

13. Item # Acc-129 & Acc-172 (judo-related artifacts)

Ken Miyamoto [KM], MANZ 1114A, interviewed by Richard Potashin [RP]

Disc 1 of 1 (DVD), 18:45 – 21:17

***KM:** To this day I don't go out of my way to do any sports, because I never played it. Only thing I did, when I was in—younger—I used to play judo, see, because I used to get sick all the time and my brother—this judo teacher, he says, "Bring him down, then it'll make him healthier and stronger." So then I started going to that judo, and never got sick anymore. Isn't that something? And then I did that for...until pretty near camp, but then I never got to raise more than a brown belt because I'm always working, you know.*

***RP:** Where did you—where did you take judo? In San Fernando?*

***KM:** San Fernando. They had—*

***RP:** They had a dojo there?*

***KM:** —yeah. Dojo. After that, this Mr. Murikami, well, he was, you know, he started, you know, like these dojos and stuff all over the place, you know.*

***RP:** Was he your instructor?*

***KM:** Yeah. He was a friend of ours since I was born, you know. So anyway, I did judo, and then I went to camp and I went to practice. Says, "Come on down." They started a dojo over there, and I went over there, and these people from San Pedro, this one fellow said, "Come on, let's practice." I said, "Okay." So I got over there and then they made me a judo suit. I went over there and practiced. I got this guy and knocked him over two or three times. And then he got mad at me and said, "What do you know about whatchacallit?! You wanna have a contest now?!" And I says, "No." And, you know, those San Pedro people were, they were really rough, rough people. So I quit going. I didn't go. You know, and then I didn't go to any of these places where you go to a contest and then they keep on raising you. But I never got to go because I was always working.*