

World Karate Champ Visits Farmington After Victory

BY WYLIE GERDES

FARMINGTON

The fearsome fights movie spins force on the public ways certain elements of the original art of karate.

But watching stuntmen pull blows doesn't prepare you for the increase in pulse rate that comes when a second-hand black belt karate master brushes your nose with his knuckles or halts a blow a fraction of an inch from your ribs.

THE EPISODE of the cowardly reporter and the karate expert, starring the closest thing to a world champion that the karate has, began when Claude Bigot of 32169 Bonnet Hill in Kendallwood called The Enterprise and Observer and informed us that the European karate champion and other experts were to be his guests for

a couple of days.

From that point on, the project took on the aspects of a late night movie.

First, The Enterprise and Observer's staff of summer reporters and regular staff, none of whom would hesitate to face hordes of enraged housewives or public officials (well, at least public officials) seemed rather leery of the assignment.

Editor Emory Daniels walked up to me with a grin on his face and a piece of yellow paper in hand.

Student reporters Ed Wendover and Howard Kohn were slinking out the back door as I was trying to decipher the editor's scribbling.

After reading the note, my heart leaped with George Plimpton-Walter Mitty ideas.

"Why, man, can probably be destroyed, with one hand, the Lion's whole defensive line that I'm

claimant to the world throne until a real world championship meet is held, was next. He defeated the best in America and Japan in New York on Aug. 10.

Twenty-two year old Valeria Dominique looks like a tough high school footballer. He doesn't bulge with muscle but he looks quick. He smiled shyly as he crushed my hand and disrupted the circulation in my lower right arm.

I immediately revised my estimate of his strength. It was about this time that I also thought about turning tail and running.

The four chatted in French, which Bigot translated for me. All four are delightful fellows. I soon learned.

Jacques Jouys, the treasurer of the French karate organization who is also a vice president of the Bank of France, answered questions easily and politely.

Dominique, six feet tall, and weighing about 190, talked less

but spoke with assurance.

The interview was slowly dying out, after a delightful hour and a half, when the hair raising and heart thumping began.

COMPETITION KARATE is a strange mixture of murder and judo. No blows are landed by the contestants because only one delivered by an expert could cripple or kill.

The combatants must control themselves enough to keep from breaking bones and things while still scoring points, like fencing with no contact. Through Bigot, the karate men explained that in America blows are halted in the very early stages. This leads to controversy over whether points should be given for the blow, but it's safer.

The treasurer said that no "accidents" occurred at the meet in New York, something which they couldn't recall happening in Europe. At this com-



VALERIA DOMINIQUE, 22-year-old bouncer from Lyon, France, defeated the cream of the karate world recently in New York. The champ uses the first two knuckles of his right hand to deliver blows, rather than the side of his hand. The knuckles are greatly enlarged. (Event photo)

Tiger Clubs Training 31 State Farmhands

Thirty-one players from Michigan are among 150 farmhands currently performing for the six clubs in the Detroit Tiger minor league system.

Five Michiganers -- one a former major leaguer -- are playing for the Toledo Mud Hens of the International League, top-ranking Tiger affiliate.

Formerly wearing big league flannels was infielder Dave Campbell of Lansing and a graduate of the University of Michigan. Other Mud Hens from Michigan are Pitchers Bob Reed of Flint, Ron Chandler and Gary Taylor of Dearborn, and Outfielder Wayne Redmond, a Detroit.

Assigned to the Montgomery Rebels of the Southern League is Catcher Harry Kendrick, a Michigan State University product from Detroit.

THE LINEUP of the Rocky Mount Leafs of the Carolina League includes Pitchers Rick Young of Inkster, Mike Fremuth of Birmingham, and Keith Splicer and Arnie Helwig, both from Detroit.

Michigan pitchers dominate the Lakeland staff. The Tiger farm club in the Florida State League has six hurlers from the Great Lakes State: Ray Foucher and Joe Brauer of Detroit, Tim

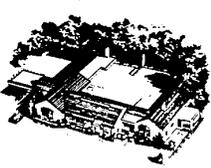
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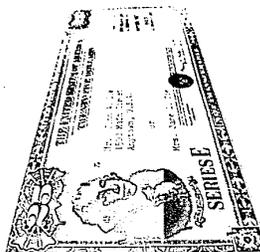
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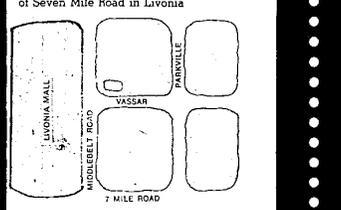
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