

# Twelve

## NINJA & SPORTS CONTINUES

### NINJA & SPORTS (29)

September 8, 1963

**SHOWDOWN WITH CHINESE KENPO (Hand Skills).** Excellent skills - agile and sharp: Equally skilled contestant becoming his associate brother.

The man's name was Cho and he was a master of Chinese Kenpo (Chinese hand skills). A high Chinese official named Ren spoke very highly of Toshitsugu's Bujutsu (martial art's skills). Cho thought, "Takamatsu is very strong, but he won't defeat me." and challenged him.

Toshitsugu accepted his challenge as a chairman of the Japan Youth Military Chapter of Butoku Kai. Ren was their referee.

"Cho was much bigger than I was, he looked strong and imposing. I was little apprehensive when I glanced at him."

Even though Mr. Takamatsu was apprehensive, they were a good match. When Cho used Karate, Takamatsu used Koppojutsu. If Cho jumped 12 feet to kick Toshitsugu, he would jump higher without losing attacking chance. Their ability was equal and it seemed like there was no match.

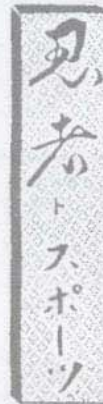
"Stop. This is a tie."

Ren shouted loud. Because either one of them caused any injury to the other, Ren decided to call a draw. Because of this incident, Toshitsugu and Cho exchanged a sake cup as brothers (in Japan, when two men become close and want to have a brotherly relationship, they pour each other sake and make an oath).

"It was when Japan was suffering from scarcity of lead as a result of the Russo-Japan war. Lead was exported from China. In China, we used to send a lump of melted Rinsen coins (1 rinsen's worth was approximately equivalent to a penny) to Japan. I went to Santow district to purchase Rinsen coins with silver."

While Toshitsugu was walking in the dark with a Chinese guide in front of him, he felt some one come running behind him. He turned around to see a dog the size of Tosaken (a specie of dogs raised in Tosa prefecture). In a flight of moment, the dog jumped up to him and grabbed his shoulders with forefeet. His face was up against Toshitsugu's cheek.

"At that moment, if I try to attack him, a dog would bite and not let go of it. I stood still and waited."



Photos from the time when "Ninja and Sports" was written



Masaaki Hatsumi, Mr. Shizuo Koizumi (When he was a journalist of Tokyo Sports), Mr. Hideo Seno and Mr. Koichi Ooguri (both 10 dan) when they are young.



Mr. Hatsumi at the wedding of Mr. Shizuo Koizumi.



The late Dan Drager was one of my Buyu (martial artist friend), he used to visit me during the series.

Growling dog stopped making noise for a moment. The dog must have thought that this man would not charge him. No sooner had the dog stopped snarling, Toshitsugu struck with his right hand with Koppojutsu at a point between the eyes of the dog. The dog wailed and fell.

“Regardless of man or animal, you create an unguarded moment in an opponent. In order to do so, you have to let him attack you and wait for that unguarded moment. Or you can let him relax for a moment so that he becomes less alert.”

In 1919, Toshitsugu came home at age 30. He made some fortune in Northern China but he lost it all in stock market. As a result, Takamatsu family decided to have his head shaved and sent him to Mt. Hiei (a headquarter of a big Buddhist sect located in the Hiei-zan in Kyoto, there are several temples in the mountain where an aspirant trains and studies to become a monk). After two years of training, he was assigned to serve at a temple in Yamato Kooriyama. People respected him and called him “a living god.” But because Tane, his wife, did not like the monk, he ran away from the temple without notifying anybody.



## NINJA & SPORTS (30)

September 10, 1963

**THE UNWRITTEN LAW THAT BINDS ALL NINJA.** Never to disclose: Causing any casualty only for defense.

“About 40 somewhat years ago, when I was in my 30’s, I was in my prime of life. I rented a theater to demonstrate Ninjutsu. For demonstration, I put a big rock on my stomach and had someone break it with a big hammer. I climbed on the ladder made out of real swords, or held bucketful of water with tapestry needles stuck in my body. I did many things that time. I was very nimble up to 40 years old, I could jump right or left (any directions) and could somersault in the air and finally land on my feet. I can’t do that any more, my body does not move that well.”

For ninja, it is necessary that the body move lightly and be nimble. Especially one of the secret principles to master in Togakureriyu Ninjutsu is Onshinjutsu (hide body technique). Faced with the opponent, this technique enables a Ninja to distract opponent’s attention and hide behind the rock or ground or trees. These techniques are called Mokuton no Jutsu (technique to disappear in woods) or Doton no Jutsu (technique to disappear in ground).



Mr. Hatsumi in front of the clinic

This Onshinjutsu was extremely useful when Mr. Takamatsu moved from Japan to North China. He also applied Henshinjutsu (transformation technique). He combine mashed rice with powder lead or pencil lead and spread it on the face to make his face completely changed.

“When this technique was very useful, I was very glad that I trained myself in Ninjutsu. My strong techniques? They are Koppojutsu (bone braking technique) of Togakureriyu, Bojutsu (stick technique) and Shurikenjutsu (throwing knife technique) of Happohiken (secret swords).”

So what is really Ninjutsu? To that question, he answered “it is something very spiritual.” When one faces with the enemy before he tries to use Ninjutsu, he has to put his hands together in the prayer position. But if he always does that, it is not necessary to put his hands together. All he needs is his respect for ninjutsu. The opponent may kill him while he is paying respect with his hands folded together. This mental attitude of paying respect is to keep the following pledge, “Never to kill anybody. Furthermore, one must not injure or kill the opponent

## NINJA & SPORTS (31)

September 11, 1963

Let's throw lights on his words "Ninjutsu is Taijutsu, the preservation of healthy body lays in sports" — the relationship of Ninjutsu and sports. When analyzing Taijutsu, we find out that Budo has its own taijutsu for Budo. A body of a man holding a sword aimed at opponent's face is hidden by the sword. Because Oojodan (upper most holding position) creates some unguarded area in his body, he has to cut down in less than a second. It is necessary for him to carefully assume position not to let his opponent advantage of his unguarded area.

When Miyamoto Musashi and Sasaki Ganryu Kojiro fought at Ganryu Island, Sasaki tried to use "Tsubame Gaeshi (sparrow return - skill to kill anybody)" because he mastered to concur the body, skill, and spirit (mind). In other words he had "wisdom to know the opponent." When a sparrow flies, it changes his body position and dives suddenly. In order to kill a sparrow, Ganryu (Sasaki) dislodged the timing of changing position of the sparrow with Ryotetsuki (hands thrust skill) and kill it by Kotegaeshi (turning of forearm). The skill of "Tsubame Gaeshi" was created because it enabled him to kill anybody. The other technique frequently used by martial artists is called "Otonashi no Kamae (posture without any sound)." A person who practices this technique assumes "Mukamae (no posture)" so that the opponent would not sense his tactics with sword. If he assumes this position, he has to assume the right mental attitude to ward off the opponent. That mental attitude sets the tone of his posture.

Posture or position of the body is very important for Budo. And when facing an opponent, mental attitude and skill have to be in accord. For example, Sumo wrestling has its own Sumo body position. In order to defeat your opponent, your mind and skill have to work together. You can apply this method to any thing. Merchant needs his taijutsu (body skill). He listens carefully and agrees with the customer on everything. At the time of business negotiation, the profit, right business mind, and the way to talk to customer, have to play together to determine the business body skill — negotiation skill. For baseball, by placing the right "position of body", a player can hit the ball. The daily practice enables him to let the mind and skill work together.

Can we conclude that agriculture, industry, commerce, society, Budo, and sports may have one taijutsu (body skill). To this end, Mr. Takamatsu concludes, "Taijutsu is there to preserve your health. In order to build taijutsu, we do sports. If one does not enjoy doing sports, he would never continue playing sports. Therefore, sports always pertain to victory or defeat." Because sports involves with winning and losing, it is fun for everyone. If a player pursues only for victory he may deform his taijutsu because deformed taijutsu may win him the match, but he would gain nothing.



"You can say that for Judo artists. When he grapples the opponent, he pulls his hips. His posture becomes crooked, that is not good at all."

Ninjutsu typically deceives the others in order to win. The same thing can be said for boxing when a boxer pretends to punch with his left, but actually he punches with right hand. It is necessary to utilize this kind of surprise attack.



## NINJA & SPORTS (32)

September 13, 1963

**MORTAL BLOW OF NINJA TACTICS.** Threatening Skill "Happa" (ear attack): Even Rikidozan (a very popular Japanese wrestler famous for his Karate chop, now deceased, ) had concussion of brain.

When I was 13 or 14 in early 1900's, I played baseball. We had a game with the crew of English boat "Cricket" at the foreigner's dock in Kobe. I was so fast they gave me a nickname "train". When I hit a ball and was on the base, I always stole the base. So if I was on the base, our team got at least one run."

Not only was he trained in martial arts, but he was also inherently talented as a ninja.

"I am 74 years old but I tell people my age is 18. Because of that I feel like I am only 18. Even at my age, I can throw anyone—as long as I get a hold of his collar at the match. You can say the same thing for Sumo wrestling. If both players got a hold of each other's loincloth and grappled, either one of them won't throw the other easily or win unless he pushes the opponent. Of course, I may win."

In boxing, if a boxer stands against the other with his arms extended, the opponent can't attack him easily. Ninja has his own tactics. So how about fighting against professional wrestlers?, I asked. Mr. Takamatsu replied instantly.

"Many professional wrestlers including Rikidozan, came to Kaihara city to have professional wrestling matches. Even though they are so well built, they actually can't fight without seriously injuring the other. Any wrestler could be severely hurt. Because they intentionally avoid hurting each other they can fight every day. When a wrestler bites the opponent's head, he lifts the opponent's forehead with his lower teeth so that he bleeds. Again, if he steps on the stomach, the opponent exhales to avoid injury. There are certain "rules" followed by the wrestlers."

Mr. Takamatsu continued his story of wrestling. I asked him if this "modern Ninja" can win over the veteran wrestlers including Rikidozan.

"There is only one way to defeat Rikidozan. If he attacks me with his Karate chop first, then I will be defeated. The winning technique is to hit him on both ears with the palm of my hands. Even Rikidozan can't win over this attack. His eardrums will be broken and he will have a concussion. For normal person, you have to do with yell."

This technique is called "Happa - eight leaves" in Ninjutsu. Long time ago, it is said that Tengu (goblins) and Sennin (hermit) used to attack enemies by hitting both ears of the opponent with big fan or leaves. If this "Happa" is used in the scuffle today, it will be as formidable or a more fearful weapon than Karate chop by Rikidozan.

**SOME TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MASTER AND PUPILS**

Spending his remaining years to pass on the secret teachings: Mr. Masaaki Hatsumi - Menkyo Kaiden (Full proficiency) master of ninjutsu.

"It is important for a Ninja to have the mental attitude to not submit to any predicament. To attain that goal, he needs to have healthy body and knows how to preserve it. I always train my lower torso by rubbing my entire body with cold water every single day, cold or hot. Especially, I pay close attention not to get my feet cold. If you get your feet cold, you tend to catch all kinds of illness. I keep them warm especially at night in bed."

He has no likes and dislikes in taste. He tends not to touch foods that are hard to digest. He prefers vegetable to meat items. When he goes on a long trip, he sautes brown rice with oil and after it is cooked in water, he extract juice from the brown rice. He pours the juice into a bamboo tube and drink it from time to time. The juice has three benefits: quenches thirst, filling, and provides energy.

"All the secret teachings have been handed down to my pupils. They are now all gone..."

Mr. Takamatsu says sadly. Currently he runs a restaurant with his wife, Tane, in Kaihara city. His oldest son, Chuichi (42 years old, criminal investigator), and oldest daughter, Ryoko (32), are grown up and he has grandchildren.

Even though he has a title for certified Jutaijutsu (body technique) - Bojutsu (stick technique) 9 dan, Hanshi (fencing master of the top rank) of Kukishinryu Shobukyoku (school of nine devils divine way of sword), he rarely demonstrates in public. The man that succeeded his teaching is Mr. Masaaki Hatsumi. His titles are: 34th Master of Togakureryu Ninjutsu, 29th Master of Gyokoryu Kosshijutsu (Bones and fingers technique of the school of Royal tiger), 18th Master of Kotoryu Koppojutsu (Bone technique of the school of Defeating Tiger), 26th Master of Shinden Fudoryu Daken Taijutsu (Hands and body technique of school of Immobile Power Transcended from Gods), 19th Master of Takagi Yoshinryu Jutaijutsu (body technique of the school of Takagi's mental technique). He lives in Noda city, Chiba prefecture. Mr. Hatsumi said, "Takamatsu Sensei writes once every two days. He tells me what he thought and noticed regarding wazas (skills)." Mr. Takamatsu spends lots of time teaching his pupil.

The meeting of this teacher and pupil was worth mentioning.

"Sensei handed me the scroll of Togakureryu Ninpo Taijutsu (Ninjutsu Body technique of the Togakure School) in March in Showa era 33 (1958). But I had never met him until that day. He probably sought me out by astrology. I was taught by Koryu (School of Old Tradition) and this teacher advised me to seek the teaching of Mr. Takamatsu as he was the best man to learn real Budo from. He introduced me to Mr. Takamatsu."

Mr. Hatsumi became Menkyo Kaiden (Full Proficiency Rank) of Ninjutsu after two years (1960). To date, he goes to Kaihara to receive instructions from Mr. Takamatsu once every three months. I asked him what they do while they are apart. "Sensei knows exactly what movement I am taking even if I don't tell him anything."

Budo has the following ranks: Mokuroku (Initial stage), Nakagokui (Middle Secret Principle), Gokui (Secret Principle), Menkyo (License), and Menkyo Kaiden (Full Proficiency). Anyone who trains hard and long time may get Menkyo.

Those with the rank of Menkyo Kaiden are very hard to find even in Koryu. Mr. Hatsumi is one of those rare species.



## NINJA & SPORTS (34)

September 18, 1963

### KENPO (SWORD TECHNIQUE) MAKING BEST OF A PERSON. MR. HATSUMI, 34TH MASTER, LIVING IN A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

Essence of Education is Spirit of Love and Harmony (Explanation of photo: Mr. Masaaki Hatsumi, 34th Master of Togakureyu, lectures Ninjutsu surrounded by children at Folks Museum of Noda City, Chiba prefecture).

“Takamatsu Sensei never scolds anybody. Whenever I made a mistake or said something wrong on T.V., he immediately writes to me apologizing that his teaching was bad.” Mr. Masaaki Hatsumi, the 34th Master of Togakureyu told me.

Mr. Takamatsu has this cherished opinion of “Love and Harmony”, and according to Mr. Hatsumi his secret is “Kenpo that makes the best out of a person.” In other words, he teaches every thing he knows and after the student receives his teaching, he will be responsible for applying the teaching while taking advantage of his own interpretation or personality.

Mr. Hatsumi said, “I am absorbing everything from him right now, I have not reached the point to develop or apply it in my own originality, nor do I intend to give it my personality. Ninjutsu is not in practical usage now. I hope it will never be put to practice in the future, either. So Ninjutsu itself will not develop as something one needs to know for survival. I intend to carry on this old tradition in mental and technical aspect to the next generation. That is all. Because I succeeded the head of a school, I have to do an excellent job of following through with my mission of handing down this tradition.”

“Love and Harmony” is well represented between Toshitsugu Takamatsu and Masaaki Hatsumi in that the teacher and pupil relationship is like relationship between “Buyu (martial art’s friends)”. They associate each other as friends.

Current Ninjutsu boom is phenomenal. The ninja actors on T.V. and movies became idols for the youth.

“I don’t feel any different just because Ninjutsu is such a boom. I was glad that Ninjutsu was recognized by many people. I think it is a transitional stage and people understand now the Ninjutsu’s good points and bad points are revealed. I feel fortunate that the public become aware and understand the real meaning of Ninjutsu.”

“Real Ninjutsu is not the trick to disappear or transform into another being or fly in the air. It is the philosophy to serve your country maximizing all the ability a man can exert. Its spirit is justice. If we apply this spirit to modern day life, for sports, politics, and economics, we have to conduct them with right heart.”

It is easier said than done. The man who actually is doing the above principle is “modern day Ninja.”

**THRIVING "EXHIBIT OF TOGAKURERYU NINJUTSU" INVITING EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC INTEREST**

Some threatening fan letters.

While writing these articles "Ninja and Sports", Mr. Masaaki Hatsumi, 34th Master of Togakureryu, held an exhibition of "Togakureryu Ninjutsu" at the Folk Museum of Noda City, Chiba prefecture. He exhibited many ninja weapons and tools that have been handed down to him, and he also displayed what he collected over the years. He said that during 20 days the exhibition was held, many people including school children visited the museum incessantly. The museum made as much profit during this period as it would have in one ordinary year. Because the profit was donated to Noda City, Ninjutsu greatly contributed to the city. He felt unusual interest for Ninjutsu among the children.

"There are some fan letters like these." He showed some of them. In it some kid asked how to make gunpowder. "I am at a loss how to deal with these kinds of questions. Adolescent boys are very sensitive and they are very curious with everything they see even though it is wrong. I usually write to them in depth why they are wrong, but I get so many of them.." Mr. Hatsumi smiled a sour smile.

For the last of this series, I featured Ninja tools exhibited in the Togakureryu Ninja Ten Exhibition.

The series ends with the happy and cordial relationship between Takamatsu Sensei and me. What I wanted to emphasize here is that I am the only living pupil of Takamatsu Sensei in the world. I am 60 years old. If you come across someone who claims that he was taught by Takamatsu Sensei, he must be a con man. Those who issue license of Bujinkan or Kuryuha (school of Kuryu) which I inherited from him are committing shameful deeds. I hate to write this kind of thing, but there are some who do that and you may want to be aware of it. I want you to learn Bufu without any misunderstanding. This is a shame to have it happen, so I feel the need of reiterate it here.

