MARTASPORTS



Hernandez

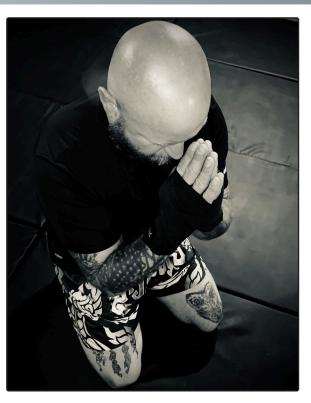
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Featuring Preview





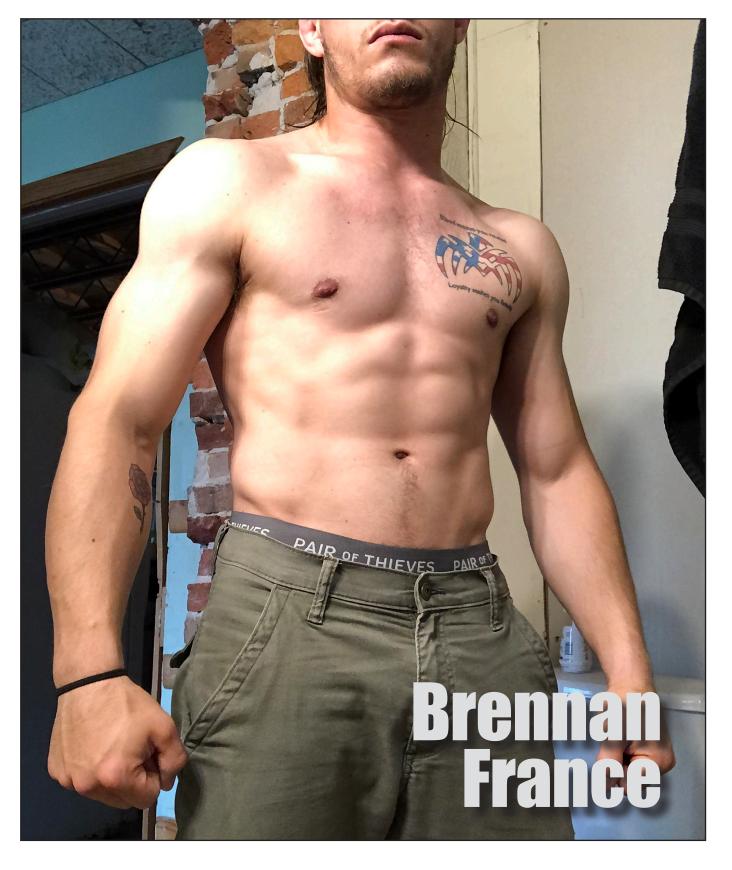


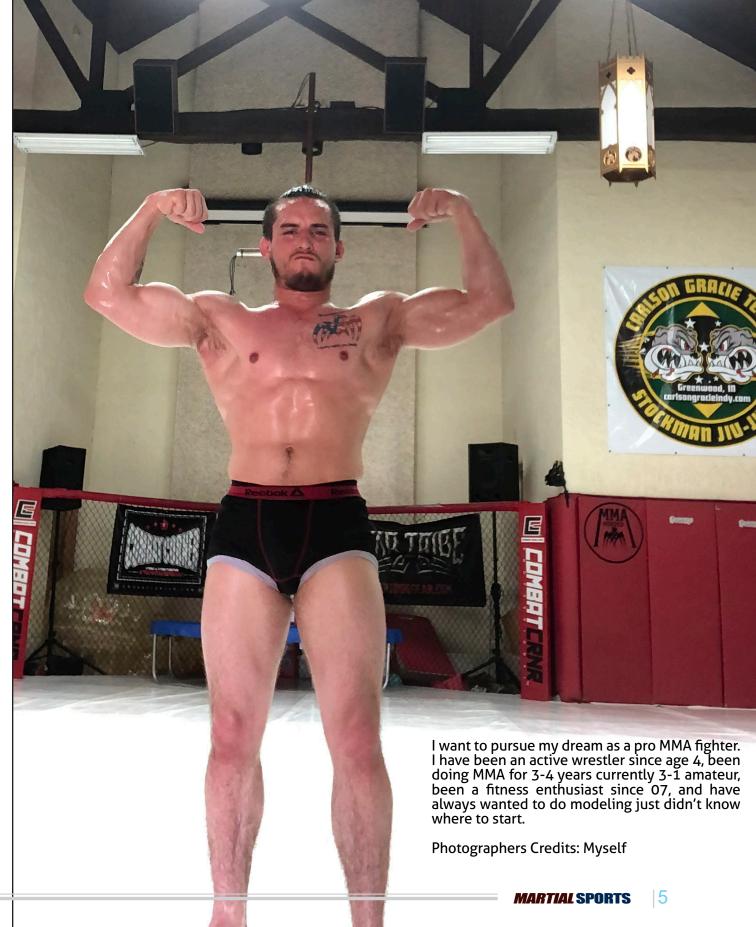


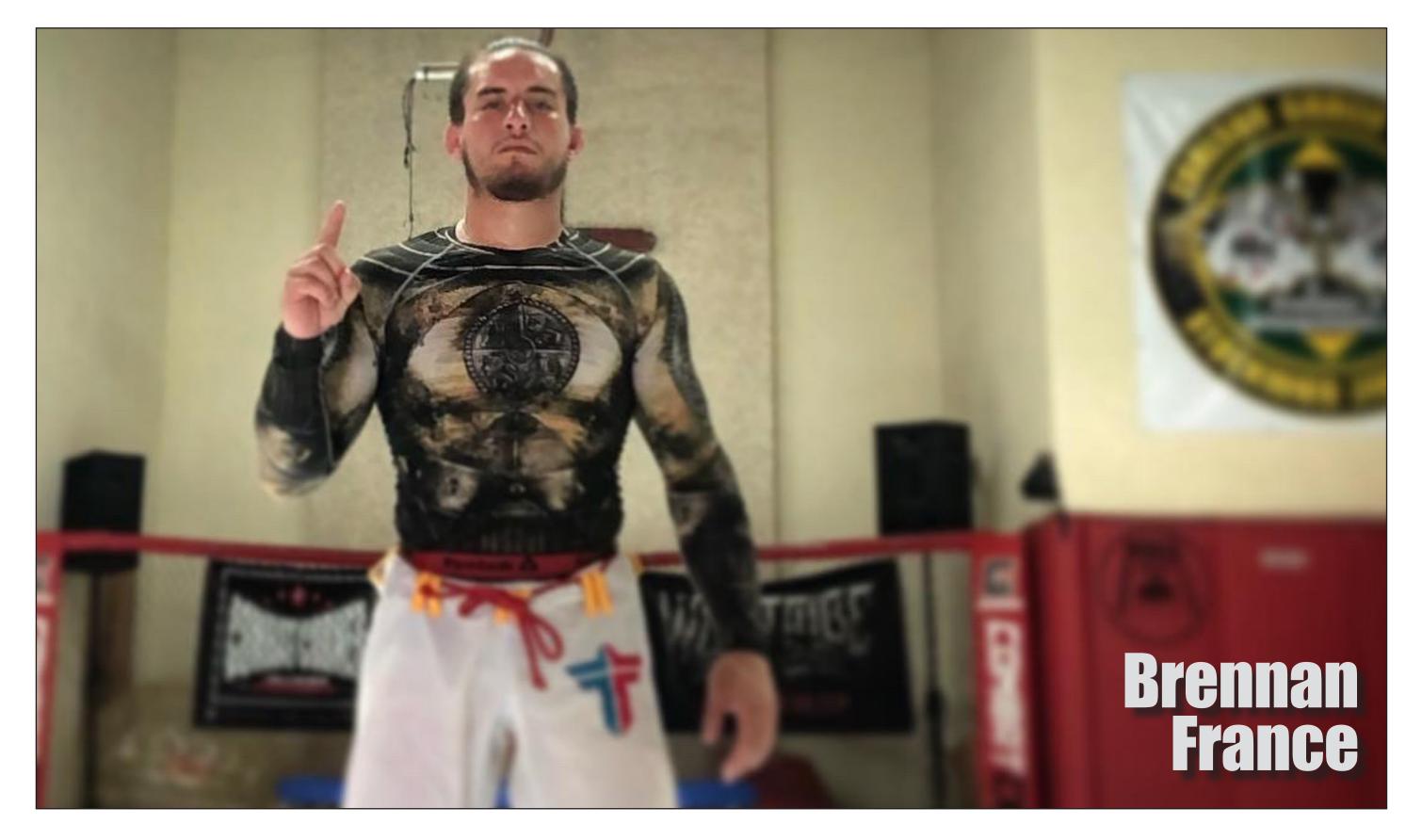


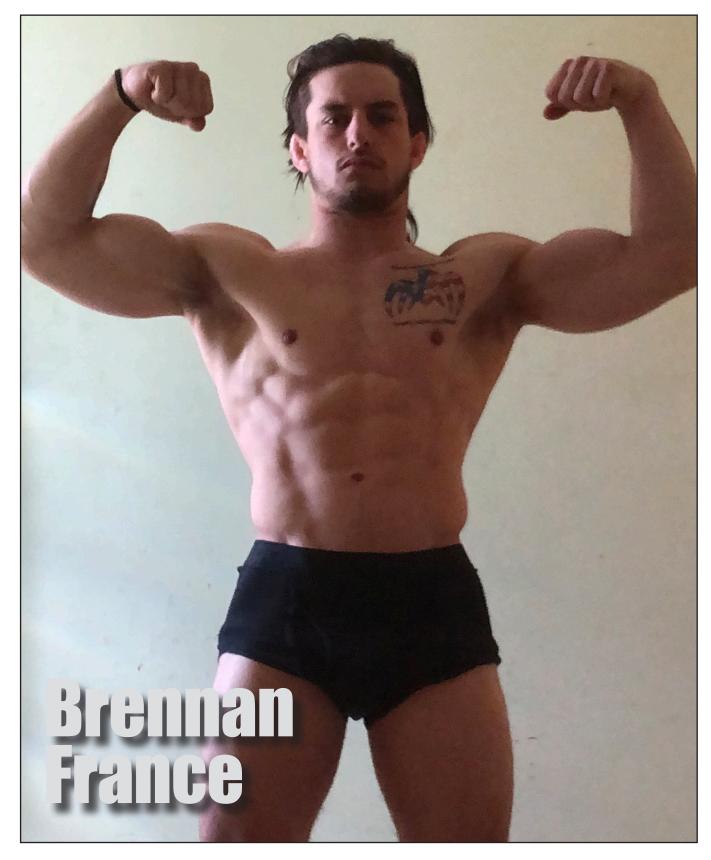


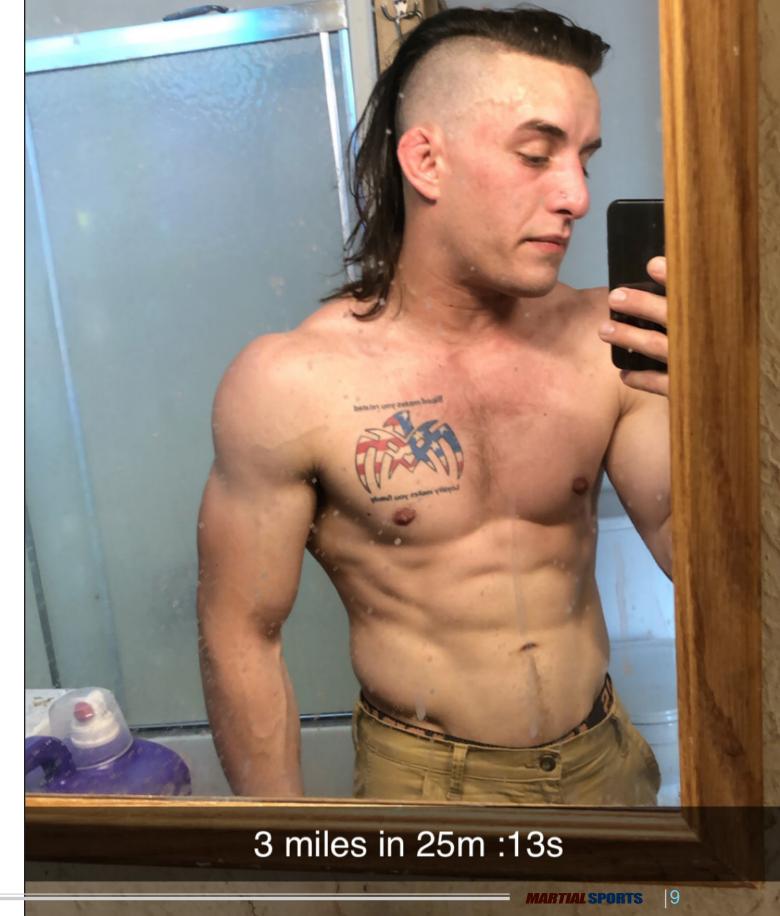
















Contramestra Amazonas (Jana M. Burton) is a proud member of the World Karate Union, United Martial Artists Fellowship Hall of Famer, Women's Martial Arts Network, the Society of Black Belts of America and a recent feature of this Martial Sports Magazine. She was recently promoted to one of the highest ranking African American females in the United States in capoeira during a belt promotion the US as well as 14 times internationally in the ceremony with participants from North & South Caribbean, South America and Africa. She is even

America, Africa and St. Maarten. She serves as the Curriculum Developer for the Afro Brazilian Arts & Education Academy as well as the Artistic Director for Grupo Liberdade de Capoeira, the first capoeira group formed in New Jersey by her teacher Mestre Cigano. She has been a featured artist to teach Capoeira philosophy, movement and song across



featured in the book The Sheroes Who Look Like Us, a blackbelt women of the martial arts by Valencia D. Robinson. Amazonas is also currently part of the coaching and teaching staff at Elijah Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in Union, NJ teaching self defense, drill, foundations and fitness classes. Concurrently, she teaches mathematics in the Newark Public Schools system, and is a dedicated freelance teaching artist and performer in several prominent West African www.grupoliberdadedecapoeira.com

dance and drum companies including Umoja Dance Company.

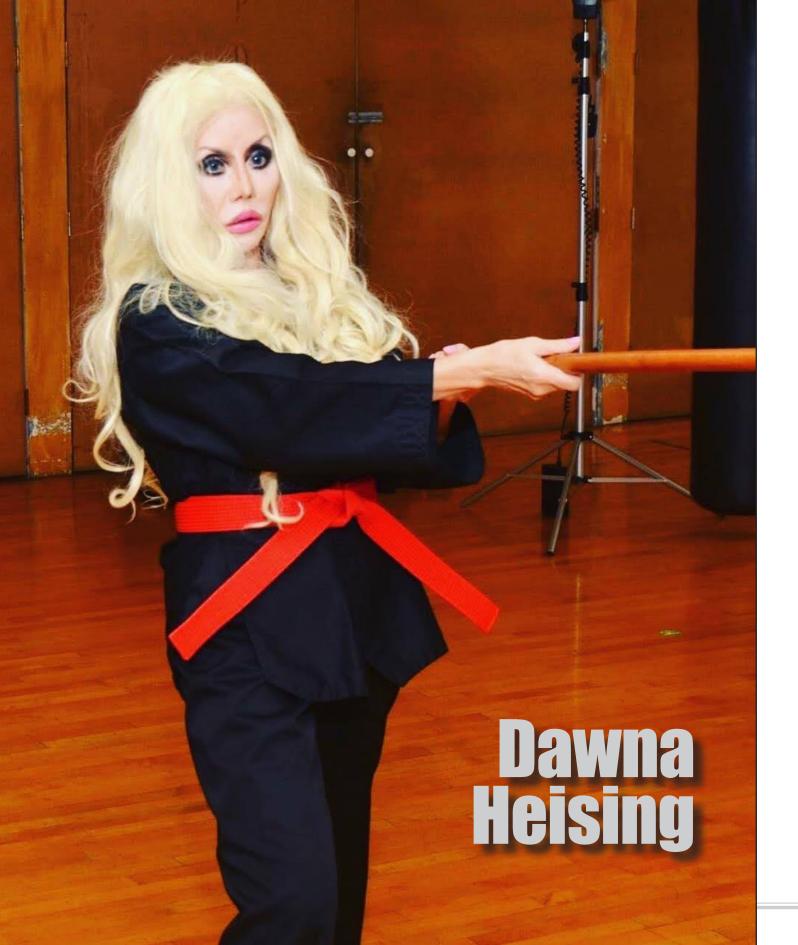
Facebook Contramestra Amazonas Grupo Liberdade de Capoeira Page Grupo Liberdade de Capoeira - USA - Group Instagram @grupo_liberdade_de_capoeira Contra Mestra Amazonas































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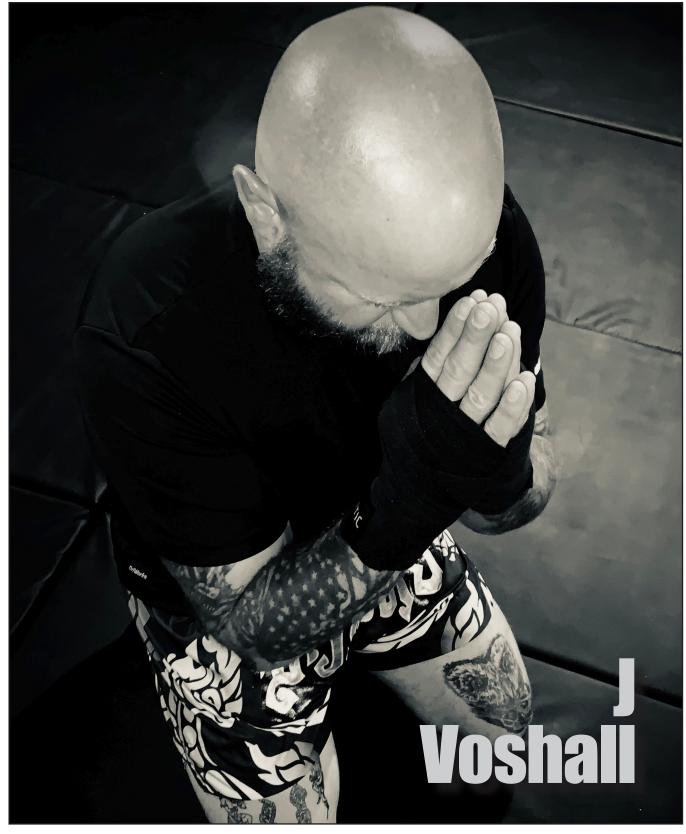


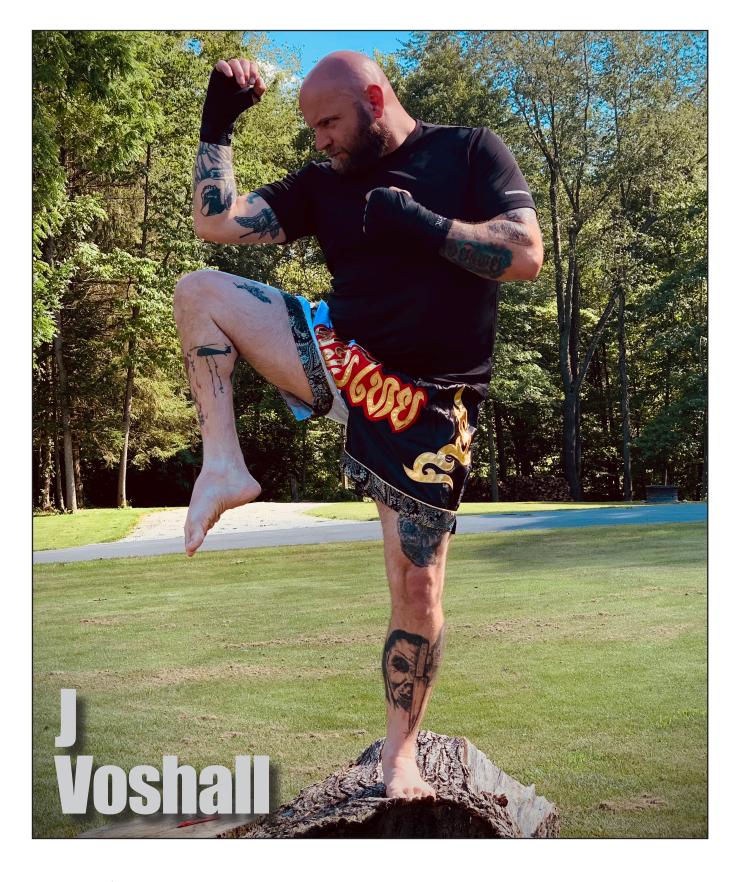






























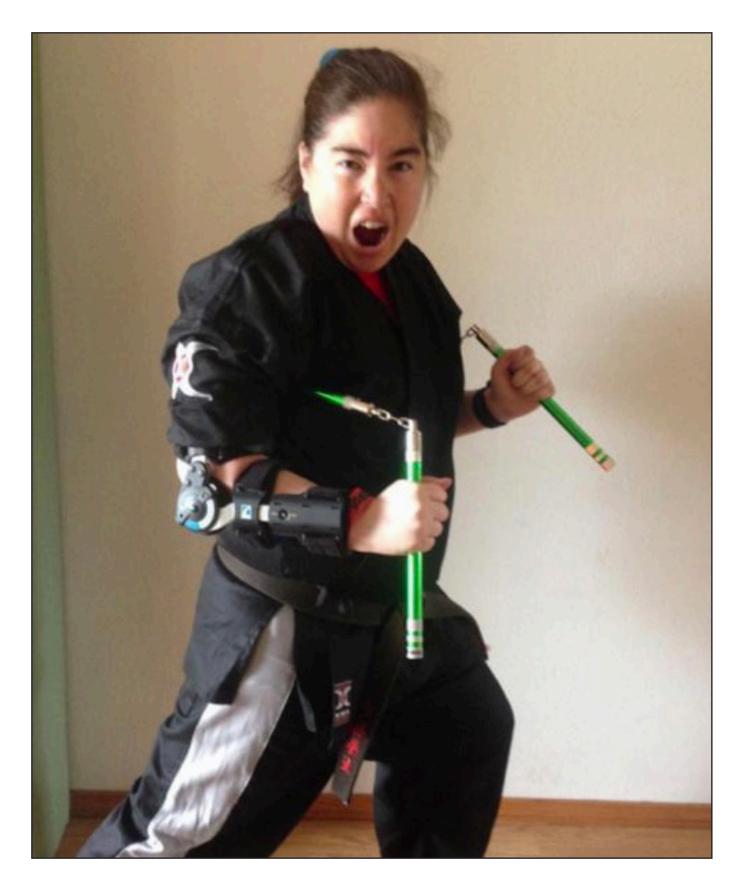




My name is Kristina "Yes I CAN" Yéh. I'm 42yrs old and have been training for 34yrs. I'm a 7x World Champion. My favorite thing 2 practice is double chucks. I had the best life ever. I ran the #1 United Studios Of Self Defense studio in Irvine. My dream. Then one night all that went out the window. I woke up covered in hives, fever and joint pain. I was taken to the ER where the doctors didn't know what was wrong with me. They put me on Prednisone for the hives and pain. Then I had stomach pain, vomiting and diarrhea plus nausea. I was rushed back to the hospital where they kept me over night. This occurred about 14 times. Then I was sent to a Rheumatologist where they ran tons of lab work and biopsy on my hives. Turns out I had a very RARE autoimmune disorder called Sweets Syndrome. Doctors usually only see this in text books. Because they kept me on Prednisone it messed up my ligaments, tendons and cartilage. I've had twelve orthopedic surgeries and I need three more. Both my knees need new knee caps and I'm having my shoulder fixed in Oct. I was unable to train for six long years. I also suffer from Bipolar 2 and Anxiety disorder. Recovery takes me a long time because the two medications I'm on for the Sweets makes it that your immune system is suppressed meaning you heal a lot slower then healthy people. It takes me about a year to recover from each operation. I gained a lot of weight. I now have daily physical pain but I don't let that stop me from training. I've been doing Zoom martial arts tournaments and have been very successful. I lost 43 pounds! I have 7 more to hit my goal of 50. I was awarded into the Martial Arts Hall Of Fame for the US and India. I would like to write my story for your magazine to show other martial artists that just because you have mental or physical or both disabilities doesn't mean you have to give up your goal.









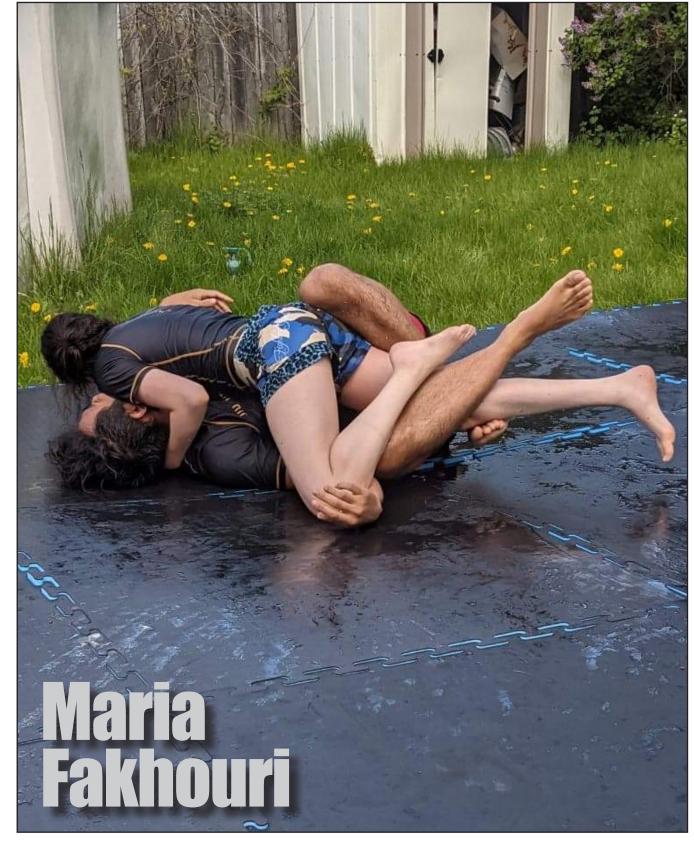
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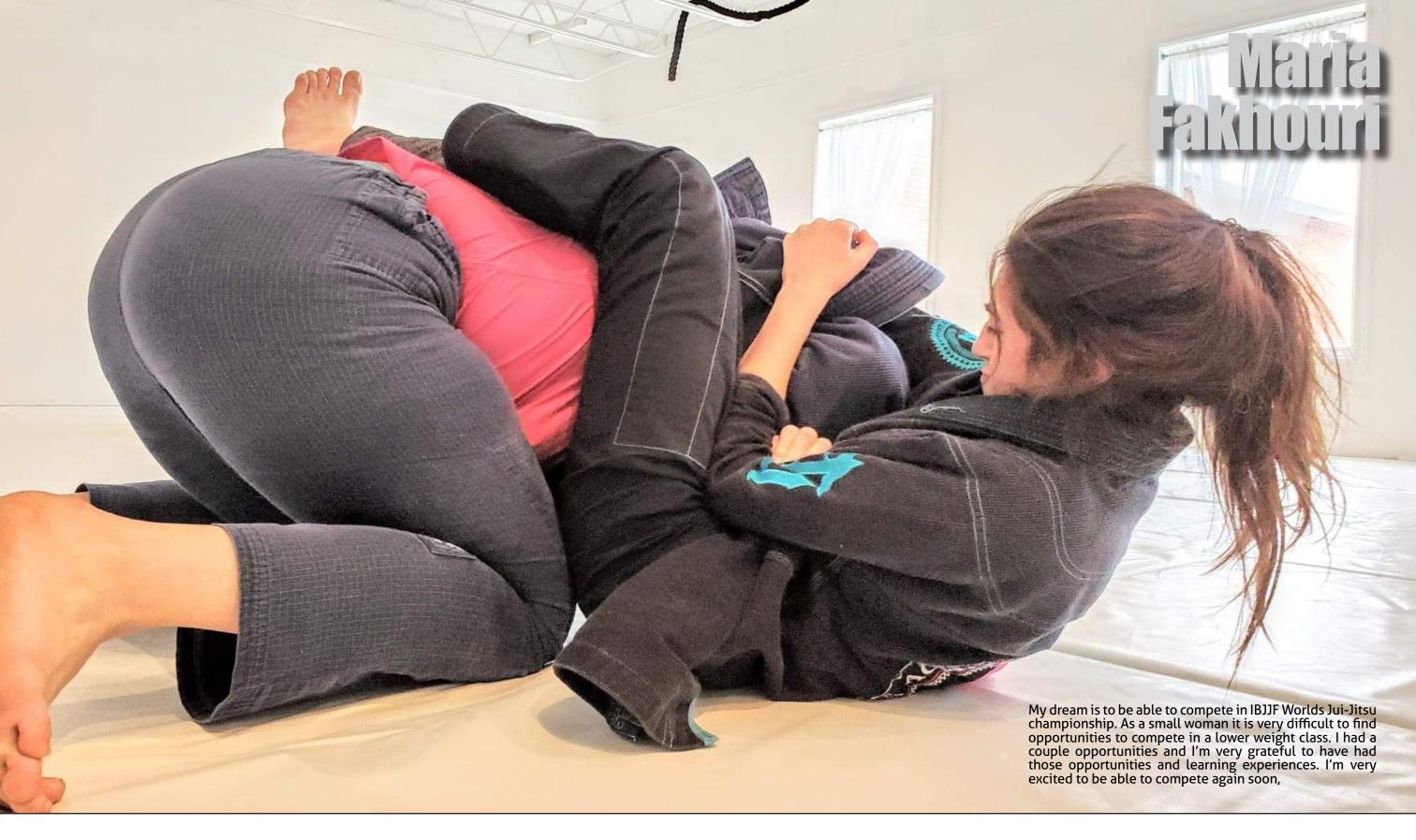




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My name is Mikaela Miller Long and I'm a first degree black belt in taekwondo. I have 2 National and 6 Virtual state titles and love competing in Creative, Xtreme, and sparring events! I turned nine this year but have been practicing taekwondo since I was in kindergarten, and always had a goal of getting my black belt. Now that I have it, I'm not stopping there! I'm now training for my second degree, and have started parkour and tricking. I love flipping and tumbling! I also really love school and have the highest grades in my class for math and reading.

Competition is definitely a challenge, and it was difficult to keep going during the pandemic but both my mom and I joined the ATA Virtual League to keep strong and keep training. Now that we're back to in person training, I'm working on improving my basics, sparring combos, flexibility, and of course adding some new great new tricks! My goal is to be a taekwondo World Champion someday and help others learn to love taekwondo the way I do. I can't wait to get back into the tournament circuit!

Photographers Credits: Corey Miller





IN A ROBERTS







J.Vosha

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