



Newsletter of the American Sambo Association. Vol. 5, No. 4. April, 2007

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## 1) FROM THE PRESIDENT

March has been a busy month for the Sambo world. We have lots of news and interesting tidbits for you this month. It is exciting to see sambo begin to really blow up in the US and Canada! Let's keep the ball rolling everyone!

If you enjoy this monthly newsletter and all that the ASA does to support sambo in the US, please consider an ASA membership for yourself or your club. For more information about membership options, please visit our website at [www.ussambo.com](http://www.ussambo.com)

See you all on the mat and net!

Yours in Sambo,

Stephen Koepfer  
President, American Sambo Association

## 2) NEWS

### □ **ASA Sambocast Radio Update.**

Episode 7 is available!

Synopsis:

In this episode we sit with Gregg Humphreys of Bettendorf, Iowa. Gregg is the Judo and Sambo coach at Miletich Fighting Systems and the North American Representative for Igor Kurinnoy. This interview covers Gregg's history in Judo and Sambo, his role and experiences at Miletich Fighting Systems, his upcoming project with Igor Kurinnoy, as well as his thoughts on training Sambo in Russia and the United States. This is a not to be missed Sambocast with one of the United States' top Sambo representatives.

To download this or any of our podcasts, visit [www.ussambo.com/sambocast\\_radio](http://www.ussambo.com/sambocast_radio)

### □ **ASA Member James "Chico" Hernandez brings home Silver from British Open!**

James Chico Hernandez, 53, of Washburn, Maine won the Silver medal in the Veterans Division at the 2007 British Sambo Championship (FIAS) held March 24 at the Swallow Leisure Center in Sittingbourne.

Chico competed in the Open Class (no weight class) defeating Oktam of Uzbekistan 1-0 in the Quarterfinals. He defeated returning Silver medallist Graham Mann of Norfolk, England by Total Victory in the semi-finals. Hernandez was leading 8-0 before he slammed his opponent to his back while remaining standing for Total Victory. In

40 plus lifetime Sambo and competitions; it was Chico's very first win by Total Victory.

Chico was defeated in the finals by Darren Richardson of Portsmouth, England. It was a close match at 2-0.

This is Chico's third time to win British Silver. He also won in 2004 and 2005. Hernandez representing TEAM IRISH of Bangor, Maine and the American Sambo Association.

Countries present at the 2007 British Open included France, England, Scotland, Russia, USA, Uzbekistan, Armenia, and Poland.

### ***▣ Battle of Brooklyn 6 – 2 Weeks Away!***

Get ready everyone! The Battle of Brooklyn 6 is scheduled for April 21, 2007 at Gleason's Gym! As usual, we will be hosting carded bouts in Freestyle Sambo, Muay Thai, and San Da. This year we will be adding submission grappling and an exhibition Sogo Karate bout as well.

Tickets available at  
[www.battleofbrooklyn.com](http://www.battleofbrooklyn.com)

To watch coverage from our last battle, check out Episode 14 or Inside Martial Arts:  
[www.insidemartialarts.tv](http://www.insidemartialarts.tv)

### ***▣ The Second Annual Canadian Combat Sambo Challenge.***

Hosted and sanctioned by the **Canadian Combat Sambo Federation**. Co-sponsored by the **American Sambo Association**. Open event for all international amateur fighters and teams. Tournament organizers are Eugene Shewchuk and Stephen Koepfer.

**THIS IS A PRE-REGISTRATION EVENT ONLY. NO SAME DAY ENTRIES.**

**WHEN:**  
May 12, 2007

**WHO:**

Open to all international amateur fighters and teams

**WHERE:**  
Montreal, Canada.

**EVENT LOCATION:**  
Club Kozak  
4850 Wellington Street, Verdun, Quebec,  
Canada. H4G 1X4  
(514) 362 – 8880  
[info@clubkozak.com](mailto:info@clubkozak.com)

**EVENT RULES AND REGISTRATION CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT**  
[WWW.USSAMBO.COM](http://WWW.USSAMBO.COM)

**EVENT HOTEL INFORMATION:**  
Days Inn Montreal.  
[www.daysinnmontreal.com/daysinn/hotel.htm](http://www.daysinnmontreal.com/daysinn/hotel.htm)  
215, boul. René-Lévesque est  
Montréal Québec  
H2X 1N7 Canada  
514-393-3388

-A block of rooms are reserved for this event from May 11<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup>.  
-Please present this reservation code when booking your room: CGCOM  
-Rooms will be reserved at the group rate of \$109.80 (Canadian) until April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
-Single or double non-smoking rooms are available.  
-There will be a \$10 (Canadian) additional charge for rooms housing more than 2 persons.

### ***▣ Save the Date for the AASF US Sambo Open!***

Mark your calendars for the XIV Annual AASF US Sambo Open! The event will be held at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, New York on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Last year's event hosted teams from Columbia and Canada as well as many national athletes. For more information, please visit [www.sambo.com/aasf/index-en.html](http://www.sambo.com/aasf/index-en.html) for more information.

***▣ USAW Sambo Nationals Results!***  
By Gary Abbott, 4/7/07, [www.themat.com](http://www.themat.com)

## **U.S. World Team determined at U.S. Sombo Nationals and World Team Trials**

LAS VEGAS - The 2007 U.S. Sombo World Teams for both men and women were determined at the U.S. Sombo Nationals and World Team Trials, held at the Las Vegas Convention Center on Saturday.

Winners in each weight class were crowned national champions, and qualified to compete at the World Sombo Championships in Antalya, Turkey, Sept. 7-9.

Among the champions was 2006 Sombo World bronze medallist Leigh Jaynes (Colorado Springs, Colo./U.S. Army), who claimed the women's title at 63 kg/ 138.5 lbs.. Jaynes won a best-of-three series over Julieta Okot (New York, N.Y./ J.E.T.S./No Limits).

It was the second national title for Jaynes in two days, as she was also the U.S. Women's National freestyle champion at 59 kg/130 lbs. on Friday night.

Okot won the first match of the series, 1-0, but Jaynes came back with wins in the next two matches, both by 4-0 scores.

Another competitor from the U.S. team at the 2006 Sombo World Championships who claimed an individual title was Carlos Dolmo (Bronx, N.Y./Blast Double NY), the champion at 120 kg/ 264.5 lbs. Dolmo placed seventh at the 2006 World Sombo Championships.

Dolmo won four matches during the round robin tournament, including a 2-0 victory over runner-up Gabe Beauperthuy (Colorado Springs, Colo./unattached).

Selected by the officials as the Outstanding Wrestler in the men's division was the champion at 74 kg/163 lbs., Seth Bregman (Aurora, Colo. /Colorado BJJ). In the championship finals, Bregman stopped Roman Mitichyan (Glendale, Calif./Hayastan), 5-3 for the gold medal.

Claiming the title at 66 kg/ 145.5 lbs was Jake Bohn (Irvine, Calif./J.E.T.S./No Limits), who won a six-athlete round-robin at his division. Bohn won four of his five matches, including a 9-0 decision over runner-up Phil Rizzo (St. Petersburg, Fla./Team Pursuit).

The men's champion at 84 kg/ 185 lbs. was Scott Garcia (Mesa, Ariz./American Pankration) who defeated teammate Jeff Funicello (Mesa, Ariz./American Pankration), 6-0 in the finals.

Capturing the 96 kg/211.5 lbs. title was Douglas Fournet (Baton Rouge, La./Gladiators Academy), who stopped Aram Ghukasyan (Los Angeles, Calif./Kenam's Judo Club), 4-3 in an intense finals match.

Ghukasyan had defeated 2006 Sombo World Champion Jeff Zastrow (Whitewater, Wis./Warhawk WC) in the semifinals, 9-6. Zastrow ended up fourth,

losing his bronze medal match to Paul Jones (Boys Ranch, Texas/Roughrider Wrestling), 4-3.

Winning titles uncontested in the men's division were Eric Albarracin (Colorado Springs, Colo./EA Kombar – Modern Army Combatives at 55 kg / 121 lbs and Alfredo Varela of (Noble, Okla./Underdog Inc.) at 60 kg/132 lbs.

Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Mo. had a pair of individual champions in the women's division, Tanya Miyasaki at 48 kg/105.5 lbs. and Courtney Martell at 121 pounds.

Miyasaki won all three of her bouts in a four-athlete round robin, including a 2-0 victory over runner-up Amantha Hordagoda (Bakersfield, Calif./Spartan WC).

Martell won a three-athlete round-robin, including a 5-1 victory over Missouri Valley teammate Samantha Schuman, the silver medallist at the weight class.

The women's champion at 59 kg / 130 lbs. was Samantha Phillips (Manteca, Calif./Spartan WC), who won a three-athlete round-robin, including a 6-1 win over runner-up Amberle Montgomery (Colorado Springs, Colo./J.E.T.S./No Limits).

Three women champions were uncontested: Jessica Ortiz of (Vallejo, Calif./Spartan WC) at 51 kg/ 112 lbs., Bethany Harris (Irvine, Calif./J.E.T.S./No Limits at 67 kg/ 147.5 lbs and Marina Piccolotti (Pacifica, Calif./Spartan WC at 72 kg / 158.5 lbs.

## **▣ *Serge Gerlach Sambo Seminar in San Francisco!***

Combat Sambo Champion Serge Gerlach presents a full day of 'incremental' instruction in this highly regarded Russian full-contact martial art.

### **Day one:**

Will cover the core movement series that will elaborate from large-body movements and refine into protective rolling/break falls, takedowns and counters and striking. We'll use posture drills, partnered unbalancing and restoration drills and some efficient footwork that will assist in quickly gaining command of stand-up Sambo work. All of this will then be connected to groundwork where, if we can't walk like men then we will "move like a snake". Every movement in Sambo is useful in all phases and this will be the focus of "day one". There will be a light sparring session to end the day.

### **Day two:**

Will focus on the various "keys" that quickly teach an excellent repertoire of knife/stick/choke/punch/kick et. al. defenses and maneuvers. The previous movements we be explored will be elaborated into more detailed throws and follow-ups with an eye toward more realistic application (i.e. increased resistance). We'll have a short sparring session to see how everything is being absorbed. After that, we will go through arm & leg-locking series and, depending on interest, chokes, no-gi work and weapons work. Again, we will finish with a sparring session to properly tire ourselves out and celebrate our manhood ;)

**Materials to bring:**

I'll bring my sledgehammers but if you have one or two kicking around bring it along (doesn't everybody?), stick (single-stick/escrima rattan), training knife, a mouthpiece if you're comfortable with one. A kurtka (Russian jacket), judo-gi or anything approximate to that. Wrestling shoes, sambofki, or the like. Bring gloves if you like to hit people/stuff, same goes with shin/foot protection.

**Location:**

Downtown High School Gymnasium  
693 Vermont St btw. 18th&19th (Potrero Hill district)  
San Francisco

**\*\*Note that there's off the street parking in the lot next to the gym.\*\***

**Times:**

Saturday and Sunday, April 14th & 15th 10 am-4 pm with a short lunch break.

**Cost:**

\$150 for both days, \$75 for a single day. Please bring cash.

**Instructor Overview:**

Serge Gerlach teaches regular weekly classes in the bay area, he has a long history in martial arts with training in san shou, submission wrestling, BJJ, and Sambo under Grandmaster Alex Barakov.

**Serge's Competitive Highlights:**

2006 silver medallist - United Gracie Tournament  
2005 silver medallist - North American Freestyle Sambo Championships  
2005 bronze medallist - Sport Sambo Unity Classic  
2004 gold medallist - United Gracie Tournament  
1997 bronze medallist - Gene LeBell World Grapplers Challenge

*"The uniqueness of Alex's teachings caused me to form my own working group to carry on with these ideas. We haven't come across another "Alex", but through community building we have found some like-minded sambists. I look forward to exploring this with everyone."* **Serge Gerlach**

For more information:  
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Serge Gerlach  
415 717 7985  
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415.203.8449

Email: [dcfielding@empoweredhealth.com](mailto:dcfielding@empoweredhealth.com)

## **☐ 2007 ASA Pioneer of Sambo Awards. Send in Your Nominations!**

We are now accepting nominations for the 2007 American Sambo Association **Pioneers of American Sambo Award**.

In 2006 the American Sambo Association launched the annual **Pioneers of American Sambo** award to be given at the annual North American Freestyle Sambo Championships. This award is intended to recognize individuals who have made great strides towards promotion of Sambo in the United States. In 2006 three awards were given to mirror our first three years of existence as an Association.

**Past inductees include:**

2004 - Oleg Taktarov  
2005 - Dr. Khassan Baiev  
2006 - Dr. Sandy North

This year we will be giving one award for 2007.

### **The award process takes place as follows:**

The ASA will receive nominations through July 2007. Once nominations are received, the ASA Board will review/compile submitted nominations and create a ballot. The ballot will be distributed to all ASA members in August, 2007 for voting. While anyone may submit a nomination, only current ASA members will be eligible to vote in the award election.

Nominations for this annual award are based on any one (or combination) of the following possible criteria:

1. Competition history;
2. Promotion of Sambo in the US;
3. Literature contributions;
4. Popularization of Sambo in the US;
5. Character attributes that represent the best of our sport;
6. Notable achievements in US Sambo;
7. Any other honorable contributions you may feel appropriate.

**\*Winners need not be members of the American Sambo Association.**

Nominations **MUST INCLUDE** the following information to be accepted for review:

- 1) Name of nominee

2) Address, phone, and e-mail of nominee. If the nomination is posthumous, contact information for the person who may accept the award on the recipient's behalf must be provided.

3) A clearly written document outlining the nominee's history in Sambo and their contributions to the sport's growth in the United States.

4) Name, address, phone, and e-mail of the person making the nomination.

The 2007 winner will be presented his/her award at the **2007 North American Freestyle Sambo Championships** in October and will be honored on the awards page of our website:

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

Please submit nominations by e-mail to [americansamboassociation@att.net](mailto:americansamboassociation@att.net) or by mail to: American Sambo Association, PO Box 5773, Long Island City, NY 11105

### 3) PHOTO OF THE MONTH



*Chico Hernandez wins Silver at the 2007 British Open Sambo Championships.*

**Send in your photos - One will be chosen each month for inclusion in our newsletter!**

## 4) 2007 EVENTS

☐ **FIAS European Sambo Championships. Sofia, Bulgaria, April.**  
Visit [www.sambo.com](http://www.sambo.com) for more information.

☐ **Battle of Brooklyn. April 21.**  
Freestyle Sambo, Submission Grappling, Muay Thai, San Da. For more information please visit [www.battleofbrooklyn.com](http://www.battleofbrooklyn.com)

☐ **The Second Annual Canadian Combat Sambo Challenge. Montreal, Canada. May 12.**

Registration, travel, and event information coming soon to [www.ussambo.com](http://www.ussambo.com)  
*American Sambo Association member schools get 15% off pre-registration*

☐ **AASF US Open Sambo Championships. Brooklyn, NY. May 19.**  
Visit [www.sambo.com](http://www.sambo.com) for more information.

☐ **FIAS European Combat Sambo Championships. Holland. June.**  
Visit [www.sambo.com](http://www.sambo.com) for more information.

☐ **ASA Freestyle Sambo League. June 24.**  
Team Empire vs. Team Tatarkin/Brooklyn Wrestling Club. Location TBA. Please contact [skoefer@nyc.rr.com](mailto:skoefer@nyc.rr.com) for more information.

☐ **Fighting Arts Training Camp. East Strousburg, PA, USA. July 12-15.**  
Knockdown Karate, Combat Sambo, Boxing, and Kickboxing. Four hard days of training! For more information please contact Tony Capraro at [ckyokushin@aol.com](mailto:ckyokushin@aol.com) or visit [www.masoyamakarate.com](http://www.masoyamakarate.com)  
*American Sambo Association member schools with 5 or more students get 15% off pre-registration.*

☐ ***The First Annual Canadian Freestyle Sambo Open. Montreal, Canada. July 28.***

Registration, travel, and event information coming soon to [www.ussambo.com](http://www.ussambo.com)  
*American Sambo Association member schools get 15% off pre-registration.*

☐ ***ASA Freestyle Sambo League. August 12.***

Location TBA. Please contact [skoepfer@nyc.rr.com](mailto:skoepfer@nyc.rr.com) for more information

☐ ***FIAS World Masters Sambo Championships. Greece. October 5-9.***

Visit [www.sambo.com](http://www.sambo.com) for more information

☐ ***The Fourth Annual North American Freestyle Sambo Championships. Rahway, New Jersey, USA. October 7.***

Registration, travel, and event information coming soon to [www.ussambo.com](http://www.ussambo.com)  
*American Sambo Association member schools get 15% off pre-registration*

☐ ***FILA World Sambo Championships. Antalya, Turkey. September 7-9.***

Visit [www.themat.com](http://www.themat.com) for more information.

☐ ***FIAS World Combat Sambo Championships. Panevezis, Lithuania. October.***

Visit [www.sambo.com](http://www.sambo.com) for more information.

☐ ***Ultimate Sambo Open. Florida, New York. November 4.***

Please visit [www.ultimatesambo.com](http://www.ultimatesambo.com) for more information.

☐ ***FIAS World Sambo Championships. Minsk, Belarus. November.***

Visit [www.sambo.com](http://www.sambo.com) for more information

***Please send us your tournament information to post in future newsletters!***

## **5) Become a Friend of the ASA!**

The American Sambo Association strives to build bridges within the Sambo community and with other martial art disciplines. Inasmuch, we have created a "Friends of the American Sambo Association" section of our website to include links of schools and organizations interested in joining our efforts. ***This is a free service.*** A reciprocal listing on your website would be appreciated in the event we list your school or organization on ours. Take time to visit the websites of our new friends! ***Keep checking our links page for more updates***