

IFFSKSA Friendship Champs a huge success

The International Federation of Funakoshi Shotokan Karate South Africa (IFFSKSA) and the World Friendship Karate Union (WFKU) hosted the 15th All Style Karate Friendship Championships recently. Apart from the more than 650 participants, a capacity crowd gathered at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Old Mutual Sports Hall to support the karatekas. There were over 25 clubs at the event from throughout KwaZulu-Natal as well as from Cape Town and Gauteng. The head of IFFSKSA and president of WFKU, Shihan Eric Govender, said that this prestigious tournament was one of the biggest in the country and allowed competitors from various styles to display their talent. He



Shihan Eric Govender (Left) and Shihan Selvan Govender (Right) with the winners of the senior sections

said, "Such a tournament brings different karate associations together and allows all role players to interact and share ideas. I was impressed to see children as young as 4 years showing off their skills." Apart from the winners who received gold, bronze and silver medals, every participant was awarded a medal and certificate of participation which is the norm at all IFFSKSA tournaments.

The championships produced action packed karate of the highest calibre. The grand champion of the Male Cadet section was Sandesh Ramsaroop, while Adrian Govender won the senior male kata and Kabelo Mathemelo walked away with the kumite gold medal in the same division. The male veteran kumite was won by Regan Ogle with Christo Rieker winning

the kata. The female cadet kata winner was Aveline Hariellall while Shrihara Pattundeon won the kumite. The female veteran grand champion was Vijay Govender. These karatekas are now looking ahead to another successful tournament in 2011, while the IFFSKSA is preparing its karatekas for the 12th FSKA World Championships in Poland to be held in September.