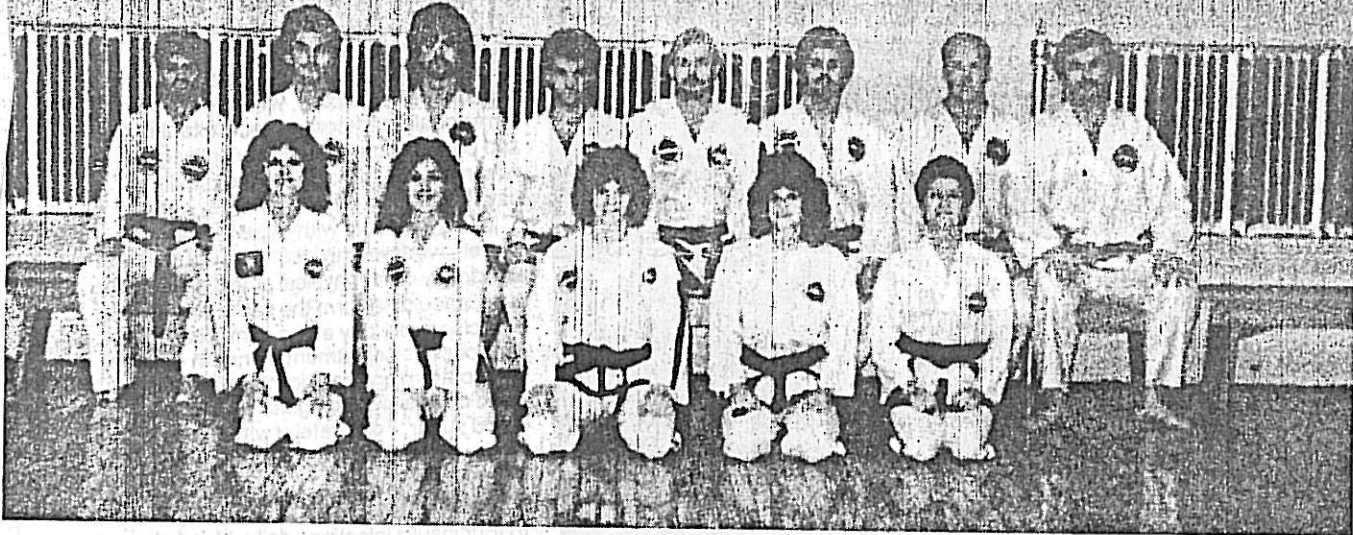


North Korea Opens Its Doors For World Festival Of Youth

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GOOD LUCK USA TAE KWON DO TEAM JULY 1-8, 1989 WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL D.P.R. KOREA



The Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea held the 13th Annual World Festival of Youth and Students from July 1-8, 1989. Approximately 30,000 people from over 170 countries attended the event. The festival, first held in Prague in 1947, is a major cultural, political and sports event involving mostly communist and third world nations. In addition to the communist and third world countries; many western nations including the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, Japan, United Kingdom and several Western European countries attended.

The event was last held in Moscow in 1985 when some 20,000 people from 157 countries attended. Previous hosts have included Budapest, East Berlin, Bucharest, Warsaw, Vienna, Helsinki, Sofia and Havana.

The U.S. Tae Kwon Do team members were chosen from both governing bodies of the ITF: the Korean-American Tae Kwon-Do Union (KATU), and the United States Tae Kwon-Do Federation (USTF). USTF President (Master) Chuck Sereff selected Mr. George Vitale, an international instructor from Brooklyn, New York, to serve as head coach for the U.S. team. Mr. Vitale was assisted by Mr. Paul Dexter from Columbia, Missouri, and the team manager, Mr. Ray Shugart of Agawam, Massachusetts.

Team members that were chosen from the ranks of the ITF to compete at the Festival in North Korea.



Training at the Jersey shore are: (R to L): Servio Haritos, Chris Gantner, John Christakos and Mario Olavarria. LEFT: Kristy Conner practices a side kick for the power test in ITF tournament competition. Photos by Lynn Gantner.

Photographs by Lynn Gantner

The teams trained in late May and early June in Toms River, New Jersey; at Mr. Vitale's school in Brooklyn, New York; and in Manchester, Connecticut, under Master Kwang Sung Hwang, team training director. Along with Master Hwang, Master Ham Soo Han of Canada coached the team with his invaluable experience as a three-time World Games Champion.

Team members for the festival were: Servio Haritos (Captain), Mario Olavarria, Billy Oulundsen, John Christakos, Chris Gantner and John Peloso. The Women's Team consisted of: Kristy Connor (Captain), Laurie St. Amand, Leora Dahlen, Deborah Snopkowski, Susan Torok.

Results of the event were unavailable as press time.

