

Sport



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INTERNATIONAL EXPONENTS: Taekwondo instructor Ben Evans, rear, with his four recipients of Rob Guildford Memorial Trust Scholarships from left Johann Landkroon, Tupuna Rangī, Aidan Pellett and Nesta Rei.

PHOTO/WARREN BUCKLAND

Special scholarship for athletes

Boost ahead of world champs for Bay quartet

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Special needs Taekwondo

THE passion was extremely evident and so was the commitment from four world championship-bound Hawke's Bay special needs taekwondo exponents.

But it was the smiles from Johann Landkroon, Aidan Pellett, Nesta Rei and Tupuna Rangī which would have scored them the most points last night. They became recipients of Rob Guildford Memorial Trust

scholarships. The scholarships are presented in memory of Rob Guildford, the father of Hawke's Bay Magpies utility back and former All Black Zac Guildford.

In 2009 Guildford sadly died of a heart attack shortly after watching his son score two tries as New Zealand beat England 44-28 in the final of the Under-20 World Cup in Tokyo.

His wife, Deb, and brother, Darren Guildford presented each member of the quartet with a \$400 cheque, a bag full of sports goods from Rebel and a framed scholarship certificate after their training session with Hawke's Bay's International Taekwondo Federation's Regional Director Ben Evans at Mangatere School.

The Bay quartet will be four of six exponents Evans takes to the July world championships in Brighton.

It will be the first time a special needs division is contested at the champs. Hastings' Landkroon, 23, has Down Syndrome. Earlier this month he earned his black belt

after eight years of studying the martial art and training three times each week.

"I went to the 2011 world championships in North Korea to give a special needs demonstration. In England it will be full on and I'm going for gold," Landkroon said.

Napiet's Pellett, 21, like Rei and Rangī, hopes to earn black belt status in March. He has studied taekwondo for two-and-a-half years.

"My main aim in England is to get more power with my technique. If I medal that will be a bonus," Pellett said.

Taradale High School year 11 student Rei, 16, has been one of Evans' students for 11 years.

"Because this is my first world champs I really want to get my patterns right. I like being part of this group... it's such a good environment," Rei said.

Like Pellett, Rangī, 20 of Fairhaven School has autism.

He has completed his third year with Evans and family members pointed out taekwondo

has improved his focus big time. It's not uncommon for him to train four times each week.

"I want to win heaps of medals in England and I want to be a third dan black belt holder," Rangī said.

Fourth dan instructor Evans sowed the seeds for special needs taekwondo in 2006.

In addition to New Zealand, there are branches in England, Greece, the Netherlands, Canada and the United States.

Irongate School will host the Hawke's Bay Taekwondo Champs on November 7.

At the championships there will be special needs and mainstream divisions.

This is the fourth year Rob Guildford Memorial Trust scholarships have been presented in the Bay.

Recipients are recognised for their ability to push on from provincial to national level.

Previous recipients have included Junior White Sox softballer Emma Houkamau and national netball representatives Kelsey McPhee and Kimora Poi.



DA MAN: Ben Evans, right, congratulates Johann Landkroon on becoming a Rob Guildford Memorial Trust Scholarship recipient within weeks of earning black belt status.

PHOTO/WARREN BUCKLAND

Johann's winning sequence

Taekwondo

Hawke's Bay Special Needs Taekwondo director Ben Evans described Johann Landkroon as a "walking library".

"If I lost my mind and forgot my theory one day Johann would be the one to help me," Evans said.

He was reflecting on Landkroon's successful verbal theory segment on his way to gaining first degree black belt status during a day-long examination this month.

Various patterns had challenging words but Landkroon, who has Down Syndrome, remembered every word in the correct sequence.

The day began with a floor performance involving several physical requirements which was followed by a fitness test before the verbal theory segment.

Among the physical assignments was breaking a 20mm piece of wood with a kick. Landkroon, 23, also had to demonstrate several self defence moves in a circle situation where he was surrounded but with his eyes shut until approached.

He had to defeat his attackers in different situations.

"Johann put his heart and soul into his training and deserved his every moment of success with regards to everything he performed to the best of his ability. The fitness test involved a great deal which again, for everyone grading, felt like the never-ending grading," Evans said.

Landkroon also had to submit an essay-style article about what taekwondo had done for him. He explained how it helped him to function more positively, in a non-aggressive manner and how it helped him gain more respect for his seniors.

Taekwondo also helped him to understand younger children better and the importance of working together as a team.

Evans said Landkroon was already talking about his determination to gain his second degree black belt.

Rant costs 'Special One' a second time

Football

Beleaguered Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho was hit with a misconduct charge from the Football Association yesterday following his half-time rant in the Premier League champions' 2-1 defeat by West Ham.

Mourinho is already appealing against a €50,000 (\$81,000) fine and suspended one-match stadium ban for comments made about officials following Chelsea's home loss against Southampton earlier this month.

And he faces further charges after being sent to the stands for letting rip at the referee when he went to see him in the officials' changing room during the interval at Upton Park on Sunday.

"Jose Mourinho has been charged with misconduct in relation to his language and/or behaviour towards the match officials in or around the



Jose Mourinho

dressing room area at half-time," an FA statement confirmed.

Silvino Louro, one of Mourinho's assistants, had already been sent off in the London derby following his protests after Nemanja Matic was sent off for two bookable offences. Both Chelsea and West Ham have also been charged for failing to control players in the aftermath of

the challenge which led to Matic's dismissal.

"Chelsea coach Silvino Louro has also been charged with misconduct in relation to his behaviour which led to his 45th minute dismissal from the technical area," the FA statement added.

"West Ham have been charged for failing to control their players in the 44th minute of the game and Chelsea have also been charged with the same offence for an alleged breach in the 45th minute. — AAP