



Eleven

NINJA & SPORTS

When Mr. Shizuo Koizumi was young and a novice as a journalist at Tokyo Sports Newspaper, he visited Takamatsu Sensei twice and wrote articles titled "Ninja and Sports". There were 13 articles and published from August 29 to September 13, 1963.

I have lots of fine memory of that year. One is Mr. John Penel of the United States, who marked a new world record in the bar jump by jumping 5.2 meters — the height he jumped was just like what a Ninja would have had to jump. Another one is the Ninja boom. The movie "Shinobi no Mono" (Ninja) performed by Mr. Raizo Ichikawa, directed by Takao Yamamoto, and written by Tomoyoshi Murayama, became a blockbuster in Japan and started a Ninja boom. I was 32 years old then. I still remember that year just like yesterday.

When I told Mr. Koizumi about my publication of Tetsuzan in the United States, he expressed his willingness to have his 28 year old articles copy in the U.S. publication. The following are the articles exactly what were introduced in 1963.

—Masaaki Hatsumi



Recent Picture of Mr. Shizuo Koizumi, Instructor and standing Trustee of Tokyo Keizai University (Tokyo Economics University). He is also well known as a writer who has written books on sports especially in volley ball.

NINJA & SPORTS (22)

August 29, 1963

"Ninjutsu is Taijutsu" (Ninjutsu is a skill of body) Taking the chances and being flexible to changes. Those with impure heart (intention) were expelled. "The relationship between Ninjutsu and sport? Just a minute."

So saying, Mr. Takamatsu left the room with such briskness that no one would expect from a 74 year old person. He returned with a piece of paper in his hand. We opened the long strip of paper written in skillful Chinese brush penmanship. It read, "Ninjutsu is Taijutu, preservation of healthy body lays in sports."

Mr. Toshitsugu Takamatsu manages a restaurant in front of the station famous for Kaihara Shrine which is dedicated to Jinmu Emperor (the first emperor of Japan). He is the 33th Master of Togakureryu Ninjutsu, the 33th Master of Kotooryu Koppojutsu, the 20th Master of Hontai Koki Yoshinjutsu, the 21st Master of Shinden Fudooryu, the 20th Master of Happo Hikenjutsu, and so on. His title is numerous — a living Ninja.

"Man's life is not guaranteed. One never knows if he lives to see tomorrow. But you should never be startled at any time — the constant change of universe, the invasion of enemies, or the time of natural disaster. Ordinarily, every one treasures his life. And when there is some problem with his body, he takes care of that part. We have to preserve mental health as well as physical health. Because of my youth, I did all kinds of things up to 40 years old. I rarely do that any more. Every morning I walk with my dog and rub my body with cold towel. Rest of the time I enjoy drawing and calligraphy."





Snapshot of T.V. appearance of Shinobi no Mono (Ninja) in 1963. Main character: Raizo Ichikawa, Center: Masaaki Hatsumi, Left: Keizo Takahashi (an announcer at that time but he is currently a member of House of Representatives.

He spoke articulately word by word as if he was careful not to make any mistake.

Several Hiden (secret teachings) and Ninja weapons were handed down to his disciple a few years ago. He is now retired from Bujutsu.

“Whatever you do, do it with pure spirit. Without it, things you do would not turn out good. It is also important that a teacher can see through the mental condition of his students. Some Ninjas with ill spirits were excommunicated in old times. You can apply this to all other martial arts such as Jujitsu and Kenjutsu, and also to sports.”

From ancient time, it is said that there are 73 schools of Ninjutsu, such as Kogaryu, Igaryu, Hakuunryu, Kirigakureryu, Shirairyu, Shindoryu, Togakureryu, Yagyuryu, Kasumiryu, Kuramaryu, Negishiryu to name a few. Togakureryu is a school derived from Igaryu. Hanbei Kimon (Kimonryu’s founder) came from Yagy Nyudo (Nyudo was an achromic name given to a person who entered Buddhist order and was physically large with great strength), Hakuun Doshi (Taoist) and Kirigakure Doshi are other founders. Three founders of Togakureryu are, Daisuke Togakure, Kosanta Shima - Daisuke’s adopted son, and Kanesada Minamoto.

“My teacher of Kotooryu Kosshijutsu and Togakureryu Ninjutsu was Shinryuken Masamitsu Toda (ordinarily there is no middle name in Japan but for those who accomplished special orders or schools such as martial arts, tea ceremony, and flower arrangements, the middle name can be given from the school), my grandfather. My teacher (his grandfather, but he calls him Sensei instead of grandfather) is the eighth descendent of Ryutaro Tozawa who was a descendent of Hakuun-Sai Tozawa. He taught me Ninjutsu since I was 9 years old.



NINJA & SPORTS (23)

August 30, 1963

Onshinjutsu (hiding technique) is one of Ninjutsu Jinbujin Fusatsu no Ritsu (God’s Rule of not killing man) Winning without shedding blood on the sword.

Q: Is Ninjutsu to hide your body?

A: “No, it is not. The name “Ninjutsu” is given after the technique was developed. It is a very deep truth which originated Japanese Shinpo (god’s treasure). The chronicle which is handed down in the Viscount Kuki Family is called Kukishinryu Happo Hiken Jutsu (Divine Kuki’s 8 rules of secret way of sword). Also Yagyuryu Happo Hiken Jutsu (Yagyuryu’s 8 rules of secret way of sword) is written in the Yagyuryu Okugi (secret teaching of Yagyuryu). There is Happo Hiken Jutsu in Igaryu. These are the basics of Ninjutsu.

“Budo spirit influenced the formation of the ancient society in various forms. The sacred rule that governed the sword were developed during that time. The sacred rule orders you to protect your body by returning favors to his own country, reverencing your parents, and being harmonious to the society.

“People mistook this sacred rule and used sword to kill people. My teacher thought it was a shameful thing that people did not pay respect to the sword. Since ancient times there was a phrase, “Jinbujin Fusatsu” (god’s rule for Bujin - sword man - not to kill people), which means that all Jutsu’s such as Karate, Koppojutsu, Jutaijutsu, obviously swords can’t take initiative, and that a real Bujin - martial artist - wins without shedding blood on the tool. Those forgotten busha (sword man) who kept the rule of “Jinbujin Fusatsu” became Ninja.”

Q: What is Ninja's Kiai (yell)?

A: "There are three Kiai's, "A", "KA", and "EI". We call them Mitsukudaki. One is to break the opponent's chance, the second is to break his technique, and the third is to smash his body."

Q: What is Happono (8 rules)?

A: "(1) is Taijutsu (body technique), Asukajutsu (bird flying technique), Nawanage (rope throwing); (2) is Koppojujutsu (cracking bone technique), Juutaijutsu (flexible body technique), (3) Soojutsu (spear technique), Naginatajutsu (halberd technique), (4) Teijutsu (stick technique), Hanbojutsu (half stick technique), (5) Kobannage (capstan throw), Kentojutsu (dagger throw technique), Shurikenjutsu (throwing knife technique), (6) Kajutsu (fire technique), Suijutsu (water technique), (7) Chikujogun Ryakuheihoo (technique to attack soldiers who are fortifying the castle), (8) Onshinjutsu (body camouflage technique). These techniques are called Happono (eight rules)."

Q: What does Hiken (secret sword) mean?

A: "Sword, Kodachi (small sword), and lastly Juttejutsu (weapon used by police in Edo era). These are the secret principles of swords. The method to defeat the enemy and protect yourself using Tessen (iron fan) or Jutte. This is called Juppono Sessho no Jutsu (technique to defeat enemy from 10 directions)."

Q: What else is there?

A: "There is "Tooate no Jutsu" which is a technique to defeat enemy from distance. This technique is explained painstakingly in detail in the Kaiden Okugi (secret principles for the initiation in all the mysteries). The important point is to prepare your mental condition at all times."

Q: Tell us about Koogaryu and Igaryu.

A: "The origin of Koogaryu dates back to Kooga Oomino Kami Kanemasa. After he mastered Asukajutsu (flying bird technique) and Tookenjutsu from Kikishi (name of the master), he started the Koogaryu. At the time of Tenkei no Hanran (revolt in Tenkei era) lead by Masakado Taira, Kanemasa served with meritorious brevity. Because of this brave deed he is given Koga, the area southeast of Shiga prefecture. Igaryu originated by Iga Hirauchi Saemoni Iesada, a descendent of Taira family. When he lost the Okushima battle, he sought refuge at Iga where he mastered Asuka Onshinjutsu and Tokenjutsu from Minamoto Hachiman Shiro Narimasa."

Mr. Takamatsu was born on January 10, 1989, Akashi city, Hyogo prefecture. He is the eldest son of Mr. Gishin Takamatsu who ran a match production factory. He was raised by his grandmother, Nao, when he was young.



NINJA & SPORTS (24)

September 1, 1963

Mr. Toshitsugu Takamatsu—Mastered *Kotooryu* (The technique to defeat tiger with a finger tip) at age 13 with hard training without release.

“The spirit of ancestor is enshrined at Atsuta Shrine in Ise. After I was born in Akashi, I was raised by my grandmother in Kobe where I lived for up to my youth. I was physically very small when I entered Kusunoki Elementary School and other students picked on me a lot. I used to come home crying.”

There are famous Bushi in the Takamatsu family, such as Naito Jusaburo who was in the Royalist party at the end of Edo era. His father was quite distressed to see his son come home crying because he was expecting him to be strong to match his ancestors. His father, Mr. Gishin, knocked on the door of Toda Shinryuken Masamitsu, Toshitsugu’s grandfather, for advice. Because he had been given the full mastership of Kotoryu Koppojutsu, Shinden Fudoryu (Jutaijutsu), and Togakureyu Ninjutsu, he told his father “if your son takes up Bujutsu, he will become strong”. That was how Mr. Takamatsu started to go to Shinryuken Sensei.

“I was 9 years old that time. He taught me Kotoryu and Shinden Fudoryu Jutaijutsu first.”

The training of Kotoryu Koppojutsu (defeat the tiger with the fingertips) caused him excruciating pain. He used sand first and then gravel for practice. And he finally escalated his training and used rocks and stone to train his fingers and toes. At first he had hard time enduring pain that came from bleeding between the fingers and finger nails. But he could not stop training because his grandfather was an extremely disciplined person.

“That was tough. But I forgot the pain after a good night sleep and started the training all over again. The daily practice became routine in the end.” Mr. Takamatsu recalled the days of training.

The fingernails trained by rocks was 4 to 5 millimeter. He could not clip them with a normal nail cutter. But his finger nails stopped growing because of training. He could break box pillow (in old time, people used wooden box to rest the head) and rice bowls by simply touching with straightened fingertips. This became the lethal weapon against the enemy. The most dreadful sure-kill technique is “Metsubushi” (blinder). It is to attack the opponent’s mouth, nose and eyes with five fingers. In the movie “Shinobi no Mono”, a ninja used this “Metsubushi” technique and the enemy fell bleeding all over his face.

While training for Koppojutsu he bled from fingertips, and for training of Jutaijutsu, he was thrown millions of times but kept getting up to fight more. After four years of rigorous training, he acquired mastership of Kotoryu and Shinden Fudoryu at age 13.

“My father had hot temper. Whenever I did wrong doing, he used to yell at me. However, I never apologized and accepted his beating silently.”

One day after he received mastership, Toda Shinryuken Sensei called him in. He detected some seriousness in Sensei’s voice.

NINJA & SPORTS (25)

September 3, 1963



Mr. Toshitsugu Takamatsu—Master of Jujitsu at age 13 by Cutting down 60 attackers. The police man was speechless.

“You still haven’t mastered Taijutsu. Ninjutsu is the foundation of Taijutsu.” Toda Sensei told him. At age 13, lad Toshitsugu started to learn Togakureyu Ninjutsu.

“The first training is to walk on a 1” x 6’ board which was slanted at 45 degrees. After I could walk on it, the angle of the board becomes 60 degrees, and then 70 degrees. I finally managed to walk on the board perpendicular to the ground.”

About that time, Toshitsugu was approached by a gang group called “Shikishima Dan” for fight. They took him to a landfill (Gorooike). He had nobody to back him up. Because it was dark, he had no idea how many of them there were. When they came over to the middle of the landfill, one of them spoke up.

“Good place. Hey you, apparently you have become quite famous for your strength.”

“So what?” The 13 year old lad, Toshitsugu, would not yield to threats from 20 year old men who were lot bigger than he.

“It’s OK to boast about your strength. But you can’t forget to pay respect to us.” No sooner had he said that, he stepped forward to slap Toshitsugu. Before his hand reached Toshitsugu, his body was flying out 3 to 4 meters. The gangster who surrounded Toshitsugu attacked him immediately, but Toshitsugu threw them one by one until there was nobody left.

“I don’t remember what Waza (techniques) I used to throw these men, I must have thrown 5 or 6 of them. The following day, I was summoned by the police. When I arrived there, there were lots of guys with bandages in their arms or faces. I wondered what happened to them. The police scolded me because I injured all of them.”

But this police man could not believe to see a 13 year old boy walk into the room at first. “Did you really beat them up?”

“I did. To tell you the truth....” He told the police man every thing that happened the night before.

“Is that right? Then you defended yourself from their attack. They are the ones that did wrong.”

He was amazed by his strength. The injured gangsters were condemned for wrongdoing.

“By the way, did you know how many of them were there?”

“I have no idea.”

“There were 60 gangsters there and you were the only one to defeat them all.”

It was Toshitsugu’s turn to be surprised. He never knew there were 60 of them there.

On the first page of Kobe Newspaper, Toshitsugu was written as “13 year old Master of Jujitsu” and the fight between him and the gangsters was revealed.



NINJA & SPORTS (26)

September 4, 1963

Mr. Toshitsugu Takamatsu's Bitter Regret—lost against Musashiryu. Quick action of the opponent disjoined his right arm and broke his ear drum.

After graduating Kusunoki elementary school in Kobe, Toshitsugu went to George Bandow English School run by English. After the English School, he studied Chinese at private Chinese school.

"My father wanted me to become a career military man. I tried for Army prep school, but they turned me down because my right eye was bad. Now, not only could I not see with my right eye, but my right ear does not work at all."

He listens only with his left ear, and reads and writes small letters only with his left eyes. We can see how hard he trained himself to overcome his handicap. He told me an incident when he lost his hearing.

When he was 14 or 15 years old (he was going to English School that time), two Musashiryu Bugeisha (martial artists) came to try out students at Toda Shinryuken's Dojo.

"Musashiryu was the school initiated by Miyamoto Musashi. He came by a village called Yamada near Suma city, Hyogo prefecture. Musashi was taking a nap on the bench of a diner. He woke up and saw a cat sleeping on the roof. A hawk or eagle was hovering over the cat to catch it. It circled around a few times and dived towards the cat. It caught the cat with its sharp claws but the cat managed to escape and fell to the ground. When the cat hit the ground, it landed with all fours and assumed a posture of defense against the flying enemy. Musashi watched the incident and was enlighten to create the technique called "Musashi no Taijutsu (body technique of Musashi)". After hard training, Musashi managed to master the technique."

The order to sit in the Dojo is determined according to the rank. The strong ones sit towards the end and the weak but with personal quality sit at the top seat. Toshitsugu sat next to the end seat and in front of the two Musashi martial artists.

Toshitsugu's turn to fight them came. He stood up and faced the first opponent whom he won. The second Musashi martial artist stood up. They glared each other for a moment and grappled with a yelp "Yah!". Sooner had they grabbed each other, Toshitsugu twisted his body and skillfully threw the opponent.

"Victory!" Everyone at the Toda Dojo thought he won.

But as soon as he was thrown, the opponent landed firmly on the floor and took the defense posture. The boy who threw him fell to his knee with his right arm hanging limp.

"Match!"

Toda Shinryuken's voice was heard throughout the Dojo announcing Toshitsugu's loss.

"That time, my right arm was disjoined, and he also broke my right ear drum."

It happened in a flash of moment. But they clearly saw what the "Musashi no Taijutsu" was all about.

NINJA & SPORTS (27)

September 5, 1963



GATHERING SPIRITUAL CAPACITY AGAINST ALL RISKS. Winning against the professional Sumo wrestler. Sumo is the combination of strength, skill, and spiritual power.

“When I was 13, the Sumo master came to recruit me.”

It was about the turn of century. The Sumo competition by the youth was very popular in Kobe, and people could watch lively sumo matches every day. The participants were all amateurs but these youngster, their age ranging from 16 to 20, were proud of their strength. Some of them were just as strong as a professional sumo wrestler.

“One day out of clear blue sky, I decided to join the match. I went up the sumo ring and found out I was stronger than most. I threw one after the other and there was nobody to match.”

At that time, a man who was a few sizes bigger and looked experienced walked up the ring, saying, “I will be your match.”

He looked very strong and Toshitsugu were taken back. But he could not back out of the match. Two grappled each other holding the other's Mawashi (thick sash wrapping their hip). While watching the timing, the opponent tried to twist Toshitsugu. Taking advantage of the opponent movement, Toshitsugu used the footwork and threw the opponent out of the ring without any effort.

“He lost intentionally. He should be much stronger than that.” Toshitsugu thought himself.

Toshitsugu was perplexed but was very happy with his victory. When he was getting ready to go home, someone patted his shoulder. He turned around to see that big sumo wrestler smiling at him.

“You are very strong. My name is Daimonryu from Osaka Sumo. Don't you want to be a Sumo wrestler?”

Toshitsugu was right about this man. He was a professional sumo wrestler.

“I don't know what my parents would say about that.”

“I will go with you to talk to them.”

So saying Daimonryu came over to talk to his father, Gishin. Daimonryu was acting as a scout then. Daimonryu asked his father, but his father said, “I plan to make Toshitsugu a military man. I have no intention for him to be a sumo wrestler.” and would never listen to his request. Finally Daimonryu ran out of patience and went home.

“Since I did not know what was good for me that time, I acted according to what my father told me. If my father accepted Daimonryu's offer, I could have been a sumo wrestler. To this day, I am still interested in sumo and occasionally I write to Taiho - a very famous and popular sumo wrestler. In the letter, I always tell him, “you are physically strong enough to defeat any wrestler. By gathering skill, strength and spirit, one can throw the opponent. Therefore, when you face the opponent, try to break his stance by thrusting his body. Once you have done that you can win with your strength, skill and spirit. Do not ever hesitate and miss the chance to attack.”

TRAINING IN THE MOUNTAIN AWAY FROM SECULAR LIFE. Crossing the ocean to Chinese continent with full of ambition. Takamatsu's Dojo thrived with 3000 students.

After Toshitsugu graduated from George Bandow English School, he went on to private Chinese literature institute. He became a fine grown up. When he graduated from Chinese literature institute, he helped his father, Gishin, at his match factory. In his factory, there was a security guard, Ishitani Matsutaro Ryukei, who was an eldest son of Ishitani Takema Seiji, a master of Hontai Takagi Yoshinryu. Mr. Ishitani studied other schools of martial arts such as Bokuto (wooden swords) and Tsue (sticks), and lived a life of Budo (martial arts) until around Meiji 40th era (1905).

Mr. Ishitani's seventh forefather was Budoka (martial artist) who served as a military envoy of Iga Hattori (famous warrior). Toshitsugu was fortunate to have two prominent teachers he could look up to, Toda Shinryuken and Ishimatsu Matsutaro. He finally mastered Gikanryu Koppojutsu, Hakuunryu Onshinjutsu (Ninjutsu), and Happo Hikenjutsu.

"He used to train me by spreading Tatami mattress in the warehouse. After his training was completed, I could not abandon the deep-seated desire to study about Ninjutsu. I went into the woods. The place was half-way up the Mt. Maya in Kobe, by the fall called Kame no Taki (turtle fall). I stayed in an abandoned shrine about 6' x 6' in size for one year. I lived on chestnuts, wild beans, raw rice and things like that. My training consisted of grabbing on big rocks and jumped on them with yells. Finally, my hands became deformed. Look at them." His hands were those made of steel, hard and rugged, clearly describing his strenuous training. During that time, he mastered sixth sense. By the end of one year, he could tell how many people were coming up the mountain and whether they were men or women. His mysterious training became known by people, and he was eventually called "Sennin (hermit)" or "Tengu (goblin)."

After a year, he had to come down the mountain. At 21, he was drafted to serve in the military. But because of his bad right eye and right ear, he was exempt from the military service.

"Because I was the oldest son of the family, I knew I had to inherit the family business which I did not want. I had an older sister and two other younger brothers. One day, I ran away from home."

He ended up in North China across the Japan Sea.

"I lived with a contractor's family and worked as a chief of laborers there for about a year. One day, I heard that Japan National Youth Military Chapter of Butoku Kai (martial arts club) was coming to Tien-sien to select a chairman of the Butoku Kai. The competition was held to choose a chairman among 12 to 13 local Budoka (martial artists) who were masters of Karate or Jutaijutsu. Fortunately, I won the competition and became chairman of Butoku Kai."

He mainly taught Judo there. Because he became very popular among the young, his pupils counted 3000 on a hey day. While he was serving as chairman, he started to run a pawn shop. One day, a Chinese man came to challenge Toshitsugu.