

*“Visually Impaired but Physically a Champion”*

# Judo Visions

Judo — creating a level playing field

---

VOL 7 #2

## Building Champions



Coach Willy Cahill  
CEO & Co-Founder  
Blind Judo Foundation

“It’s not whether you get knocked down. It’s whether you get back up again”

Vince Lombardi

### Coaching visually impaired athletes starts with a vision, compassion, and dedication

While Judo continues to create a level playing field where everyone has an opportunity to compete, Attitude, Vision and Capacity starts with the Coach—Instructor. Over 50 years ago Professor John Cahill, a martial arts instructor in Hawaii had a dream of getting one student to the Olympics. Unfortunately Professor Cahill passed away at 50 in 1962 and was not able to realize his dream. Building champions, however had been seeded in his son Willy and he was not going to let the dream evaporate.

### Who is Willy Cahill?

Willy has dedicated his life in training individuals for the challenges of life through the sport of Judo and Martial Arts. Previous Coaching included:

- *Stanford University—Head Coach*
- *SF State University—Head Coach*
- *US Goodwill Games-Head Judo Coach*
- *US Junior Pan American Championships*
- *US Olympic Judo Coach*
- *Current US Paralympic Judo Coach*

Over 70% of Medals won at the Olympic and Paralympic levels in Judo has been won under the Coaching Leadership of Coach Cahill

## Hall of Fame

Beyond Worldwide Recognition by Presidents Reagan, Clinton, George W. Bush and Castro while competing in Cuba, induction into:

- *Black Belt Hall of Fame-Judo Instructor of the Year*
- *Black Belt Hall of Fame*
- *Jujitsu America Hall of Fame— Instructor of the Year*

Reaching the 7th Dan in Judo now entitles Cahill to be called Professor just like his Father. Because of his humble attitude he prefers “Coach” when teaching, lecturing, coaching and grooming future champions. In Jujitsu he is a 10th Degree Dan.

## Cahill’s Judo Academy

The Academy is not your usual Dojo but one dedicated to Professor John Cahill’s memory. A breeding ground for producing champions and future Olympians. Over 55 years of working with men, women of all ages, Cahill has produced over 1200 national and international champions. His Father would be proud! But it goes further as the Coach trains Army Green Berets, Navy Seals, Homeland Security, US Secret Service Agents, local Police Officers and other Black Belts with their own Dojos and forms of martial arts. Yet the youngest Judoka is 6 years old and competing in local tournaments.



Blind Judo Foundation  
24145 NE 122nd St.  
Redmond, WA  
425-444-8256

## US Paralympic Coach

1988 the Olympic Committee tapped Cahill to be the US Olympic Judo Coach. Many accomplishments followed but Cahill wanted to pass the torch after a few years. USOC insisted he stay and was offered new challenges. In 1999 Cahill was asked to Coach the US Paralympic Judo Team in preparation for the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia. He accepted. For the first time since Judo was introduced in 1964 at the Olympic level, Gold had been won by Kevin Szott and Scott Moore of the US Paralympic Judo Team. History had been made! Gold is still alluding the US Olympic Judo Team today. Onto the 2004 Games in Athens, Greece with Cahill leading the Team once again to victory: 1 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals. But the story doesn't end there. The Silver was won by the first female on the US Paralympic Judo Team and the first female to compete at the US....Lori Pierce.

“No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new heaven to the human spirit“  
.....Helen Keller



Ron C. Peck, MBA  
CFO & Co-Founder

## Acres of Diamonds

Helen Keller, the Student and Anne Sullivan, the Coach made tremendous accomplishments within the blind and visually impaired community. You too can make a difference right within your own neighborhood. The Lions Clubs Charter from 1925 is based upon the principles of Helen Keller. Contact your local Lions Club and Lions International seeking their support and help to identify those blind and visually impaired individuals that might like an introduction to the sport of Judo. Dojos are in communities and locations where blind and visually impaired (Diamonds in the Rough) are waiting to be introduced to the sport of Judo. Parents and teacher organizations at schools are another source of contact and networking to identify those .

students that might be interested. and might not be aware of Judo creating a level playing field. Access to physical education, recreation and athletic programs are generally limited for individuals with visual impairments. Not true when it comes to the sport of Judo. Coach Cahill and the Blind Judo Foundation are available to help you understand the needs of the visually impaired being introduced to the Sport of Judo.

## Upcoming Newsletters

### INTRODUCTIONS

**Scott Moore & Kevin Szott**—1st US Paralympic Judo Gold Medal Winners Sydney 2000

**Lori Pierce**—1st Female US Paralympic Judo Team Member and Silver Medalist Athens 2004

## Highlight your Dojo or Organization here

Contact Ron Peck for details.

[roncpeck@comcast.net](mailto:roncpeck@comcast.net) or call

425-444-8256

Blind Judo Foundation  
24145 NE 122nd Street  
Redmond, WA 98053

425-444-8256

[blindjudofoundation.org](http://blindjudofoundation.org)  
[roncpeck@earthlink.net](mailto:roncpeck@earthlink.net)