

## NASKA Super Stars



Gerald Dawson

Gerald "The Awesome Force" Dawson, 25, from Baltimore, Maryland is a physical discipline instructor and is a business major at Morgan State University. He was promoted to 4th-degree Tae Kwon Do in 1989 by his instructor, Steven Hernandez.

Dawson began studying martial arts at age 5 and continued taking lessons because of his sister's encouragement. "The Awesome Force" trains four days a week with 15 rounds of kicking drills, forms for sharpness of fighting technique and uses visualization and mind tapes.

Dawson was awarded the 1990 "Say No To Drugs Youth Role Model" title and was appointed to the director of Sport Karate in the Maryland Blackbelt Association. One of his goals is to be a positive role model for children by serving as the highest example of excellence in the martial arts. "The Awesome Force" wants to be a force in building youths to ensure a more promising future.

Dawson's favorites: Point Fighter's, Mafia Hollaway and Ibbly Abdella; Forms Competitor, Mike Dietrich; Weapons Competition, Bernadette Ambrosia; Martial Artist, Eberharo Welch. "Martial arts has always been a part of my life," said "The Awesome Force", "It has given me high self-esteem and most of all it has taught me to never let anyone break my harmony." ★

Willie "The Bam" Johnson, 27, from Baltimore, Md. is a martial arts instructor and an actor. "The Bam" began studying martial arts at age six and has earned a 1st-degree belt in Kang Duk Kwon, a 3rd-degree belt in Shaolin Kung Fu and a 3rd-degree belt in Wu Shu. He is a 1985 Wu Shu graduate of the Beijing Institute of Physical Fitness in China.

Presently, Johnson is a third degree black sash promoted in 1981 and instructed by Mfundu Dennis Brown. Johnson said his workout begins at 6 a.m. with a spiritual reading, a prayer, a 45-minute intensive endurance workout and finally two-hours of form and weight training. This early morning workout is followed by a full day of teaching martial arts and, time permitting, sparring.

In 1988, Johnson was Forms Grand Champion at the Miller Lite Open, Worlds Kung Fu Forms Champion and ranked number one in Kata, Weapons and third in Fighting by the Professional Karate League in Region 12. He was first-place winner in the 1983 Empire State Nationals, 1986 U.S. Open International, 1987 U.S. Capitol Classics, 1987 Bluegrass Nationals, 1987 A.K.A. Grand Nationals and the 1988 Inner Harbor Budweiser Nationals. "The Bam" said he has spent 1989 and 1990 enhancing his spiritual development.

Johnson's goals began with training to become the first male Wu Shu Stylist on the National circuit and ranked in all three divisions. When he had accomplished this goal, "The Bam" not only strove to be number one in all of his divisions, but also focused on educating children about drugs. "Wu Shu is my life and today it is also a way of life for me," said Johnson, "It has allowed me to rise above the ghetto and stand for what is right and defeat what is wrong."

Johnson's favorites: Point Fighter, Marty Eubanks; Kickboxer, Tayari Casel; Forms Competitor, Keith Hirabyashi Cook; Weapons Competitor, Kevin Thompson; Martial Artist, Mfundu Dennis Brown; and Non-Karate Athlete, Michael Jordan. Johnson's mother, Martha Johnson, is the individual he looks up to the most. ★



Willie 'The Bam' Johnson