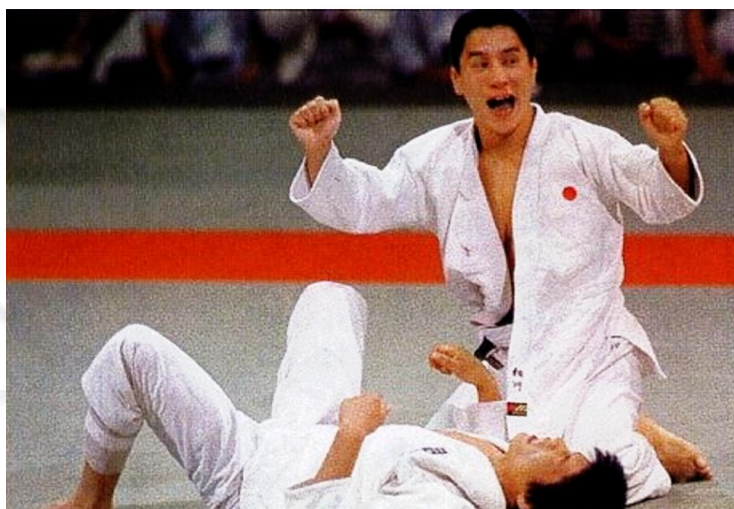


SPORTING LEGENDS: SHINJI HOSOKAWA

SPORT: JUDO

COMPETITIVE ERA: 1977- 1988

Shinji Hosokawa (born on January 2, 1960 in Ichinomiya, Hyogo, Japan) is a retired Japanese judoka who won two olympic medals during the 1980s.



Hosokawa began judo in junior-high school, and won the Japanese inter-high school judo competition in 1977. He entered Tenri University in 1978, and continued his success by winning the college-level world judo championship in 1979 and 1980.

After graduating from Tenri University, he began work as a teacher for a school in Nara Prefecture in 1982. He was chosen as the -60 kg representative for the Japanese olympic judo team for the 1984 Summer Olympics, where he won a gold medal by defeating future gold medalist Kim Jae-Yup only 69 seconds into the match.

He also won a gold medal at the 1985 World Judo Championships, but retired to concentrate on his work as a teacher. He restarted his judo career in 1987 with a silver medal at the 1987 World Judo Championships, and retired after finishing with a bronze medal at the 1988 Summer Olympics.

Hosokawa has served as an instructor for the Japanese Olympic Committee since April, 1997, where he coached many lightweight judoka, most notably 3-time gold medalist Tadahiro Nomura, whose father was Hosokawa's coach during high school. He also coaches judo at Tenri University, and for the All Japan Judo Federation.

SPORTING LEGENDS: SHINJI KOSOKAWA



Scott Burton's Final Thought

Shinji Kosokawa was an extremely consistent judo competitor. He was a class act and a gentleman.

He would wait for opponents to expose their weaknesses before ruthlessly exploiting them.



Hosokawa's steely focus and determination never wavered during a bout.