

Karate Today —Strolling through Karate History—

Article 1

June 6, 2023 → June 6, 1930

Back to 93 Years Ago

Starting today, the first in the series of “Karate Today” will take you back to June 6, 1930, which is 93 years before today (June 6, 2023).

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arate club at Prefectural First Junior High School restored!

On June 6, 1930, the “Karate Club” was restored at Okinawa Prefectural First Junior High School (known as “Icchu” for short, the former name of present-day Okinawa Prefectural Shuri Senior High School). The restoration of the “Karate Club” indicates that the original “Karate Club” had undergone either discontinuation or suspension.

The history of the “Karate Club” at Icchu can be traced back as early as 1905 with its establishment. Although “Karate” was first formally adopted into public school education in 1905, the “Karate club” had formed at Icchu not too long after. At the time of its establishment, the head of the club was Hanagusuku Chomo, with Gabu Seikei as the other faculty instructor and Itosu Anko as the invited external instructor.

After the decease of Itosu Anko, the invited external instructor, in 1915, the “Karate” curriculum at Icchu was suspended and the “Karate club” was dismissed accordingly. From then until the early 1920s, the existence of the “Karate club” at the school could not be confirmed. It was not until 1924 that the presence of the “Karate club” was once again confirmed in historical documents.

Despite the “Karate club” seemingly coming back to the light at that point in time, however, its activities did not seem to last very long. A newspaper article reporting the restoration of the “Karate club” on June 6, 1930, includes the statement, “Ten years have already passed since the “Karate Club” of the First Prefectural Junior High School was closed.” From the way it is written, it is apparent that the “Karate club” was inactive for a long time.

This “Karate club” of Icchu is the oldest school karate club in the history. The restoration of the honorable “Karate club” must have encouraged those involved in karate at that time.

Somokoji

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