



Korea was definitely an unforgettable experience. I had the chance to meet and train with a lot of high level judoka. The tournament consisted of eighteen teams, seven from Japan and Korea, and one team from China, Taiwan, Vietnam and The United States. We made it to the second round by beating China before being eliminated by Japan. After that Japan and Korea made short work of the other teams and it was soon just pairings between Korea and Japan. Japan ended up taking the first and second trophies and Korea came in a close third.

I spent the next two days training and getting to know Korean culture. Training with the other countries was very enlightening. I learned some new techniques from a Japanese coach which I will be using at my upcoming tournaments. I went to the Songdo Beach, Jagalchi Fish Market, a Korean Bath House and many shops including an underground mall that had 10 floors. I ate a lot of seafood and had a delicious Bulgogi barbecue dinner with all the teams and even went to a birthday. Exploring Busan with my translators and team mates was really fun. We were able to experience Busan by traveling subways, buses and walking.



I would like to thank everyone who made this trip possible for me. A special thank you to Dr. Ha, Mr. Chi, Mr. Saito, Mr. Simon, Mr. Imada, Mr. Fukuda, Konan Yudanshakai, USJF, MJDA and if I forgot someone I am really sorry. I would also like to thank my team members and Coach Quam for a great tournament and Stan Sochanek, Jim Murray and Luis Cotto for training and coaching me in the US.



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