

【Press Release】

October 26th, 2023  
 GAKU Pte. Ltd.  
 Japan Esports Union

**Aaron Wolf plays [PuyoPuyo Esports]  
 A New Initiative of Esports x Judo  
 GAKU Games: Esports x Judo (Powered by JeSU)**

GAKU Pte. Ltd., an education-technology startup based in Singapore collaborated with Japan Esports Union (JeSU), to host the GAKU Games: Esports x Judo (Powered by JeSU) in Tokyo, Japan on October 21st and 22nd, 2023.

The event invited industry experts from both esports and judo to engage and unite the understandings of the two sports to elementary to high school students. The aim was to allow the students to see their full potential as athletes in their respective sports; traditional or new.

Special guests from both industries came together. From the judo world, Kenji Suzuki coach of the men's Japan national team and Aaron Wolf (Judo 100kg class), and from the esports side professional players of Professional Baseball Spiritz A and PuyoPuyo Champions were present to share their passions with the participants.

Hosted at Buken (International Buken Center) in Tokyo, the special guests took part in a panel discussion and showcased their respective skills in their competitive sport. The participants at the GAKU Games event were able to experience two sides of competitive sport, as they tried basic judo moves as well as tested out their gaming skills through esports, and experienced a new collaboration.



Aaron Wolf gets ready to make a judo move on professional esports player Piponia



Professional esports player Piponia and judo athlete Aaron Wolf go head to head at esports, PuyoPuyo Champions.

<p>Students usually in the judo world are being taught by GG. Sato (Ex professional baseball player), an esports baseball game</p>	<p>A mix of esports athletes and judo athletes come together to teach others their respective sport.</p>



Comment by Kenji Suzuki Coach

It was my first time experiencing esports, and it was a lot of fun. Since everyone can play together, I thought it might be useful for team building in judo. In order for esports to gain more recognition in the future, the presence of instructors is extremely important. I believe that conveying and understanding the importance of following rules such as courtesy and demeanor will lead to being recognized as a representative of Japan.



Comment by G.G. Sato

Judo, which has a long tradition, and esports, which has just started out, are polar opposites. I thought there was a lot that could be learned from each other. If you practice aiming to become the person you want to be, rather than imitating someone else, you can put in the effort. On the contrary, you'll want to practice more and more, so find your ideal self. I want to do my best, aiming for the day when judo, baseball, and esports become official Olympic sports.



Comment by Kurininjin

Greetings and being polite are things that are still lacking in esports. It changes how you feel about the game and your opponent, so I personally wanted to incorporate that. I was impressed by the firm expressions on the judo players' faces when they stepped onto the tatami mats. In big tournaments, you can get nervous, so I felt it was important to train mentally, and I would like to make use of today's experience.



Comment by Aaron Wolf

Whether it's esports or judo, I think it's very important to try different things from an early age and find what suits you and what you want to do.

I haven't played "Puyo Puyo" since "Puyo Puyo Quest" when I was in high school, but the way you play "Puyo Puyo" by reflexively responding to your opponent after repeated practice is good for both esports and judo. I thought we had something in common.



Comment by Omigawa Coach

I had the impression that esports lead to overexertion, lack of sleep, and lack of exercise, but today when I saw kids meeting each other for the first time and quickly becoming friends, I realized how good it is as a communication tool. Whether it's esports or judo, I want them to remember how they got into the sport and work hard to become the best version of themselves.



Comment by Piponia

I haven't tried judo since classes in high school, but I was very impressed to be able to experience Judo's techniques!

Ever since I became a professional, I have been conscious of the fact that I am being watched, so I have been careful about my words and posture, but today, through judo, I was able to reaffirm the importance of courtesy and manners.

<Details>

Event Name: GAKU Games: Esports x Judo (powered by JeSU)

Organizers: GAKU, Japan Esports Union (JeSU)

Supporters: Konami Esport Gakuin, SEGA Corp., Bushido Japan, Global Esports Federation, BUKEN, SPRT

Venue: International Buken Center (<https://www.buken.tokyo/>)

October 21st, 2023 (sat.) Professional Baseball Spiritz A x Judo

Special Guests

- Suzuki Kenji (Men's Judo Japan National Team Coach)
- G.G. Sato (Ex professional baseball player)
- Kurininjin (Professional eBaseball Professional Baseball Spritz A Player)

October 22nd, 2023 (sun.) Puyo Puyo Champions x Judo

Special Guests

- Aaron Wolf (Judo 100kg class)
- Omigawa Coach (NEO JUDO ACADEMY)
- Pionia (PuyoPuyo Champions Professional Player)

◆About GAKU

GAKU provides programs in future technologies and esports to inspire individuals to educate, elevate, and empower themselves for the future. We have a “by Youth for Youth” mindset to create customizable programs for all educational institutions as we promote safe digital environments, inclusivity, EQ skills and more. GAKU aims to promote a well-balanced lifestyle within our digital focused world.

Website <https://ja.gaku.world/>

Instagram @gaku\_world

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