

March
2013

Number 30

Dates to
Remember!!!

Master of the
Art Tournament
Toronto, ON
Saturday 23 Mar

General Choi
Memorial Cup
Championship
Toronto
13 April 2013

Colour Belt Test
16 Mar 2013



Newsletter

Silla Unification

by Shane Mason



The kingdom of Silla's quest for control over the Korean peninsula began with the Kaya confederacy in 562 AD, but it did not stop there. Under the direction of Queen Seon Deok, the little kingdom started the unification process first by forming an alliance with the Chinese. Queen Seon Deok was the 27th ruler of the Silla kingdom and the first female ruler. She ruled from 632 – 647 AD and emphasized religion, literature and art as well as the adoption of the Chinese religion of Buddhism. Through the alliance, China gave Silla the soldiers necessary to defeat the Baekje kingdom. China had hopes that this alliance could lead to the conquest of the Korean peninsula.

At the head of the Silla army was General Kim Yusin. General Yusin had joined the Hwarang at age 15, became Hwarang leader at age 18 and commander of all the Silla forces at age 32.



Statue of [Kim Yushin](#) in Mount Nam (Namsan), Seoul, South Korea. Wikipedia

In the year 660 Yusin, lead the Silla armies alongside Chinese Tang forces (called Tang forces because they were the fighting force of the Chinese Tang or T'ang dynasty), to the attack on Baekje. The Battle of Hwangsanbeol was one of the biggest battles in Korean History. The battle included an attack on the Bakje capital of Sabi where the Silla forces outnumbered the Bakje led by General Gyebaek by 5-1, not even including the 130,000 Chinese allies. Baekje fell in that same year, despite the indomitable spirit shown by the Baekje where everyone fought against all odds. Silla and China then took control over Baekje and moved onto the kingdom of Goguryeo.

Goguryeo was by far the largest of the three kingdoms, but this didn't necessarily mean that it was hard for Silla to conquer it. The Goguryeo kingdom had been suffering from many conflicts, such as: internal political power struggles, many wars with the three

kingdoms and China and famines. So, when Silla and the Tang army marched in there wasn't much resistance. In the year 668, Goguryeo fell to the Silla-Tang forces. Silla now had control over the whole Korean peninsula. The king of Silla, Moon-Mu, was the first king of a unified 'Korea' (the unified kingdom was still not called 'Korea'), which was known as the Silla dynasty. This dynasty would go on to last another 267 years and turn the Korean peninsula into a thriving kingdom. Unfortunately, as soon as Silla unified the kingdoms, they were faced with the problem of the remaining Chinese troops who had hope of conquering the peninsula. This led to the Silla-Tang war.

A Visit From Master Yeoh

On Saturday 19 Jan 2013, Sparks TKD was honoured to have Master Stephen Yeoh come to the school to offer a weapon and self defense seminar. Students learned new self defense techniques, stick fighting and had the opportunity to look at some very interesting weapons. Everyone, from Master Sparks to our newest students learned something new and had a very enjoyable time.
Kahnsahamnida Master Yeoh!



Thanks To Keltie for the pictures!

Tuesday Evening		Thursday Evening	
6:15 PM	Little Dragons - Children 7 and under	Little Dragons - Children 7 and under	
7:00 PM	Juniors - 8 -12 White to Green Belt	Juniors - 8-12 White belt to Green Belt	
7:45 PM	Intermediate - 8-12 Blue Belt and up	Intermediate - 8-12 Blue Belt and up	
8:30 PM	Senior - Ages 13 to Adult - All Levels	Senior - Ages 13 to Adult - All Levels	
Saturday Morning Schedule			
9:00 AM	LITTLE DRAGONS - Children 7 and under		
9:30 AM	PATTERNS CLASS - White Belt to Green Belt - All Ages		
10:15 AM	SPARRING SKILLS CLASS - Children 12 and under		
11:00 AM	PATTERNS CLASS - Blue Stripe to Black Belt - All Ages		
11:45 AM	SPARRING SKILLS CLASS - Ages 13 to Adult		
Little Dragons will not be permitted in later classes on Saturday Mornings. You MUST attend the classes appropriate to your Belt level and age.			