

Kuk Sool Won hosts Texas tournament

The first weekend in September found the Kingwood college gymnasium completely occupied as the World Kuk Sool Association hosted its first ever Texas tournament.

Replacing this year's world tournament, usually held in the AstroArena, this tournament was designed as a prelude to the upcoming world championship event to be held in October 2002 in Gyeongju City, Korea.

The turnout for the Texas tournament was higher than expected with more than 400 competitors. The competition itself was held over two days — the under black belt divisions on Saturday and

the black belt divisions on Sunday.

Although this was a small tournament by World Kuk Sool Association standards, the number of competitors did provide some good competition for students, who were not only from Houston but Texas as a whole.

The Kingwood School, located on U.S. Hwy. 59 North, was well-represented by both under-black belts and black belt students. The number of medals that were won by Kingwood students proved higher than average.

One particularly outstanding success was that of first degree black belt Nadine Abboud. Ab-

boud claimed first place (gold medal) in three events and second place (silver medal) in another three events. Her overall point accumulation gave her the grand champion award for first degree women, age group 17-29.

Master Richard Roper, owner of Kuk Sool Won of Kingwood, commented, "Kuk Sool Won is a traditional, not sport-based, martial art. Consequently, the quality of our martial art is that of an exceptionally high standard, reflecting the seriousness of the discipline required, together with the time that has to be devoted by the students in the study and practice of Kuk Sool Won, such

as was displayed this week by Nadine."

Kingwood students competed in events including forms, techniques and sparring, self defense, with weapons (sword and staff) for black belt competitors. Although not included in the Texas tournament this year, other events such as knife throwing, archery and breaking are also part of the Kuk Sool Won tradition.

If you would like further information on Kuk Sool Won, please visit www.kuksoolkingwood.com or call 281-359-5425. Kuk Sool Won of Kingwood is located on U.S. Hwy. 59 North near Luby's.



Master Richard Roper, far left, stands with instructors and students of Kuk Sool Won of Kingwood martial arts school.