sambo, and Mixed Martial Arts. Stephen is a regular contributor to Ultimate Grappling Magazine and associate producer of Inside Martial Arts/Fight Fix.

Camp registration forms can be downloaded here:

[ussambo.com/upcoming\\_events.html](http://ussambo.com/upcoming_events.html)

- **Disappointment for Team American Sambo at the Grappler's Quest Nationals**

First off, I want to specifically thank Black Mark Fight Gear and Lockflow.com who helped make it possible that the ASA put out its first truly national grappling team with grapplers from NY, NJ, PA, LA, and FLA. Our sponsors got good airplay and MANY people asked about Lockflow as they were advertised on our uniforms.

Well, it was a mixed bag weekend, but we all had great fun gathering together for our second showing as a national team. The guys were very stoked at having recognized sponsor support and uniforms...which is rare in Sambo. It really made the guys feel like part of a team. They were truly disappointed at not being able to make it further in the tournament. Many lessons were learned, but the guys have nothing to be ashamed of. They all put up great fights. Unfortunately, the result was not as stellar as our showing at the North Eastern Grappling Challenge where we finished 2nd as a team and brought home several medals advanced division individual gold and silver medals.

Unfortunately, several of our top team members did not compete for the following reasons:

**-Reilly Bodycomb** bowed out due to a back injury and pending Dr's orders/MRI results (he is fine now – at the time of this newsletter)

**-Oleg Savitsky** also had to bow out due to injury.

**-Ryan Ahearn** also had to bow out last minute due to personal issues.

**-Vlad Koulikov** also needed to bow out as GQ was scheduled on the same day as his son's graduation.

Sambists competing for the team were:

**Doug Fournet** in the heavyweight pro division. Doug put on a good show as the smallest guy in this division (the weight class below was full). His first match was against a very tall and slim Ronald Stallings from Lloyd Irvin. It was a good technical match which Doug lost on points. Doug scored a sweet fireman's about 2 minutes in, putting him ahead on the scoreboard. After standing up again, both grapplers jockeyed for another takedown. Doug stuffed some shots, but finally ended up on the mat with his opponent taking his back. This put Ronald up on points. The last few minutes were spent with Doug defending a RNC attempt and attempting to reverse. Ronald held back mount for the win on points.

**Scott Yockel** had a very exciting match which he also lost on points. This was an exciting back and forth match. Very even skill level, but Scott was on the losing end of the point game.

**Rodney Rappe** also lost on points in similar fashion.

**Brian Benjamin** lost his first match against a huge guy who laid on top of him for the whole match. No real sub attempts of note, just position points scored for a guy who outweighed Brian by about 70 pounds or so. Brian had a buy to the second round, which technically put him at 1-1, giving him the Advanced Heavyweight Bronze in this small division.

**Carlos Cummings** had a long match which went to a tie score and referee's decision after a 6 minute match and 3 minute overtime. Decision went to Carlos' opponent. This was somewhat disappointing as Carlos was on top the whole

time (in the guy's guard) and no clear sub attempts were made by his opponent. Both guys were very strong. Carlos had trouble passing his guard, but the guy was determined to hold it at all costs. Still, Carlos did escape to standing position several times...only to end up in guard again later. I am not entirely clear on how his opponent got that decision after staying on his back the entire time, but it was a close tough match with two very strong guys. Anytime a match goes to the judges, one is at risk. Props to both guys for a tough roll.

**Mike Franco** lost to an arm triangle at about 2 minutes. Ironically, he fought another Sambo guy.

We may not have done as well as we wanted folks, but never fear! We will be back!

## ASA Member News:

- **Welcome to our new ASA members!**

The ASA is very proud to welcome our newest members!

**Wisconsin** - House of Pride MMA: Brian Doe

**Texas** - Eclectic Combat: Grant Gilliam

**Oklahoma** - David McNatt

- **Dr. Brett Jacques: California.**

Conducted a Sambo and Grappling seminar as part of a grappling weekend in Springvale, Maine on July 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row for this event, which keeps growing. The weekend event is sponsored by Mike Morin at [momentumgrapplers@yahoo.com](mailto:momentumgrapplers@yahoo.com)

This event included a Freestyle Wrestling, Greco-Roman wrestling, Sambo and grappling tournaments with an Iron Man award for the participants with the highest finishes competing in each event.

The event also hosted coaching seminars in wrestling, Sambo and Grappling. This was a great opportunity for New England Sambists.

- **Ronald Hill: Joliet, Illinois.**

**July, 2008** – Team USA Pankration

James and Ronald Hill have been chosen as the Head and assistant coaches for the 2008 Team USA Pankration world championships in Albania. This is a full FILA Sanctioned event. The Hill brothers also have 5 individuals from Illinois on that team as well with four of them training out of HCX Mixed Martial Arts. We are in need of sponsorships and or donations to help us travel and training the team. If you can help in anyway, please let me know. Thank you for your support. [hbj1@yahoo.com](mailto:hbj1@yahoo.com)

- **NY Combat Sambo: New York, NY.**

**July, 2008** – NYCS hosted a Shuai Jiao seminar with noted practitioner Chris Friedman, who has lived and trained in Beijing for the past two years. Everyone had a good time comparing techniques and getting a new and different perspective.

**July, 2008** – NYCS was featured in a New York Times docu-video on the history of Sambo: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EefGKvKNCHo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EefGKvKNCHo)

- **Florida, New York: Ultimate Sambo Victorious at NAGA's Battle at the Beach!**

**August, 2008** – Ultimate Sambo head coach Vlad Koulikov brought a butt kicking team to NAGA and captured several medals! Medalists include:

**Vlad Koulikov:** Gold in advanced no-gi and silver in advanced gi

**David Julliano:** Silver in both advanced gi and no-gi

**Gil Soto:** Silver in advanced no-gi

**Brendan Walsh:** Silver in advanced gi and no-gi

**Darren O'Banks:** Bronze in intermediate no-gi

- **Carlos Cummings: Panama City, Florida.**

**August, 2008** - Carlos Cummings brought his Cummings Combat Sambo "Team Relentless" to victory at the Southeastern JiuJitsu Challenge.

Jason Lane, Kyle Buchanan, Jeremy Lewis, Joe McMullan, Matt Gibson, Vinny G, and James Foster all brought home silver medals in their respective divisions.

## Photo of the Month



*Who would have thought Elmo was a Sambo guy! I knew that red fur meant something! Thanks to NYCS student Jeremy Graber for getting this pic!*

## Upcoming 2008 Events:

- **September 13, 2008.** Montreal, Canada. Amateur Pancrase Tournament at Club Kozak. For more info contact: [info@pancrasemontreal.com](mailto:info@pancrasemontreal.com)
- **October 4, 2008.** Covington, Kentucky. **Sambo Joe Neely's Sambo Tournament.** Sport Sambo tournament sanctioned by USAW. Contact Joe Neely at [jneely@fuse.net](mailto:jneely@fuse.net) or 513-921-4767 for more information.
- **October 5, 2008.** Rahway, New Jersey. **The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Freestyle Sambo Championships.** In addition to our open individual Freestyle Sambo championships, this year will host an 8 team no-gi, submission or draw team tournament. **All Sambo medalists will earn points towards ASA National Freestyle Sambo Rankings.** For more information please visit [www.ussambo.com](http://www.ussambo.com) Travel and registration forms can be downloaded here: [http://ussambo.com/pdfs/NAFSC\\_forms.pdf](http://ussambo.com/pdfs/NAFSC_forms.pdf)
- **October 24-26 , 2008.** Orlando, Florida. **The Ultimate Sambo Open moves to Disney!** Modified Sport and Combat Sambo seminar and competition will be hosted at this year's Disney Martial Arts Festival! **Medalists in Combat Sambo will earn points towards ASA national Combat Sambo rankings.** Contact [ykoulikov@optonline.net](mailto:ykoulikov@optonline.net) or visit [www.disneymartialartsfestival.com](http://www.disneymartialartsfestival.com) for more information
- **November 13-17, 2008.** St. Petersburg, Russia. World Sambo & Combat Sambo Championships. Visit [www.sambo.com](http://www.sambo.com) for more information.
- **November 29, 2008.** Montreal, Canada. Pancrase Catch Wrestling Tournament at Club Kozak. For more info contact: [info@pancrasemontreal.com](mailto:info@pancrasemontreal.com)

**THIS CAMP IS NEARLY BOOKED!  
RESERVE YOUR SPOT SOON!**