

Daniel McCormick

Jim Irvine (2009)



Home Town: Arlington, Texas
Date of Birth: May 30, 1986
Weight Category: +100kg and Open
Original Judo Club: Kodokan Judo & Physical Fitness - Dallas, Texas (1996-2006)
Original Coach: Ace Sukigara (Jim Irvine & Jody Choquette)
Current Residence: Wakefield, Massachusetts
Current Club: NYAC/USA Judo National Team FORCE (2006-present)
Current Coach: Jimmy Pedro
Current U.S. Ranking: #1 in the Senior +100kg and #3 in the Senior Open Division

Daniel McCormick started Judo at the age of 10 when his father Jeff signed him up, thinking it would be good for his son to be able to protect himself. At one point, he hurt his knee, and gave up the sport temporarily. However, after preparing a speech for school on Judo, Daniel returned to the sport and has been practicing and training seriously ever since. Daniel also played offensive tackle in High School in Arlington, Texas. McCormick's team placed third in the state his senior year. Occasionally Daniel did get in trouble for throwing players on the football field.

Daniel began his Judo training under the strict tutelage of Shigeyuki "Ace" Sukigara, who has been one of the most respected names in Judo in the U.S. since the early 1960's. Not only did Ace pass on much of what he learned directly from the legends of Judo [Sumiyuki Kotani 10th-dan, Toshiro Daigo 10th-dan, Yoshimi Osawa 10th-dan, and Kenji Tomiki (creator of the Kodokan Goshin Jitsu Kata & the Tomiki style of Aikido)], but he passed on to Daniel his fierce competitive spirit (Ace competed before the creation of weight classes, and at 135 pounds his opponents often were twice his size).

In 2006, at age 20, Daniel moved to Wakefield, Massachusetts, to train full-time with the two-time Olympic bronze medalist Jimmy Pedro at Team Force (one of the most competitive clubs in the country). According to Daniel, "The culture for me is real different. He's [Pedro] born and raised in Boston, I'm from Texas... But Jimmy doesn't except anything but winning. Which is great. It worked out well at Trials." Daniel first remembers seeing Pedro on David Letterman after Pedro won bronze. At Team Force Daniel trains with other elite level Judoka including 2008 Olympians Taraje Williams-Murray (60kg), Ronda Rousey (70kg), and Travis Stevens (81kg).

Daniel has his associate's degree in liberal arts and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business online as he trains, travels, and competes full-time. After his Judo career is finished, Daniel would like to follow in his fathers footsteps and work as an air traffic controller (Daniel's mother works for American Airlines).

Daniel's Recent Tournament Results

2009:

- Gold - USA Senior National Championships (+100kg)
- Silver - USA Senior National Championships (Open)
- Bronze - Belo Horizonte World Cup (+100kg)
- Bronze - U.S. Open (+100kg)
- Bronze - U.S. Open (Open)

2008:

- Ninth - Olympic Games (+100kg)
- Seventh - Korea Cup (+100kg)
- Seventh - Jigoro Kano Cup (+100kg)
- Gold - U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Judo (+100kg)
- Bronze - Pan American Championships (Open)
- Fifth - U.S. Open

2007:

- Gold - Fall Classic National Championships
- Silver - U.S. Open (+100kg)
- Bronze - U.S. Open (Open)
- Bronze - British Open
- Bronze - Tre-Torri International
- Bronze - New York Open

- Bronze - Senior National Championships (+100kg)
- Bronze - Senior National Championships (Open)
- Bronze - USA Senior National Championships
- Bronze - Rendez-Vous Canada

2006:

- Gold - San Jose Buddhist Sensei Memorial Tournament
- Silver - Midwestern Championships
- Bronze - USA Senior National Championships (+100kg)
- Bronze - U.S. Open (+100kg)

2005:

- Gold - Collegiate National Judo Championships
- Gold - Fall Classic National Championships
- Silver - USA Senior National Championships (+100kg)
- Silver - Pan American Junior Championships
- Silver - Pan American Cup
- Bronze - British Open
- Bronze - Junior British Open
- Bronze - Irish Open (Open & +100kg)
- Bronze - U.S. Open (+100kg)



2008 U.S. Olympic Trials



2008 Olympics – Daniel vs. Mohammed Rodaki of Iran



Daniel and First Lady Laura Bush & George Bush, Sr.



2008 U.S. Olympic Trials



2008 Olympics – Daniel vs. Lasha Gujejiani of Georgia



2008 Olympics – Daniel 'hanging out' with Yao Ming



2008 Olympic Judo Team – 1st day of practice in Beijing



2008 Olympics – Daniel vs. Mohammed Rodaki of Iran