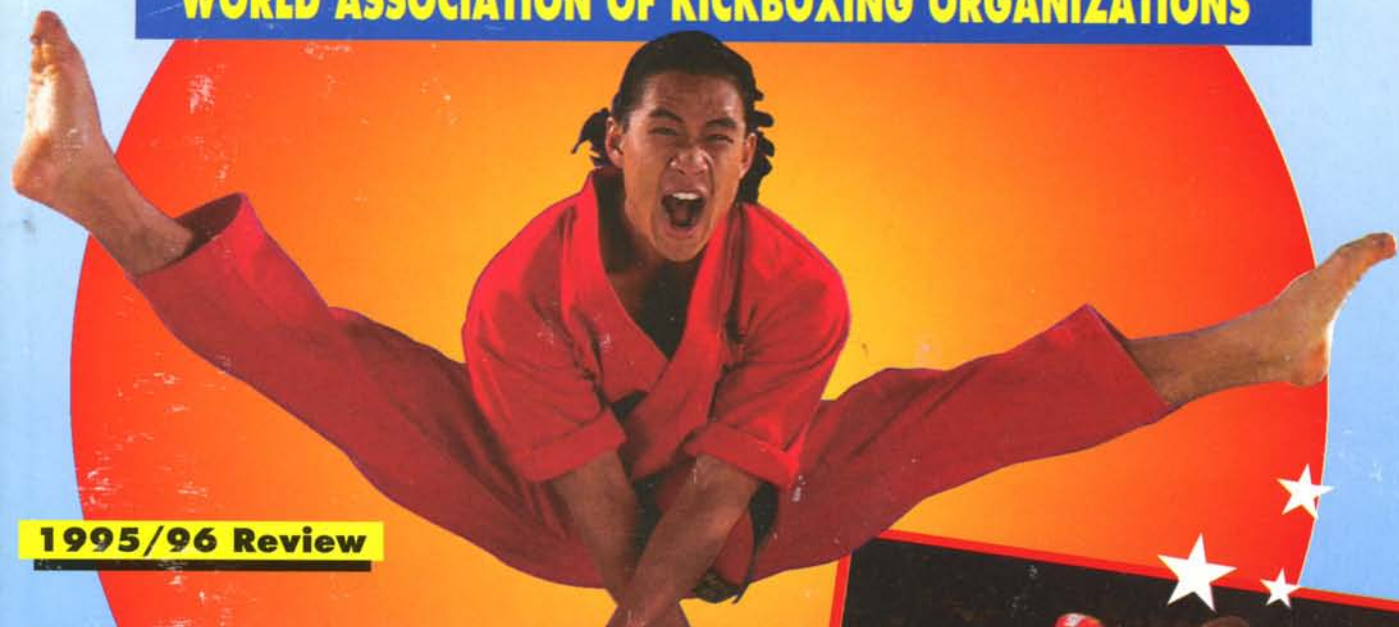


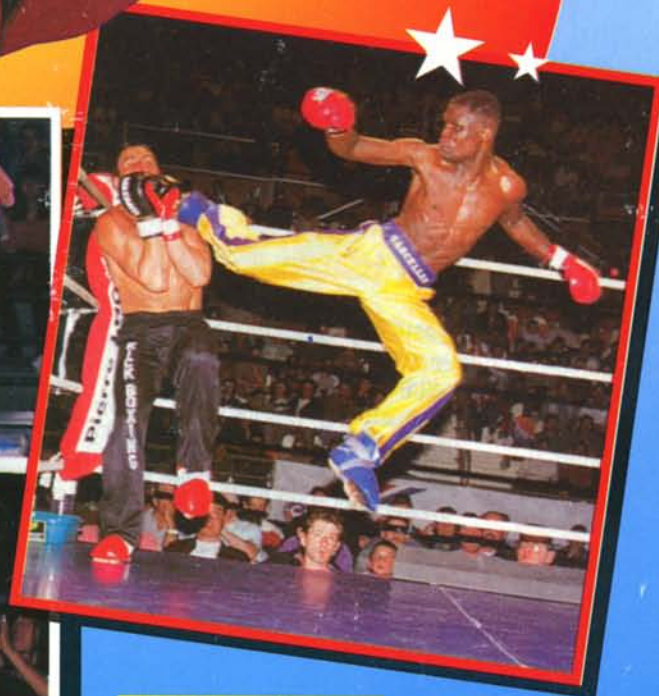
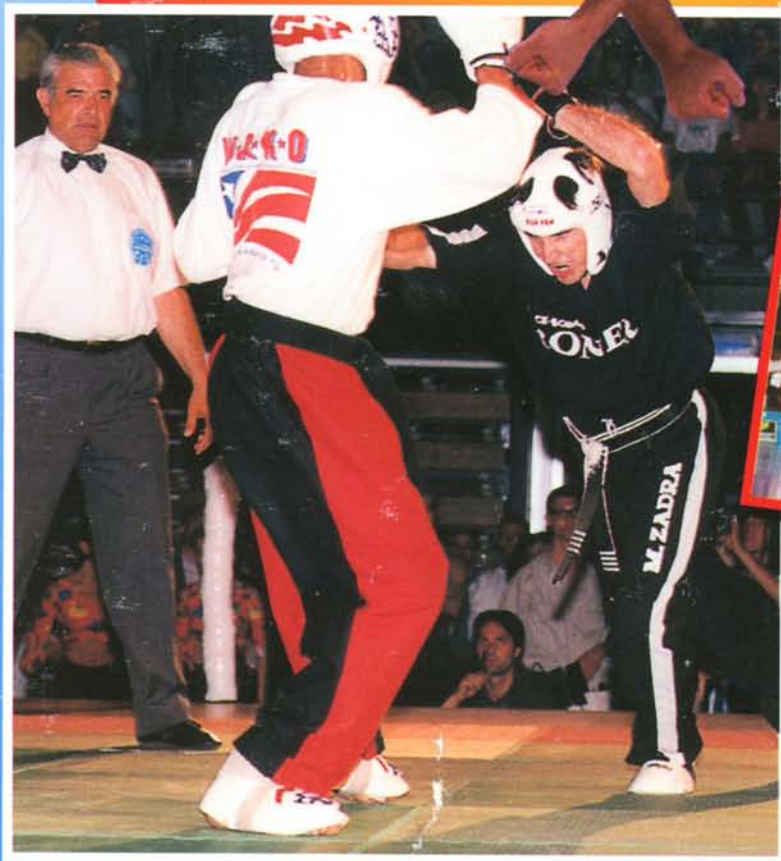


WAKO

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF KICKBOXING ORGANIZATIONS



1995/96 Review



1997 Wako

International Calendar

Wako Pro Highlights



The German of Italian origin, Antony Spatola, who triumphed for the first time in soft musical forms with weapons.



ber of participating nations (46 as opposed to the 31 at Atlantic City just two years before) and athletes (568) coming from 5 continents. In fact, among the participating nations we had the pleasure of welcoming athletes from New Zealand, Pakistan

and India

which represented the part

of the world

(Asia and

Oceania) that had

been missing from

the list of WAKO

member nations. With

pride, as president of

WAKO, I was able to

announce to all those

present that WAKO is

now truly global and that

our idea of kickboxing is

setting the pace for others

to follow.

The only blemish of the

cyclopean promotion by

Halle in Stuttgart which is, from the technical point of view, the best in Europe and among the most expensive, \$ 30,000 a day for the structure alone. Entering the Schleyer-Halle one was immediately impressed by the computerized credential control, the weigh-in operation, the draw of matches (also computerized), not to mention the internal furnishings, the six elevated rings and the lights which were accompanied by a particularly efficient organizational machine that gave a superb touch of class to the entire competition.

Adding to the validity of the championships was the usual record-breaking num-



The Americans never fail to amaze us with their champions in musical forms: in this edition Mike Chaturantabut proved to be master of the hard forms.

the Deutsche Kickboxing Verband was the choice of the date of the championships: right at the same time as other important sports events in Germany and above all in the middle of Oktober Fest which certainly deprived the event of the extra spectators that would have given added luster to the outstanding initiative. As a WAKO director I think it was also an error not to stage full contact together with semi, rather than light with semi-contact. Without taking anything away from the excellent light contact athletes, clearly full contact is more spectacular and attractive for the general public. In the future we will surely return to the old arrangement, in the sense that we will divide the two sports fought in the ring

(namely full and low-kick), and stage one with semi-contact and the other with light contact to balance the need for spectacle which is fundamental for the successful outcome of any promotion.

Making this edition of WAKO world championships unforgettable was left up to the athletes, who were great both in their numbers and in quality.

We were expecting growth in the overall technical level and we weren't disappointed. Even if at the end the big and historically strong teams (the United States, Germany, England, Hungary and even Italy) again dominated, we

mustn't forget that 15 different nations won medals in semi-contact, an incredible 20 in light contact and 9 in musical forms. These are record breaking numbers.

Everything considered, the Stuttgart world championships were very well organized and carried out according to the purist German tradition. We will let the photos speak for themselves as all eyes pointed toward the Kiev world championships slightly more than a month later.



The United States was also victorious in the soft forms with Willie Johnson.



The big squad from Turkey, lead by friendly Harabi Derin, was a tough adversary in many categories and obtained good results.

