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## U.S. edges France for Gi team title at Grappling Worlds in Switzerland

Gary Abbott USA Wrestling  
12/22/2008



LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND – A day after dominating the No-Gi division, the United States came back with a smaller team yet emerged as the team champions in the Gi division at the Grappling World Championships on Sunday.

The U.S. was led by two gold medalists, Lisa Ward (Olympia, Wash./United Fight Team) at 48 kg/105.5 lbs. in women's Grappling and Ian Murphy (Fullerton, Calif. (Alpha Male/Ultimate Fitness)) at 92 kg/202.5 lbs. in men's Grappling.

Ward became the only U.S. Grappler to win a double title, capturing both the No-Gi and Gi competitions. She scored a submission over Lisa Newton of Great Britain in the finals with an armbar.

Murphy was the only U.S. men's Grappler to be a finalist in both the No-Gi and Gi events. He won a silver medal in the No-Gi competition on Saturday.

In the finals, he defeated a talented competitor with a strong background in Gi jiu jitsu, Pierre Pilat of France, 2-1. It was the first time that Murphy had competed in a Gi Grappling competition.

Murphy's victory in the finals allowed the United States to edge France in the team standings in Gi Grappling by one point.

"I was just going out there to give it a shot. I have learned a couple things over the years for the Gi, so I was hoping I could get by with my wrestling and No-Gi stuff," said Murphy. "I just tried to get the guys tired and pass their guard at the end of the match and it worked. I was surprised!"

The U.S. added silver medals in the Gi competition from Brian Peterson (Valencia, Calif./Big John McCarthy's Ultimate Training Center) at 62 kg/136.5 lbs. and Tara LaRosa, Philadelphia, Pa. (Philadelphia Fight Factory) at 55 kg/121 lbs.

Peterson was defeated in the finals by Herminio Garcia of Spain by submission. LaRosa fell in the finals to Laurence Fouillat of France, 0-1. Fouillat was a gold-medalist both the No-Gi and Gi competitions.

"On Sunday, we only had a few athletes compete, but everyone pulled their weight," said USA Wrestling Manager of Developing Styles Jason Townsend. "Ian Murphy pulled the victory through with his win in the finals. It was a dramatic win for the team. I was surprised that the USA won both styles. It was a great experience."

For more information on the FILA Grappling World Championships, visit the official website at: <http://www.d4-world.com/>

### WORLD GRAPPLING CHAMPIONSHIPS At Lucerne, Switzerland, Dec. 21

#### U.S. Men's results

62 kg/136.5 lbs. - Brian Peterson, Valencia, Calif. (Big John McCarthy's Ultimate Training Center), 2nd  
WIN Tom Barlow (Great Britain)  
LOSS Herminio Garcia (Spain), submission

70 kg/154 lbs. - Tom LeCuyer, Plano, Ill. (Atlas Xtreme Team, Torres Martial Arts), dnp  
LOSS Michael Karkula (Canada)  
LOSS Simone Franceschini (Italy)

80 kg/176 lbs. - Mike Kelly, Hebron, Ill. (Gilbert Grappling), dnp  
Match results not currently available

92 kg/202.5 lbs. - Raphael Davis, Lomita, Calif. (Team Caique), dnp  
LOSS Herb (Germany), submission

92 kg/202.5 lbs. - Ian Murphy, Fullerton, Calif. (Alpha Male/Ultimate Fitness), 1st  
WIN Yaman Nakdali (Spain), submission  
WIN Gregor Herb (Germany), 4-1  
WIN Pierre Pilat (France), 2-1

#### U.S. women's results

48 kg/105.5 lbs. - Lisa Ward, Olympia, Wash. (United Fight Team), 1st  
WIN Lisa Newton (Great Britain), submission

55 kg/121 lbs. - Tara LaRosa, Philadelphia, Pa. (Philadelphia Fight Factory), 2nd  
Preliminary bouts not available  
LOSS Laurence Fouillat (France), 0-1

63 kg/138.75 lbs. - Molly Helsen, San Diego, Calif. (North County Fight Club), dnp  
LOSS Julia Klammsteiner (Italy)  
72 kg/158.5 lbs. - Miesha Tate, Olympia, Wash. (Victory Athletics), dnp  
LOSS Julia Klammsteiner (Italy)

72 kg/158.5 lbs. - Angela Poe, Craig, Colo. (Grappler's Edge), 5th  
LOSS Alaina Hardie (Canada)  
LOSS Julia Klammsteiner (Italy)

More results will be posted when available.

#### Related Links

▶ [Official World Grappling Championships website](#)

Baker University Wrestling  
Coming Fall 2009 | [jimmy.may@bakerU.edu](mailto:jimmy.may@bakerU.edu)



#### Top News Stories...

TheMatside View by Gary Abbott: Top 10 stories of 2008



Each year, USA Wrestling's Gary Abbott gives his top 10 wrestling stories of the year. Henry Cejudo's Olympic gold tops the list for 2008....

College wrestlers conclude competition at Midlands Championships, Southern Scuffle



A number of the nation's top wrestlers are competing at the Midlands and the Southern Scuffle. The finals of the Midlands are scheduled to be televised live on the Big Ten Network on Tuesday night at 8 p.m. Eastern Time....

CALL TO ACTION: Help Save Norwich University Wrestling



Join the letter writing campaign to ask Norwich University to change its decision to drop wrestling at the end of this season. Please use the speaking points in this advisory....

#### Upcoming Events...

No events scheduled