

Dear Board of Konan Staff,

Thank you, a lot, for helping me to grow as an athlete and as a person in the sport of judo. In 31<sup>st</sup> annual US open tournament I had a great opportunity to rise on the podium and take 1<sup>st</sup> in the IJF 90kg division. Since I moved to Boston and started training at Pedro's Judo Center, things changed globally, I gained so much strength and knowledge about what my body can do when there is no more to excel. I finally started getting better at gripping and fighting as an actual right sided player, developed and got much efficient with techniques such as uchimata, osoto-gari and ura-nage under the guide of great coaches Jimmy Pedro and Travis Stevens. I moved up to 90kg division this 2019 winter and realized that there always a gap to get better and to grow. Now, I am focusing on getting physically stronger and putting more muscled on my body. I found out at the 2019 US open tournament that 90kg division is no joke to fight in if you do not have enough strength and power.

I've travelled everywhere in the US and visited all the well-known dojos across the country, but I found my passion to stick with really helpful and motivated people at Pedro's Judo. I found this place really professional, and that people here are focused on building real World and Olympic champions, I do enjoy living, working and training here in PJC.

I would like to take this chance and generously thank you for continuing supporting my dream to become an Olympic champion in 2024.

Best regards,

Your Judoka Elyor Serikbaev