

MARTIALSPORTS



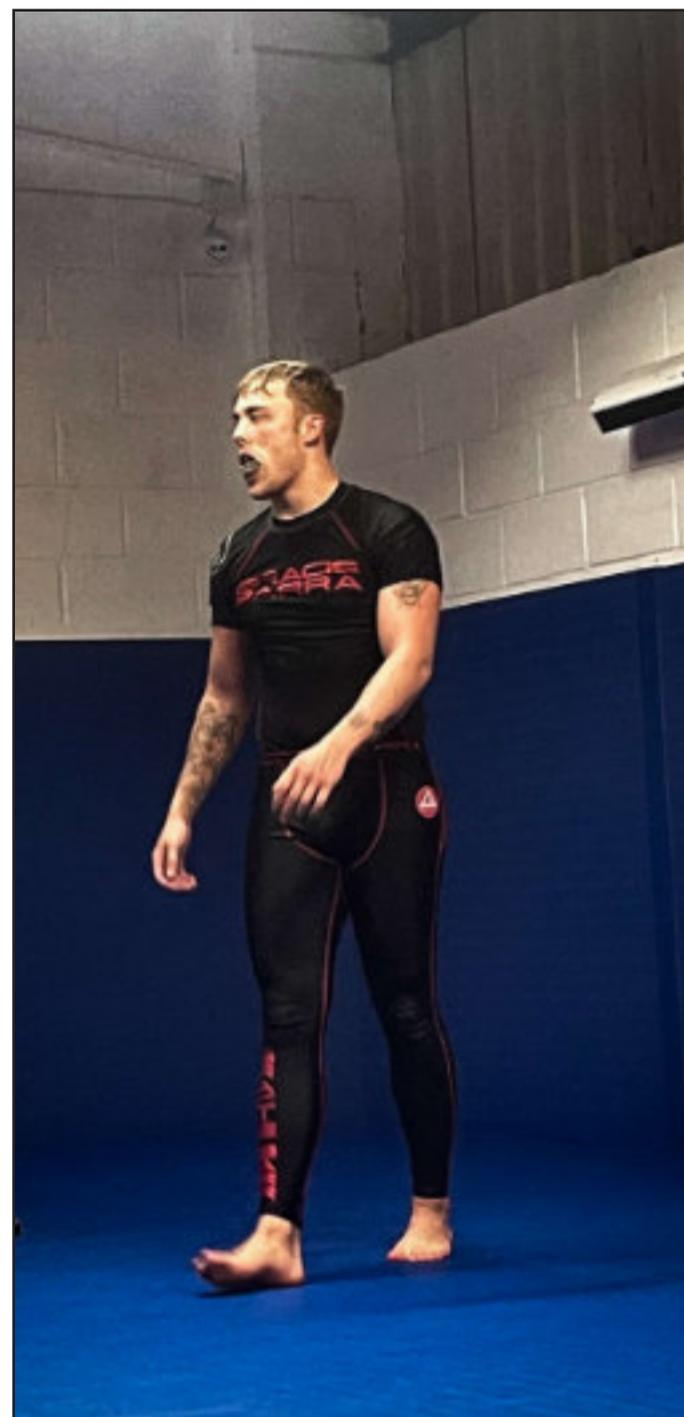
**Contact
Sports Club**

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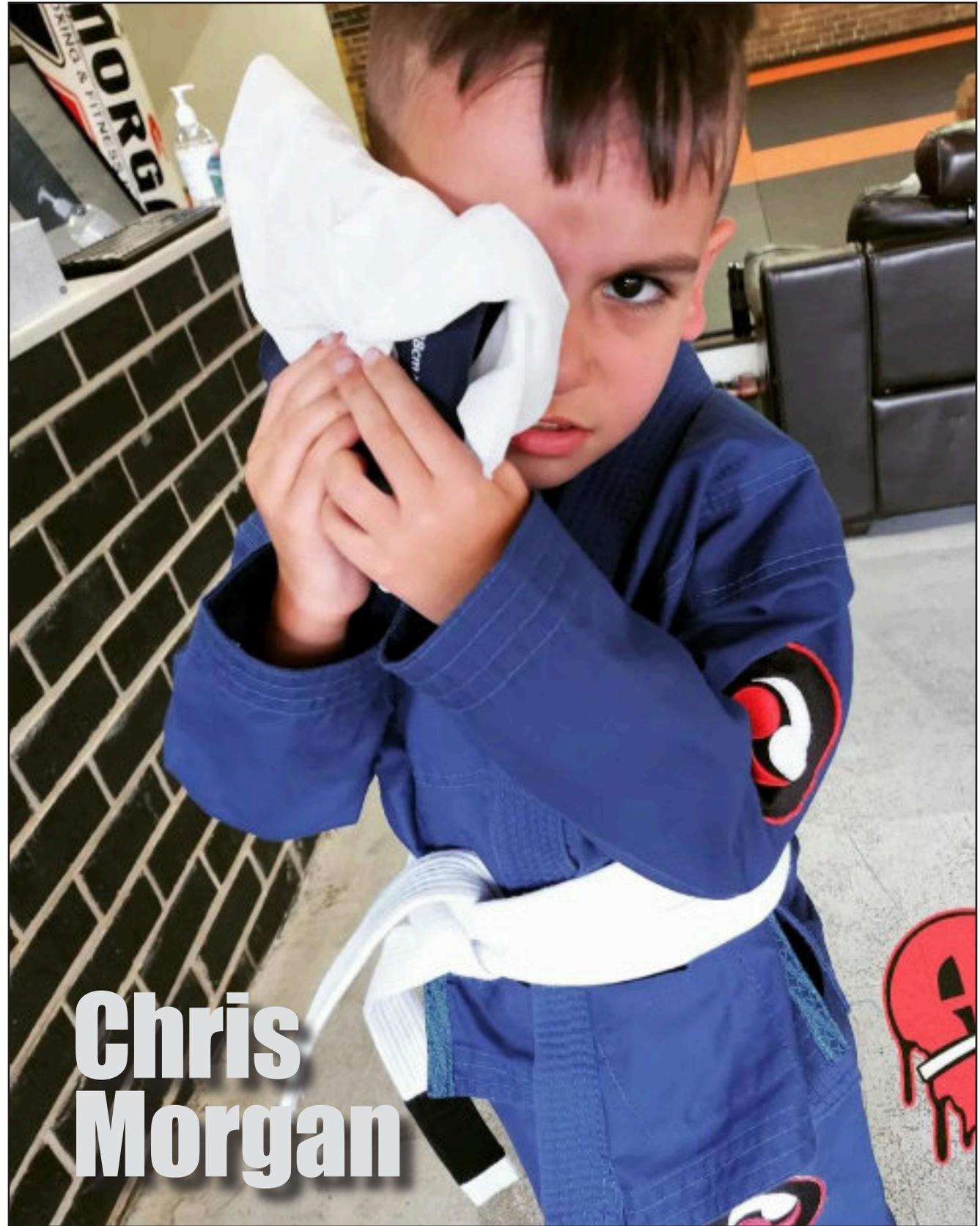
Featuring



Preview



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**Chris
Morgan**



Contact Sports Club
Gracie Barra Affiliate
Mansfield, PA

Our athletes have discovered their love of combat sports and are taking it beyond their limits. Contact Sports Club is a Gracie Barra affiliated team in Mansfield, PA headed by BJJ black belts Rob Smith and Vince Nance. Along with Brian (Brown Belt BJJ) and Heather Kinat (Purple Belt BJJ), Mike Kafka (Purple Belt BJJ) and Brown Belt Judo, and Che Martino (BJJ Purple Belt and MMA) they teach Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Judo and Mixed Martial Arts to families and athletes competing at NAGA, IBJJF, and MMA events throughout the US and Canada.

The two CSC athletes highlighted are committed to developing their skills and we are proud to coach them through their journey.

Competitor: Isabella Yoder Age: 16
Rank: Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Blue Belt,
Judo Green Belt
Weight: 136 lbs

Discovering Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Being from rural Northern Pennsylvania it's unusual that I didn't have wrestling or martial arts exposure, we're a huge grappling state! In fact, until about a month before I began training I didn't even realize Brazilian Jiu Jitsu existed. After being unable to train competitive swimming due to Covid closures, I found Contact Sports Club, a Gracie Barra affiliate, in Mansfield PA. Since early 2021, I've trained and competed consistently reaching one stipe blue belt. I thank God every day for my BJJ family and how incredibly supportive, caring, and helpful each one of them has been. Not only in Jiu Jitsu, but also in life in general. I love competing and since the beginning have participated in eight tournaments resulting in a record of 26 Wins and 10 Losses. My professor always reminds me that I never lose, only



learn. Because of the limited number of competitors in my female weight division I usually end up competing in the adults, and often move up a weight class. In have competed in a number of absolute divisions and have taken either silver or gold in every one of those. I have also competed in a blue belt division as a white belt, and a purple belt division as a blue belt. In each of these instances I came out on top and won the gold.

A Future in Martial Arts ...

I am on my way to being one of the top competitors in the the world. I would like to compete in the Abu Dhabi World Trials, and the Olympics when BJJ is added. Hopefully by the time I am 21, I'll have my black belt in BJJ. Teaching others is a huge part of working towards a black belt and my professor has given

me time at Contact Sports Club for my own class. I look forward to competing around the world, and sharing what I know and have learned with others. In the end, I'd like to have my own gym to share my passion with others. I am so thankful for my spectacular professors, coaches and teammates, and for my family who has supported me through these amazing experiences. I thank God for the gift and ability he has given me. None of this would be possible if it weren't for Him.

Follow BeautylzzyBeast on Instagram <https://instagram.com/beautyizybeast>

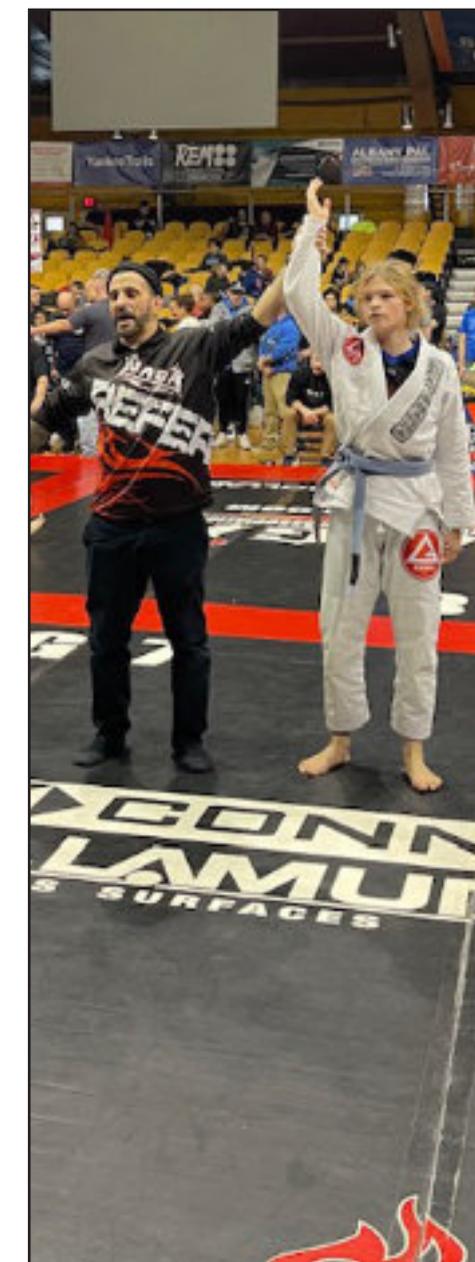
Luke Kelly

Age: 27

Rank: Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Blue Belt

Weight: 155 lbs

Lightweight MMA Fighter



Early Training

I started my athletic journey in elementary school joining the wrestling team but only took it as far as middle school. At the time I had taken a few classes at Contact Sports Club but didn't stay long. I was a kid, experimenting with different interests at the time, exploring who I wanted to become. I spent a lot of time being mediocre at

many things.

Finding a Purpose

One day, a little over 4 years ago I walked into Contact Sports Club at the new location in Mansfield, Pennsylvania. Seeing Professor Rob Smith and the many belts and medals hanging at the gym made me regret not sticking with it. I decided to never to give up again. I was

serious about Jiu Jitsu and MMA. I had found where to explore my interest in maximizing human potential. I believe everyone is capable of WAY more than they can imagine both physically and mentally. Through pushing myself in jiu jitsu and fighting I discover the edges of my limits and break through them.

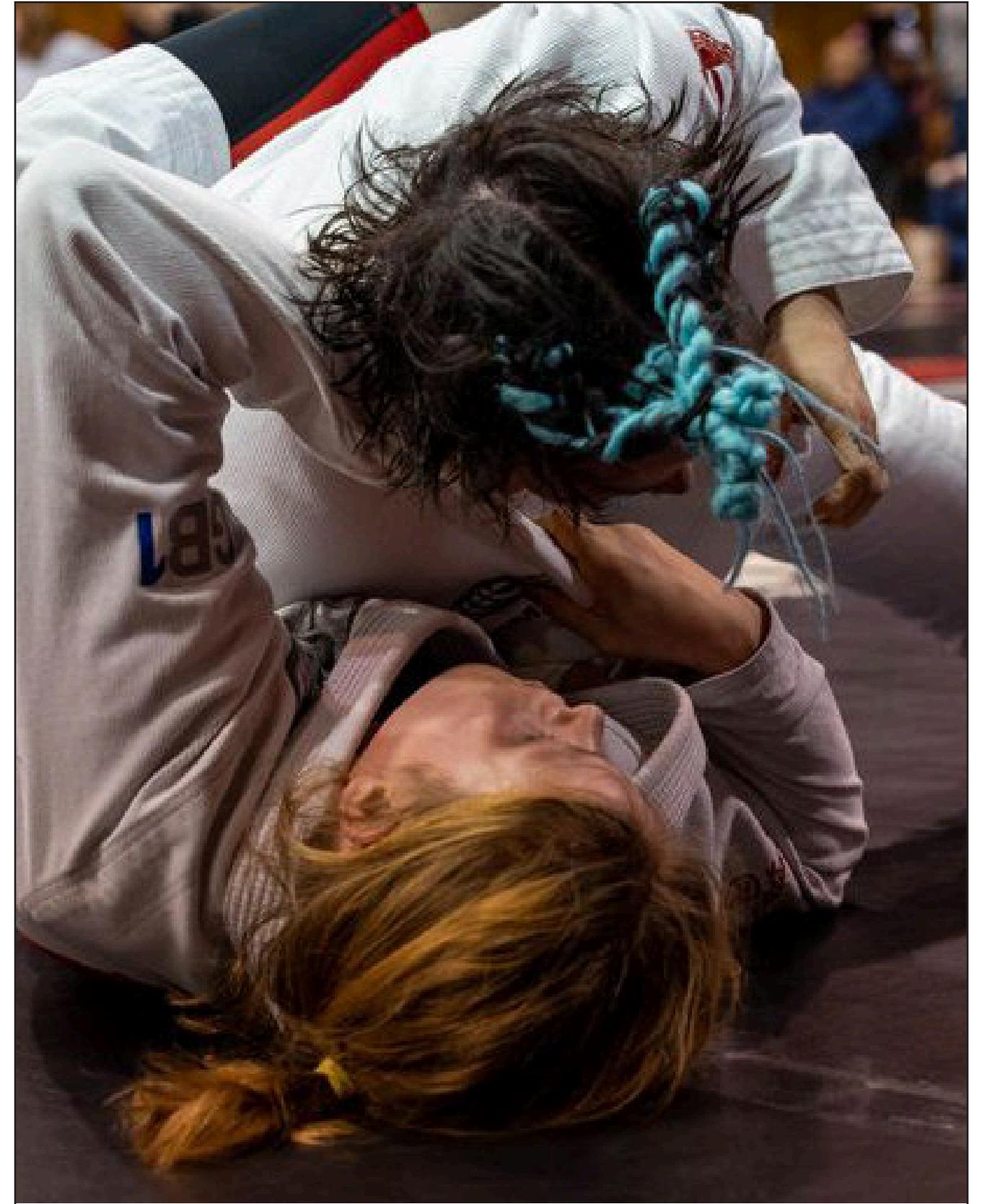
What's Next My next fight is in 6

weeks. We are training for a tough opponent. After winning this next fight, I'll be ready to step into the cage at a professional level. I look forward to one day opening my own gym and sharing my experiences in MMA and Ju Jitsu with the generation after me. But for now, I am going to go get a shot at the title. Follow Luke Kelly MMA on Facebook [https://m.](https://m.facebook.com/groups/595971078855159/)

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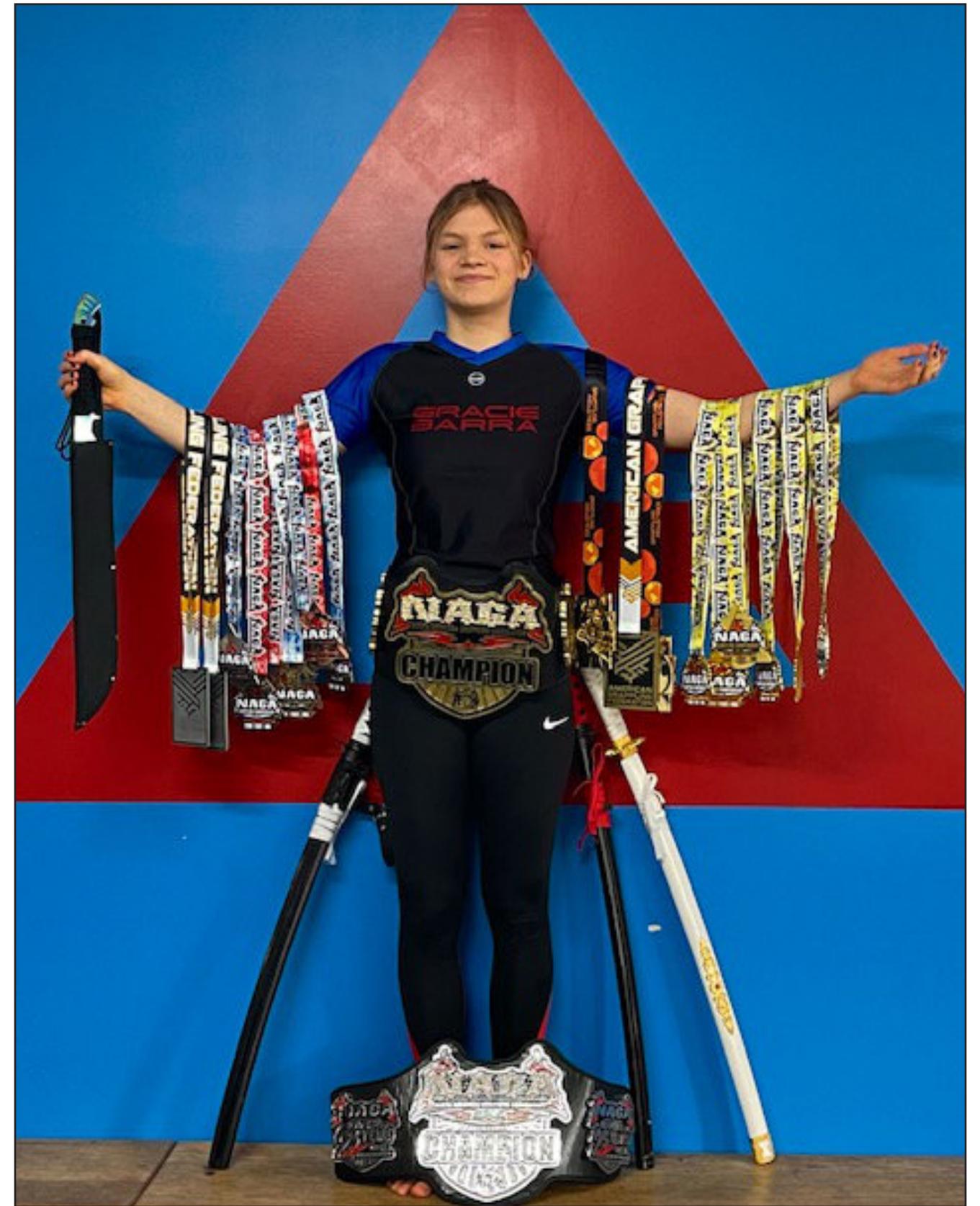


Contact Sports Club





**Contact
Sports Club**





Filipino Kali Academy



Filipino Kali Academy HQ is a martial art school located in Glen Burnie, MD, U.S.A. It's founder Tuhon Apolo Ladra established a school to help spread Filipino Martial Arts to the world. His burning passion for martial arts and his Filipino heritage helped him fuse and create iKali, the Indigenous Kali which originates from the ancient "art of Blade" of the Philippines, Kali.

iKali is a weapons based art that uses sticks, knives, and other bladed weapons as well as empty handed techniques to subdue the opponent. What is great about learning iKali is the concept and teaching methodology involved.

Tuhon Apolo Ladra has created the concept "Learn to Teach, Teach to Learn" which has produce countless numbers of leaders and martial artists from kids to adults. Not only do the students learn self-defense, they also experience character development throughout the process.

What is great about the iKali program and of course, Filipino Kali Academy is there are different classes offered for everyone!

The kid's program or Bayani program for ages 7-12 years old focuses on developing leadership, coordination, discipline, and self-confidence through the practice of iKali. Meanwhile, the Kali Combat is for ages 13 and up. The program covers the full range of iKali techniques, including weapon disarms, empty-hand self-defense, and sparring. Now for the woman's program. It focuses on self-defense techniques applicable in real life scenarios. Lastly, they also offer online classes for those who want to learn at the comfort of their own homes.

You can also join different iKali seminars and events to experience how amazing the sport and the team is! They will be in San Francisco, CA on March 31- April 2 2023 for their West Coast Gathering. Aside from that, they will be participating in the Jr Olympics this



Filipino Kali Academy





Gabe Clayton

I'm an aspiring mixed martial artist and I will one day fight for a world title, my goals are to become a world champ in mma and Bjj, I've had a late start to grappling but have achieved a blue belt in under a year as well as teaching the kids at Gracie Barra Melksham but not without some challenges like an injury to my back that I'm nurses while still training and teaching.

Barra Melksham but not without some challenges like an injury to my back that I'm nurses while still training and teaching.

Photos Credits: @jeddavisphotography





Gabe Clayton



Dreams & Goals

My dream is to become a Navy Fighter Pilot when I grow up. But I have a lot of time before then, so I'm working on becoming the best Jiu Jitsu fighter I can be. My goal is to master the fundamentals and then move on to advanced skills of Jiu Jitsu. My goal is to learn all the important moves and techniques, and then become really good at them. This will help me feel confident and be able to handle myself in all sorts of situations - not just on the Jiu Jitsu mats, but also in school and on the playground. And when I get older, these skills will help me in my job too!

Biggest Challenge:

My biggest challenge was during my first tournament. I needed to step away from my father, my coaches and the mats at my home academy. I needed to step onto new mats with lots of people whom I didn't know watching and I needed to test myself against other kids looking to do the same. I was afraid. I left the bullpen and went looking for my dad. When I found him he could tell what was going on by the look on my face. But then my dad told me something that made me feel brave. He said that a coward runs from their fears, but a hero faces them. And he said that I was a hero. He told me I was ready for this. He told me he loved me and sent me back to fight.

Achievements:

I'm proud of my progress in Jiu Jitsu so far. I've earned my gray belt and I'm working towards my gray black belt. I've also won gold, silver, and bronze medals in competitions. Not only have I gotten stronger physically, but I've also become more skilled and resilient mentally and emotionally. I want to get my black belt someday. I believe that if I keep working hard and have a positive attitude, I can achieve anything I set my mind to.



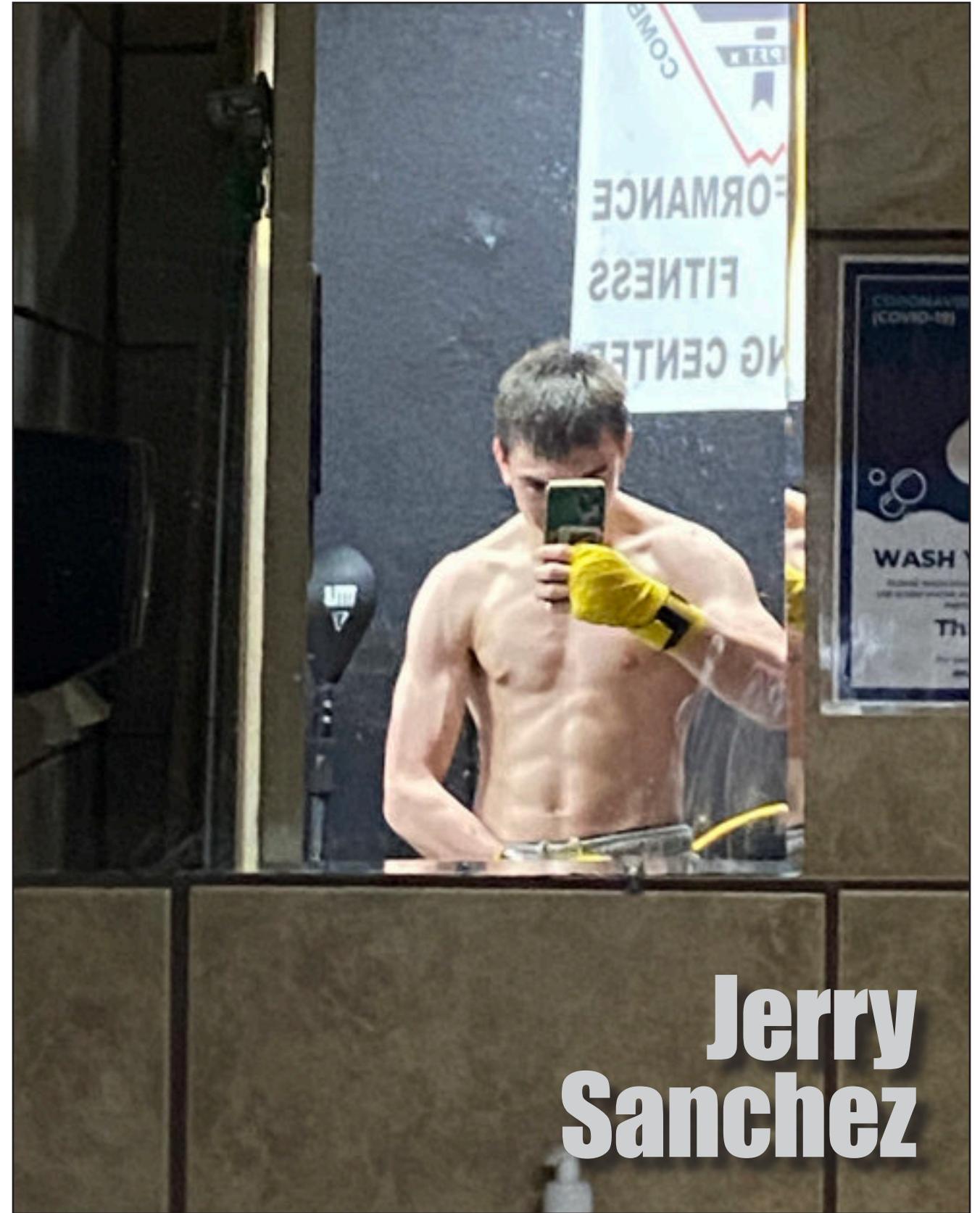
**Jack
Wepppler**





Jerry Sanchez

A goal of mine is to become black belt champion



Jerry Sanchez

My name is Manuel Flores. I am 14. I started jiu-jitsu when my sister was being bullied and the kid threatened to beat her up so my dad signed both of us up for jiu-jitsu. At first, we were not the best and were being submitted and basically being the punching bag for the grey belts but after some time we were getting better so after 1 year we did our first-ever competition it was a dream competition I hit 3rd place, and it was all uphill from there as time moved on we hit grey and white but we skipped are solid grey because we where held back to go and compete and it did get harder and harder with being a grey and black in a white belt zone there was not that much challenge so we choose to move gyms we are now apart of ACIMA/Checkmat and we have done a bunch of competitions and we have been placing more and more often and so this is were my motivation keeps going and kepted this dream of jiu-jitsu alive and about how many people have faith in me, Lucas Leto told my dad about the potential I have and a bunch of black belts have told me about the potential I have in the jiuJitsu business and this is what keeps me going knowing all this work I put in to help me and people telling me about the potential I have to be a black belt and I also help the kids out with move how to counter moves and this is what brings me to my goals in my life I want to be a black belt and I want my own gym and train my own students and I want to compete in ibjjf this year and win gold and the other goal is to get my sister to stop fearing comepeating and build that bravery to go out and compete with me because she is really good but she fears to much and I care about her so much and just want to help my middle sister out and keep her confidence up.



Manny Flores

Manny Flores







One day I hope to be a great Jiu jitsu player and compete at the highest level, I love competing and winning medals especially Gold medals.

I would like to become a black belt when I'm older.

So far in 2022 I have achieved silver in the Gi World Championships in the 6-7 year group category. I then went onto win Gold in the European and International open championships in both Gi and No Gi. So far in 2023 I have won silver in the National Gi Championships and came 1st place in the No Gi category. I also won 1st place in the Gi JJEUK spring yorkshire Pro competition earlier this year. I have 21 medals in total since starting to compete in 2022 which consists of 14 golds, 6 silver and 1 bronze. I am excited to competing more this year and adding to my total.

The biggest challenge for me to over come at present is moving up to the 8-9 year group category and having to adapt to being one of the youngest in the age category. I also have Autism but I don't see this as something that is difficult for me but instead I try use my strengths to my advantage and I am learning to build resilience as I grow.

Photos Credits: Yes -.





Marcus



Coucou ,

Moi c'est Ayronn, j'ai 10 ans et je pratique le grappling depuis 4 ans.

Depuis l'année dernière, j'ai complété le grappling avec le JJB, la boxe thaï et la boxe anglaise pour élargir mes compétences dans les sports de combats.

En avril 2023, j'ai eu la satisfaction d'obtenir mon grade orange en grappling et ma ceinture orange en JJB.

Depuis 2020, je fais chaque compétition qui se déroule dans ma région avec

l'objectif de me déplacer prochainement dans toute la France voir l'Europe.

Grâce à mes parents et mes deux clubs : Gpsports Miramas et Miramas Boxing Academy , j'ai la chance de pouvoir m'entraîner chaque jour afin d'exceller dans chacune des disciplines que je pratique.

J'espère un jour pouvoir rencontrer mon idole Cyril Gane afin qu'il puisse me donner des conseils pour avancer vers mon objectif de faire carrière dans le MMA et un jour réaliser mon rêve participer en étant combattant à l'UFC.





Minne
Ayronn



Myles Folagbade



My name is Myles and I'm 10 years old.

I have trained at One jiu-jitsu Worthing since I was 6 years old under coach Savio Aragona. My mum also trains there.

I have been competing in local Brazilian jiu jitsu competitions for a year and a half of which I love. I definitely recommend everyone to compete at least once. Win or lose, it's a great experience and it's made



me a much better player.

I was awarded my grey and black belt in December 2022.

I enjoy learning all the small details to submission's, pins, passes and take downs that I thought I knew well. There is so much to learn.

I'm looking forward to more competitions and my goal is to become a green and black belt with many gold medals before I'm 16.



**Myles
Folagbade**



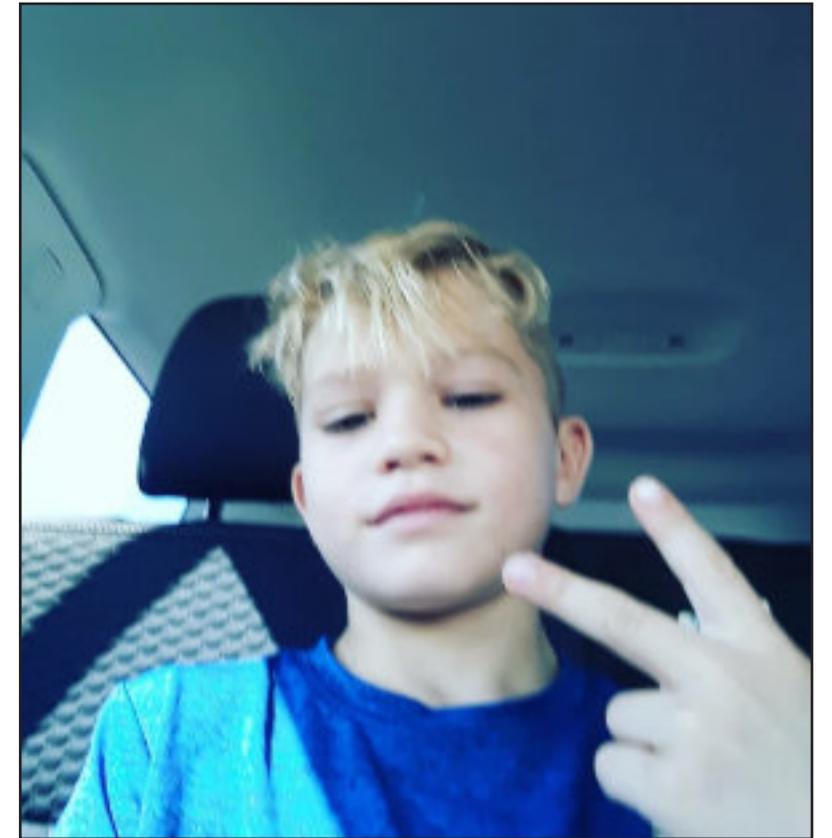
**Taylor
Hobbs**



My name is Taylor Hobbs. I have won many awards and medals so far with the amount of hard work I put during my training hours. I constantly try to improve my game. It is not easy to follow my passion along with school and other stuff but

where there is a way, there's a will. The biggest challenge right now in my journey is time management. With the limit time I get, I need to fulfill my dream of representing my nation and I am hopeful about it.

Taylor Hobbs





My name is Victoria and I started working with Black Belt Image about 5 years ago. It was a challenge as Martial arts is not easy. It needs lots of details , power , and lots of hard work to achieve a perfect move. There is always room for improvement every time I do a photoshoot with Gerville my trainer, my photographer, and my mentor.

Photos Credits: Black Belt Image

Victoria



Victoria





MARTIALSPORTS



Filipino Kali Academy

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