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Two young local students enjoy successful Taekwondo tournament debuts

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Kim's Martial Arts & Fitness was represented by five students at the ninth annual Great Lakes Taekwondo Championship held recently at the Penn State Junker Athletic Center.

There were more than 175 competitors at the event held in Erie. They traveled from Canada as well as from Ohio, New York, New Jersey, and across the state of Pennsylvania.

Brady Fest and Ryan Hamel, both 6 years old with a rank of ninth gup (yellow/white), competed in a Taekwondo tournament for the first time as Kim's Martial Arts & Fitness members.

Both enjoyed rewarding tournament experiences.

Fest captured first place in Poomsae (forms competition), and second place in both Kyorugi (fighting) and Kyukpa (breaking), while Hamel came home with first-place finishes in both Poomsae and Kyorugi.



Another Kim's Martial Arts & Fitness member, Robert Moore, who is rated as a sixth gup (green), earned first place in Kyukpa and second place in Kyorugi at the martial arts event.

Eli McCary, a second gup (red with two stripes), took first place in Poomsae and second place in Kyorugi.

McCary also competed in the Poomsae grand champion 16-and-above color belt division. He finished as the runner-up in his age group.

Zachary Dunois, a second Poom black belt competitor, reeled in first place in Poomsae.

Dunois also competed in the Poomsae grand champion 15-and-below black belt division. He secured third-place in his age group.

Kim's Martial Arts & Fitness is located at 3606 Brownsville Road in Brentwood.

Christopher Moore attended the national tournament as the local school's coaching/teacher representative.

He was assisted by Cornelia Moore, Rich Campbell and Carol Dunois, who helped coach and support the students at the event.