

Masatoshi Nakayama

1913 —1987

Masatoshi Nakayama 9th Dan, The Second Grand Master of the Japan Karate Association (JKA), who inherited the *Shōtōkan* mantle from *Gichin Funakoshi*, was simultaneously a traditional martial artist and a disciple of change.

Under his leadership, the JKA syllabus was enlarged and refined. New kicking techniques were introduced, as was a new Dan structure leading to 9th Dan, and an increasing emphasis on *Kumite* practice. In addition he presided over the international expansion of *Shōtōkan Karate*.

Tight organisation within Japan and an enlightened mixture of control and autonomy for overseas JKA branches, resulted in the phenomenal growth of *Shōtōkan* until it became a major player on the international stage.

This combination of shrewd ‘control and autonomy’ for overseas branches gave masters such as *Keinosuke Enoeda* the support and freedom to build strong and distinctive national bodies.

At the same time, it also reflected an essential division of labour within the JKA. *Hidetaka Nishiyama* for instance settled in the United States and from there, led the International Amateur Karate Federation (IAKF) in its rivalry with The World Union of Karate Organisations (WUKO) and its protracted campaign with the International Olympic Committee to have *Karate* accepted as an Olympic sport.

There is no doubt whatsoever, that the international growth and organisation of *Shōtōkan* will always be seen as *Nakayama’s* abiding legacy. Time will reveal what a master of diplomacy and balance he was, in addition to his mastery of *Karate*.

His open-mindedness has always influenced his martial arts