



Episode 3 – Sabumnim Jake Daniele | whistlekickMartialArtsRadio.com



Jeremy Lesniak:

Sabumnim Jake, welcome to whistlekick martial arts radio.

Jake Daniele:

Thanks for having me on.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Well, it's great to have you here. You know, I'll admit, I don't know you really well so this will be just as informational for me as for the listeners. So, lets jump in to the easy stuff. Tell us a bit about your history in the martial arts.

Jake Daniele:

Yeah. I got started in Tae kwon do when I was about five years old. So, I'm 25 now so I've been doing it for about 20 years. I've trained in the same dojang since ten. I started at freeport Tae kwon do which is in freeport or L.L.Bean, Maine. But, my instructor was Master Jeff Wigley. He was really inspiring to me. I don't know, when I started it just kind of clicked with me that this is what I should be doing and it's been a good ride.

Jeremy Lesniak:



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Cool. So, you started at five and you've been in the same, not just the same style but the same school. And even physical location, for this whole twenty years?

Jake Daniele:

No. So the physical location has only changed once and it only changed after six months or so. We actually train out of a gymnasium, it's nothing glamorous but it works really well for us. It's nice to have the additional space, I think a lot of dojos wish they have more rooms and so training in a gymnasium at least gives us that which is great.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Yeah. You know, I think there are a lot of martial arts schools that don't have their own owned space and there's absolutely nothing wrong with that. I grew up training in a community center gymnasium and there was a ton of space I think. I remember some classes you know, around karate camp and visiting groups coming in, we probably had forty to fifty people in there and we had room to train with that. But I have been with other schools and you know it was a struggle to get twenty people in the room with enough space.

Jake Daniele:

I agree. My favorite is when you go to someplace else then you're all in this cramped environment so you feel a little bit different but you know you're sparring, you're constantly bumping into people and then when I take those same people back to mine and they're just like flabbergasted, they end up, if they are teaching seminars they use like a quarter of a gym so they are not used to being able to move and spread out. I think it just changes because everybody can do kata at the same time which is cool.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Yeah where the segment of the class and you know, take a corner and have enough space in their corner to train ten people without stepping on each other's toes. The dojo I train out of now is in the Master's house and if we get more than fifteen people in there it gets really tight. We make it work.

Jake Daniele:

Yeah that's right. Everybody has their own struggles and pros and cons and whatever and it's just something you do.

Jeremy Lesniak:



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That's right. Growing up I was told, we should be able to do all of our kata in a four-foot square and I don't know if you've ever tried doing anything like that but it's really tough.

Jake Daniele:

That's a lot of shuffling, I mean.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Were kind of shortening your stances.

Jake Daniele:

(inaudible)04:14 with the guest instructor, and he said okay you have to do your basic kata as quickly as possible and he's like, I'm not even going to watch so I'm not going to look at your stances, I'm not going to do any of that. And so, if you do it that way, you can do it in five seconds in about no stance. So, I did that.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Sure.

Jake Daniele:

That's the fun (inaudible). Everybody out there should try it.

Jeremy Lesniak:

You know that's one I haven't done. I've done katas backwards, reversed, blindfolded, trying to start facing a corner, all kinds of really weird ways but I've never done it as fast as possible. So, I will have to try that. Thank you.

Jake Daniele:

No problem.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Tell us your best martial arts story.

Jake Daniele:



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That's a tough [05:04](#) it's been a long time I guess. I'll start with a funny one, well I think that it's funny. So, the whole reason I got into martial arts is just because they were going to let me have a uniform and that was kind of my fix back then. So, I think, you know, its funny cause you look at why do people start or you know, what was the real driving measure and it wasn't like my parents like: oh, it's going to be a good thing for you like you're going to learn integrity confidence and all of the normal things that we as instructor's kind of taught out there but it was really just I got to wear a cool uniform and that was all it took for me. And I guess once I got there then I start learning those things and that was enough.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Are there any other uniforms that you wore at that time?

Jake Daniele:

Oh yeah. I mean like, between cub scouts or a baseball uniform or just soccer jersey, all that kind of stuff. I just, my criteria for trying new things at that time was definitely if they had a uniform and if I like how it looks.

Jeremy Lesniak:

That's a new one. I can't say I've heard that before. That's great.

Jake Daniele:

But in terms of like a story that I normally tell people. In terms of like, my students and everything I think, I'm trying to bring my kids to compete and teach them the same lessons I learned from the competitions I've done and so I think one of the biggest problem is people get scared the most about what happens if I forget my kata and you know, I freeze out in the middle or whatever and so I would let them know that back when I was younger and just got my junior blackbelt, at my school there was no weapon, were Tae kwon do and it isn't a prerequisite or requirement for testing and my instructor never told them that you know, if I could do it, if I could try so I kind of taught myself [07:04](#) just from what I've already seen on the competition circuit and everything. I ended up doing okay and you know I felt I got better and then one day I tied and when you're just teaching yourself and you've only known one kata that can be very intimidating. And so, as a blackbelt I couldn't go out and do the same kata so I had to go out there and completely freelance it, make it upon the spot and I had all of thirty seconds to decide what I was going to do from the time they told me I had tied and I was the first one to go. I think it's just more common now. I think some people can do this but it was then, you know when I was twelve, it wasn't exactly something I have ever considered that would happen and I ended up winning which was crazy. I was like wow maybe I should do this more often.



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Jeremy Lesniak:

Yeah, maybe there was something to that. [07:59](#)

Jake Daniele:

So, I always like to tell students that even if you don't know what happens next, you just kind of make it up and keep going and you hope that all the judges don't your kata basically. So, kind of know when your done when you're facing the right way.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Yeah. I think something had to be said for that. For having enough of a foundation in martial arts to be able to flow things from one movement to the next and make it cohesive and clearly you were able to do that so that's great especially you said you were twelve?

Jake Daniele:

That was when I was younger. Yeah. I was twelve, thirteen.

Jeremy Lesniak:

So, to be able to knock that out at a young age and stay composed while doing that. That says a lot of what kind of a twelve thirteen-year-old young man you were so that's great.

Jake Daniele:

I think martial arts just helps in general for people you know, fill up confidence and even if it's not [08:58](#) form it could be just, it could be anything like that. You know you're in school and make a debate or something.

Jeremy Lesniak:

I couldn't have asked for a better segue to my question. I don't know if you planned it that way but thank you. What has the martial arts done for you?

Jake Daniele:

Here you go. It has given me confidence and yeah, I mean, I think it's that kind of thing that really helps. I mean, I did in college, I had a professor who said I'm going to give you a note card and it's going to say something and you have to give a five-minute speech on that



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something and I will give you ten seconds to think about what you're going to do. And so, my little story right there is segued perfectly into that. Like okay I will, I can make stuff up why not? So just having the confidence that you know what you're doing. Emotionally too, physically obviously kept me in good shape I think that the stretching twice a week at least every week for you know, a couple of hours that something I could count on and that kept me in good shape and helped me for other sports too.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Great. Yeah, what other sports did you play?

Jake Daniele:

One thing in high school, I started, I did like varsity sports. I played tennis, that was my main one. I did alpine ski racing which was a [10:25](#) and I tried a little bit of golf but that's no really my thing.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Golf is not my thing either. Great. So, other than your instructor, that's the one exception here, name someone that was instrumental in your martial arts upbringing and why?

I've taken off the easy one.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Absolutely.

Jake Daniele:

I think that, when I'm instructing and I'm talking to my kids, and the adults but mostly to the kids, and you know especially the really younger ones, it's not always, it's not me who's actually doing, being that instrumental person, it's really their parents cause their parents are really the ones who bring them to martial arts. The parents are the one who thought it was a good idea, were paying our money so if I can't pick my instructor right up on that level, for me it's my parents because both of my parents did martial arts with me so it became a family thing and having both of them getting their blackbelts with me and then continuing to train for a long time and you know, I think that is really where I would go at that. I think that they were definitely instrumental into getting me into martial arts, having me stay in martial arts,



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motivating me. You know, they took me to competitions they sacrificed their weekends, so I would give a shout out to them.

Jeremy Lesniak:

That's a great answer and I would have to agree with you. You know, my mother was instrumental. So, you said you tested for your blackbelt with both of your parents?

Jake Daniele:

Yeah. So, I was in the second session of freeport Tae kwon do and so once my parents have seen what we're doing, it started off as just for kids, you know they kept asking, kept asking for an adult class and eventually my instructor gave in and so, you know they started a little bit late that I did which is natural for an adult to go a little quicker than a kid. Yeah, so it was really cool when I, there were five junior blackbelts when I tested and there were maybe ten adult blackbelts and all five of us kids had at least one parent testing for blackbelt at the same time. There was not one young kid who didn't have an adult.

Jeremy Lesniak:

That's really neat. So, is that an exception or it's fairly common at your school?

Jake Daniele:

In my school, I think it's actually really common I think it took a long time for us to get our junior blackbelts who was alone and honestly, I think we only had three or four come through who were really alone but you know once they got their blackbelts then maybe their parents had started by that point. So, really it's only like one or two kids that were really alone when they were there. And I don't know if that's just our teaching style or how that happens but for some reasons that what's have been going down.

Jeremy Lesniak:

That's pretty interesting so as I listen to that, I know there are a lot of martial arts schools out there that almost covet having the whole family. They do family rates, family classes with brother, age groups because they recognize if a family's training together they're more likely to all stick around and whether your goal as a martial arts school is to make money to spread your art or both, having the entire family there or more of the family than just one member helps that goal. So, is there something that you're aware of that you guys do that other martial arts instructors and school owners might learn from?

Jake Daniele:



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I don't think there's any kind of secret sauce. I think for us one of the reasons is that if your parents are involved then the child is allowed to come to more classes without an additional cost. So, like, if we're teaching an adult class, we understand that sometimes, you know what are you going to do with your child so we say that as long as they're well-behaved and listens they are welcome. You know, you're not a five-year-old white belt yet but as long as they're focused, they can come and they won't get the same attention they get in the kid's class but it gives them something to do and it gives them extra practice which I think in turn, builds on itself cause then the kid enjoys it more. They get to learn more in the adult's class if they're really paying attention I think cause it's you know, not as game oriented which I guess can be good or bad but I think that's one of the reasons that happens so often at our schools. It's just the extra class time and the family say oh double training time for little Johnny and I get to go now so this is great.

Jeremy Lesniak:

So, you're taking out that one of if not the biggest objection to getting parents into martial arts which is what do you do with the kids that "daycare" question. And I've seen some schools that offer a separate day care program simultaneously or they run the classes separately but at the same time, but you are saying as long as they're competent enough to follow along and not I'm going to guess, be a distraction to the adults they're welcome.

Jake Daniele:

(inaudible) and it worked really well. I think that, you know, you definitely don't get the attention like don't get me wrong, the kid is not going to learn, he's not going to get that direct feedback that they get in the young classes but it also shows the young kids like oh that's what the blackbelt for, that's what's the greenbelt adults are doing and I'm a greenbelt how come I don't look like that. Oh, it's because they're doing these things. I think that helps as well.

Jeremy Lesniak:

So, there's the motivational element. Would you say that there is a correlation between the kid that come to those extra classes, those adult classes and the rate of their progress?

Jake Daniele:

Absolutely I think. Anytime you get to train twice as much, you know that's the deciding factor and the same thing that happens in competition really, I think the kids that from your dojo that go to competitions because they're getting that extra practice and that extra exposure, they're the ones who end up flourishing quicker than students who stay at the dojo and go to their one or two classes a week. You know, the more time you get, the more infectious it is, and then the more you want to work hard and kind of balloons from there.



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Jeremy Lesniak:

That makes sense. So, let's talk a little bit about competition. You mentioned one of the, maybe a rough patch but with a happy ending in competition with making up your form on the spot. Have you done a lot of competition? Is that big in your school?

Jake Daniele:

Yeah. I mean, we definitely push the competition. We, our school, holds a karate tournament in September in freeport every year and we're a part of the [18:35](#) new England rating system as well as smart which is the main rating system and so I grew up with competition. It was always a part of my school, and I think that it exposes you to other styles, other influential people, you know, when we're talking about the influential people I think right after your instructor and your parents are the people that you compete against and their instructors and you're learning from them almost in the same way, you just don't get to see them as often. For me, competition has become more like a family atmosphere you know, I look forward to going and seeing my friends that I grew up with and who are still competing today as well as the instructors who taught me a lot of from different styles. So, I'm a big fan of competitions.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Do you have a favorite event? Are you fighter? Are you a forms guy? Breaking?

Oh, I thought you meant.

Jeremy Lesniak:

No, I wasn't going to ask you to pick a tournament. That was your favorite that would be mean especially since hopefully, anyway, a lot of the tournament promoters are going to be listening to this. I don't want to offend anyone. No, no. Is you a kata guy, fighter, breaker?

Jake Daniele:

When I was younger I was always a kata guy but I think now I'm definitely more of a fighter and I do point sparring to put it out there but that's definitely what I'm [20:05](#)

Jeremy Lesniak:

Now you mention that your school puts on a tournament and you know, whistlekick was there last year and we'll probably talk a little bit more about your event when we get to the point at



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the end where you get to promote your stuff. But is that day of September always the hottest day of the summer?

Jake Daniele:

I think it always seems that way lately.

Jeremy Lesniak:

For the listeners, this was early September.

Jake Daniele:

It's the first weekend after Labor Day

Jeremy Lesniak:

So, early to mid-September 2014 and it was 90 degrees outside that day. It was by far the hottest day that I remember and it was muggy and I don't know how hot it was in that gymnasium but thank you very much for not setting the whistlekick booth up in the gymnasium putting us out in the hallway because as long as anybody wasn't competing or watching someone compete, they were out in the hallway because it was 20 degrees cooler and got a lot of foot traffic because of that so thank you. [21:16](#)

Jake Daniele:

The way we planned it.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Well, doesn't have to be quite so hot, hot next year but if that's the way you want to do it I'll take it.

Jake Daniele:

No. I'll follow the weatherman and tell them what to do.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Good. Somebody's got to have control over that. If you could train with any martial artist, living or dead, who would it be and why?



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Jake Daniele:

That's a good one. I mean, I think for me I would look at any founder of a style and I just think that, that would just blow my mind so like Funakashi for Shotokan or Dr. Kano for judo, that would be really cool I guess. I can only pick one, I think I'd go with the founder of judo just because with Tae kwon do is a very stand up style, lots of kicking obviously and so just seeing something completely different and seeing you know, the Master in that would be really cool.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Have you done any judo or Jiu jitsu?

Jake Daniele:

I haven't. I mean, I've rolled a couple of times. You know, just in passing but I've never like actually trained for month on it. You know, I'm going to think one of the most fun things to do is to go see outer school then to see how they do things but I've been training at the same place for my whole martial arts career so I don't want to give that up so I go more on like, small excursions and try something just for a couple of classes.

Jeremy Lesniak:

As I think you should. I have always had this theory that your martial arts training is kind of like the wheel in trivial pursuit, you've played trivial pursuit, right?

Jake Daniele:

Yeah.

Jeremy Lesniak:

And you get the little wedges and the first style that you train in is the biggest wedge and then as you train another thing you're adding more wedges. You never fill your pie, your circle. You're always looking and it kind of reminded me of that. Your kind of saying that you know, you've always done Tae kwon do but to do something, grappling, more ground oriented would add a lot to your pie.

Jake Daniele:

Exactly.

Jeremy Lesniak:



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Cause you haven't really done much so that's really cool and I would encourage everyone out there listening you know, it doesn't mean that you give up what you're training now but to experiment with other styles, other instructors. I was lucky that I've always trained at schools where the instructors are open to sharing and I think that's a pretty important part of the martial arts.

Jake Daniele:

Definitely.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Do you have a favorite martial arts film?

Jake Daniele:

I mean, I'm a big fan of Jackie Chan. I think I have to go his way and you know, one that really didn't get a lot of hype because it was, I don't know why, but it was the forbidden kingdom with him and Jet Li. It's the coolest thing.

Jeremy Lesniak:

That was a great movie.

Jake Daniele:

I feel like I'm the only one but it's nice to know

Jeremy Lesniak:

No. Did you spend like the whole first hour and fifteen minutes waiting for them to fight.

Jake Daniele:

Yeah, I was just like (inaudible) to that part and then I

Jeremy Lesniak:

That's what I was sitting there waiting for. Come on!

Jake Daniele:



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That was a great fight scene.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Back in high school, two of my best friends trained in karate with me and we would drive in to Portland to the big theater so for listeners that maybe haven't picked this up from previous episodes, so I grew up in Maine not too far from where we are talking about, freeport. So, we drive into Portland and we watched whatever the latest Jackie Chan movie was. Was it Rumble in the Bronx and then super cop and there was another one in there and I forgot which one it was but we were the only three people in the theater. So were watching the big movie in the big screen and we were sparring at the same time.

Jake Daniele:

Of course.

Jeremy Lesniak:

And were watching, oh, what did he just do oh let's try that. I'm surprised we weren't thrown out I'm sure the projectionist thought some pretty strange things of us but we had a blast, it was a good time.

Jake Daniele:

That sounds epic.

Jeremy Lesniak:

It was. So, I assumed Jackie Chan would be your favorite martial arts actor?

Jake Daniele:

Yeah. Definitely. I think just the humor he puts into it the expressions and everything, you know he's got really good skills too so don't get me wrong, I think that's the [26:18](#)

Jeremy Lesniak:

He does. Any man that does his own stunts and for the upcoming summer Olympics that's in the bidding process right now, he recorded a song for china part of the bid package that they've submitted to the international Olympic committee had a song from Jackie Chan and apparently, he did that last time too when they got, what was it, Beijing. When they got the



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Beijing Olympics.

Jake Daniele:

It's like a good luck for them.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Apparently. How about books? Any martial arts related books that you're fond of?

Jake Daniele:

Yeah, I think. I've read one it's called family power, being a Tae kwon do guy that one was really interesting to me because it follows the Lopez family and it was for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Not only did they have like each country submits two fighters, two guys and two girls I think. And two of their brothers were the guys and one of their sisters is one of the girls so three out of the four were from this one family and then the coach was the oldest brother. So, they sent the whole family over their basically. So just you know, hearing about how they train and like they have a dojo in the back of their house. Kind of their experience, it was just really interesting.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Sounds like that resonated pretty strongly for you with the strong family ties at your school.

Jake Daniele:

Yeah. Exactly. I had to pick another one that I read recently was called falling hard it's all about judo, history of judo. So, I would think it's by marc [28:18](#) maybe for people out there that was a good book I'd recommend.

Jeremy Lesniak:

I will look these up and those will be in the show notes so we'll just throw in some links in there and make it easy for people. Cool. Yeah, I haven't read either of those.

Jake Daniele:

Come on! I'll give you the books next time I see you.

Jeremy Lesniak:



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Alright, that sounds good.

Jake Daniele:

And then you can tell everybody if they're worth or they're not.

Jeremy Lesniak:

I'm going to. You know now that were doing this podcast, I'm getting book recommendations and of course nobody's doing the same ones which makes for a good content if I remember anyone offering the same books and the same movies from [28:55](#) but all its doing is making my book list pretty darn long so I'll have to start skipping interviews and read.

Jake Daniele:

You just need to read a book a day or whatever.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Just a book a day? I don't have anything else to do, no boxes of sparring gears to send out today.

Jake Daniele:

Yeah. Whistlekick can wait, this is more important.

Jeremy Lesniak:

And our last question, and hopefully a good one to end on. How about any martial arts related goals you might have in the future?

Jake Daniele:

Well, I mean in the, I guess you categorize this into a short term and a long term. The short term, I actually think it'd be really cool to learn the [29:49](#) weapons has always been kind of a just an interest of mine again it's not something that is really prevalent at my school, but I try to bring it in when I cannot that [30:03](#) Tae kwon do or anything but it's just something that I've been really interested in lately. So, I think in the short term I would like to learn a little bit more about that and just expand my horizon a little. But for the long term I think owning my own school is definitely high on my list. I'm one of the instructors at freeport. I'm one of the head instructors but having a school that is mine would be really cool. Maybe with an actual location, that way I can hang things on the wall cause that's the downside of being in a



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gymnasium you got a lot of sparring gutter I mean, pads and anything you want in a gym. You got to log it in and out so.

Jeremy Lesniak:

One of the Tae kwon do schools in my area actually the man who runs it, Master Lenihan, who I'm hoping to have on the show at some point in the future, trains under my instructor Master Roda. And he operates his dojang out of the basement of the local masonic lodge. And so, he's got the same thing where he's got to log stuff in and tradition in our schools is to hang the Korean and the American flag at the head of the room and of course he can't do that. Not only can he not things there but even if he wanted to there's a stage upfront and a curtain so there's really nowhere to hang anything. So, his solution was to get a couple of desk size flags and little bases so when we bow at the beginning of class you know, little two by three flags in front of the room.

Jake Daniele:

That's really cool.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Yeah weapons are fun. I always enjoyed weapons so if ever you want to learn Sai [31:50](#) I could help you with that. That's the one that I know about

Jake Daniele:

I might take you up on that.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Cool. Well, bring some Sai to the next tournament and I'll show you some stuff.

Jake Daniele:

When's whistlekick going to start selling Sais that's the expansion lets go.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Whistlekick will sell Sai when we can offer something better than what's out there. And that's kind of, not that we get too deep in the business of whistlekick on this podcast, but anything that we're going to do, we're going to be able to do better. I don't want us just turning out me too products. Anybody can take sparring gear and throw their logo on it and there are a lot of



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companies that do that and that's why we did what we did. That's why we did it sparring gear first because we felt that was the place we could make the most impact. So, when we can have some kind of either ultra-high quality Sai or maybe a really cool artistic angle. You know, somebody manufacturing something in the states for we could say, this guy made this.

Jake Daniele:

That would be cool.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Yeah. It would be fun. So, now's the time to promote yourself. Maybe tell us more about this event that you guys run in September or anything else you want to pitch.

Jake Daniele:

Sure. I'll just say it again. The pine tree state karate championships in the first weekend of September. First weekend after Labor Day in September. It's a good time. Again, we are new England rated and Maine rated. So yeah, my side business or one of them because I have multiple is called "because sensei says" and what we do is a unique martial arts teachers every week. It's on a rotating [33:53](#) so every Thursday night is the last time to get it and then Friday is the new t-shirt and that t-shirt that ended on Thursday is gone forever or until we get enough people saying they really want it to comeback and maybe we'll bring it back but for the most part its gone forever. So, that's kind of my promotional bid for that go to becauseenseisays.com and check it out.

Jeremy Lesniak:

And I think it's great. You guys have come up with some really cool shirts and I'm starting to see them on the tournament circuit. People popping up with them and the designs are really neat and a lot of fun and I think you're bringing a bit of humor with some novelty there on the shirts so I think that that's definitely missing. I think often us martial artists we get a little bit too serious sometimes.

Jake Daniele:

Yeah, I think, I mean, I was just getting tire of being the same one [34:49](#) wma or where ever your supplier, I think the designs haven't changed in the last twenty years so. I was just trying to do something different, give a little like you said humor to it. I think it's a, trying to do something that people can be proud of even if you're not with a group of martial artists it's kind of cool today. Yeah, I'm a martial artist and here's what I think, kind of show it off.



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Jeremy Lesniak:

Absolutely. Don't you guys do something where someone submits a design that you accept they get something for that, did I read that on your website?

Jake Daniele:

Yeah. So that's something we're trying to get in to is the idea of if you have an idea for something that you think is really cool on a shirt, you can just email us and the email is just right on the website and call or however you want to get in touch with us, we're on Facebook too. And if we like your design idea we'll make it and we'll send you a shirt for free.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Looks better than that.

Jake Daniele:

Yeah so if you have a good idea that we haven't done yet we'd love to hear about it.

Jeremy Lesniak:

I'm sure there are a bunch of listeners out there that have some great ideas and they don't have to do anything more than develop the idea you'll take care of all the rest.

Jake Daniele:

(inaudible) too, that's great. We can work out a deal but yeah. All we need to know is what you think.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Love that.

Jake Daniele:

So, my other business is called Maine engraving. What we do is I've gotten into the trophy business so I do custom awards and I work a lot with the new England circuit for their awards either for the banquet or the individual tournaments and I really like to come up with unique martial arts trophies. I'm happy to do trophies and everything but one of my favorites like what we did for my tournament last year, if I shouldn't help my own tournament but



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Jeremy Lesniak:

You absolutely should.

Jake Daniele:

Is we made wooden medals that had the name of tournament and our kicker guy logo and they were all routed in. So I've made ones for other tournaments where it looks like a scroll, made out of wood with their event on it. So, I really like making unique things particularly out of wood I guess just to give people a taste of something different.

Jeremy Lesniak:

That's great. You know, the one that I think that resonates for me the most that you guys did, not that the medals weren't fantastic cause they absolutely were and the kids definitely loved wearing them around their neck, was what you did for Sean Campbell with the shirts. Do you want talk about that real quick?

Jake Daniele:

Yeah. So, because sensei says, we had a tournament approached us and he wanted to do t-shirts for all of his awards and it turned out really great people really liked it. They kata had a different logo, kumite then weapons and so depending on what you won, you came up you got your size so we were making the t shirts right there on a heat press and people loved it. They have been actually sold tournament t-shirts at the event and those sold too. So, it was just nice to do something different and I think that resonates well with people.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Absolutely. So, if listeners out there want to get in touch for some creative awards or check out the because sensei says shirts, were going to have all that stuff linked and do you have a direct website or links for your tournament? Or we can just link back

Jake Daniele:

Yeah. Link to the smart page. There's always more we can work on and yeah, having a nice website is on the docket, that's on the plan.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Great. Alright, well I think that about does it. Sabumnim Jake, thank you so much for being here on whistlekick martial arts radio, had a lot of fun talking to you.



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Jake Daniele:

Thanks for having me, that's great.

Jeremy Lesniak:

Alright and I'm sure I'll see you soon.

Jake Daniele:

At the next tournament, you bet.