Thompkins Region 5 champion

Jimbo Thompkins captured the first place trophy in the Midwest Karate Regional tournament in Oklahoma City this past weekend.

The tourney which was sponsored by the Black Belt Karate Association and promoted by Jim Butin, rated number two in the world as a lightheavy weight, was for Region 5 in the country.

By winning Region 5, Thompkins is the champion from nine states, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, South and North Dakato and Minnesota.

Bob Boggs, Chief Instructor at Kenukan Academy in Olathe, cited two of his other students' performances.

"Terry Fish had to compete with men in the Kata (formal exercise) and placed seventh out of 17," Boggs said. "There wasn't a separate division for women so she went against the men in her first tournament. Most of the men were of higher ranking belts.

"Ken Walter hadn't competed in a year-and-a-half (since his third place finish in the 1976 Oklahoma tournament)," he added. "But he started his comeback with some hard fought matches that brought the crowd to their feet. Some of his fights were so exciting, some of the other fighting rings stopped to watch."