

Fly away, Fly away.

Where does the time fly. With taekwondo finally being named officially to the Olympic games after being a demo sport twice it will be at least 10 years before karate could possibly be in the Olympics. The next pan am games is 5 years away, and the next world championships 2 years away so just what is the fuss all about. Anderson, who has held tight reigns on the USAKF and before that AAU Karate has shown some signs of weakening that has been exploited by the new AAU group. With the US Olympic Committee unwilling to accept that IOC has recognized WKF -- a position presented by the AAU and by the AAKF (The American counterpart of Nishiyama's ITKF) -- the USOC chose to not re-recognize USAKF until certain changes in operations occurred. Armed with the knowledge of the intricacies of the USOC operation and knowing the USOC would not recognize a NGB if no international recognition took place, the AAU with the AAKF helped shoot down the USAKF USOC membership petition on this grounds. For whatever reason, Julius Thiry resigned (wait a minute he resigned the USAKF's powerful referee council position not his individual USAKF membership) and created the USA-NKF, not to be confused with Jim Mather's USA-NKF. Further weakening the USAKF and hence George Anderson's political position. Anderson, once seen as a possible replacement for Jacques Delcourt, the WKF president, has consistently been the target of political attacks because of his strength and abilities. Those in power at the WKF have closely watch his growing support looking for a sign of weakness. Anderson got caught in a trap not his making. With the USOC not recognizing a karate member until IOC recognition of an IGB, and the IGB not recognizing a body unless it has NGB approval al a catch 22 position has occurred. Thus we see Thiry's move at a power play not only to put himself in a position to negatively affect USAKF's future but to also control the Shito-ryu in the US.

The AAU, seeing the split in the USAKF between Anderson and Thiry, and using their Nishiyama connections formed a new group USK, Inc. This group gives the AAKF (Nishiyama) 50% of the Board of Directors of a new potential NGB. Mirza, the spearhead behind this movement, finding out that the USOC without a recognized body for karate would not take a karate team to the Pan Am Games next year tried to put together a hasty NGB only to realize that they filed late to make the Sept. USOC membership committee meeting effectively cutting off again the United States entry to the pan am games.

With all three groups vying for the USOC and WKF membership, the question has arisen as to whether the WKF constitution allows any organization in the United States to be a member of the WKF.

All groups believe that if they stay apart no one will be recognized at the USOC level and the WKF has expressed that they want everyone together as has the USOC. It will be interesting to see what happens. The USAKF has stated they will continue to do what they don best, have the best technical karate program in the United States and to continue to produce the best United States competitors. They have made changes to come into compliance with USOC requirements and are proceeding along this path while also keeping ongoing negotiations with the AAU on a possible confederation type organization. Both the USAKF and the AAU consider the USA-NKF a splinter group of the USAKF and regional at best in overall scope.