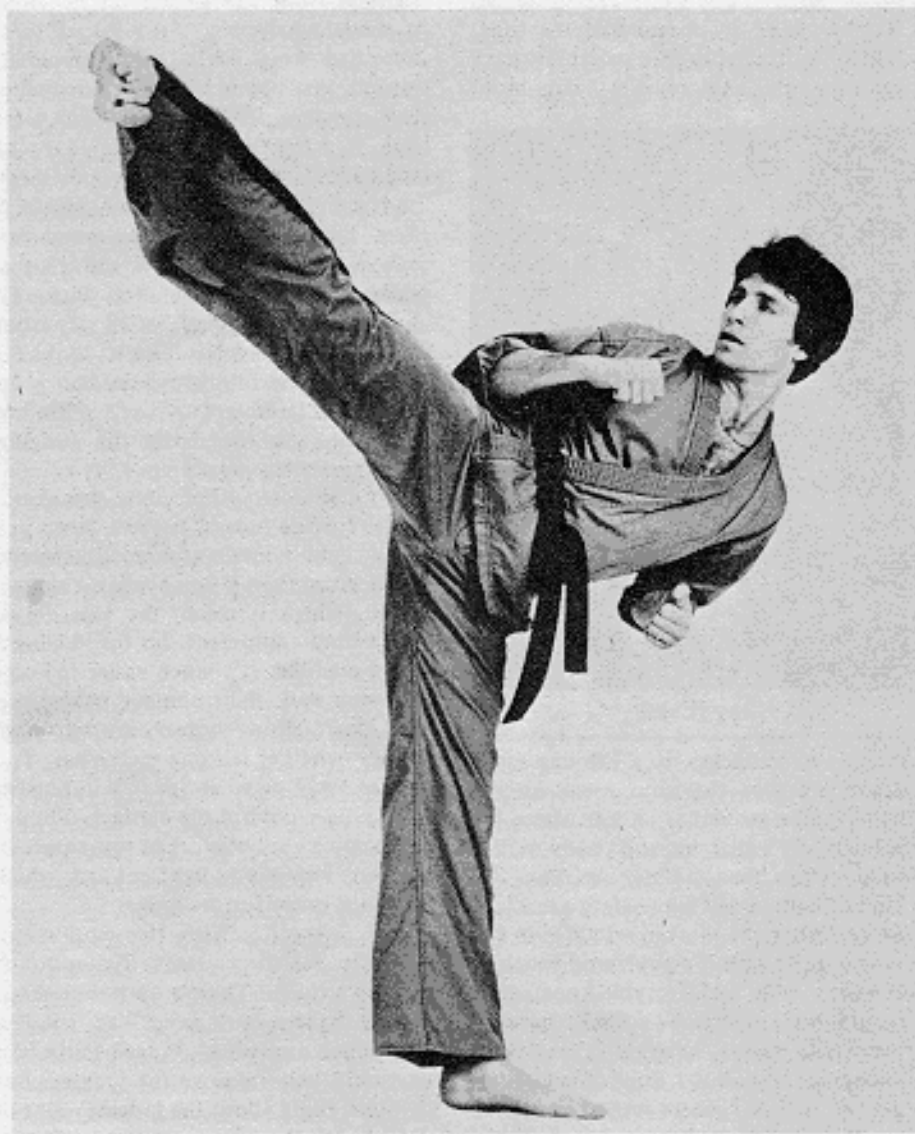


THE 1979 KARATE ILLUSTRATED COMPETITION RATINGS

TOP-RATED FIGHTERS FOR 1979

1. Keith Vitali, GA
2. Ray McCallum, TX
3. Jimmy "Gato" Tabares, TX
4. Robert Harris, GA
5. Steve Fisher, CA
6. John Longstreet, MN
7. Eddie "Flash" Newman, NV
8. Tony Pallmore, FL
9. Dan Anderson, OR
10. Mike Genova, SC
11. Harold "Scorpion" Burrage, IL
12. Al Francis, TX



KEITH VITALI

Keith Vitali was the 1979 Battle of Atlanta and Star Wars Grand Champion, an honor won by victories over James White, Jimmy Tabares, and Robert Harris. In the 1979 PKA Nationals in

Los Angeles, Vitali again took the Grand Championship with victories over Ray McCallum, Steve Fisher, and Eddie "Flash" Newman. As Grand Champion at the 1979 Greenville Open and Battle

of Champions, Vitali bested Mike Genova, Rory Bussey, Jarvis Suddreth and Gary Bassinger. At the Mid-America Diamond Nationals, Vitali lost a very close fight to Dan Anderson, taking second in lightweight. First-place victories in small tournaments included the Atlanta Pro-Am where Vitali defeated rival Bobby Tucker. In winning first-place lightweight at the Battle of Nashville, Vitali swamped Tony Bell and David Deaton.



Ray McCallum (right)

RAY McCALLUM

Ray McCallum was less active in point tournaments in 1979 and has been spending more of his time and energies in his budding full contact career. Though his point fights have been fewer, so have his losses been less frequent. McCallum won the middleweight division at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Nationals by defeating Mike Genova. In this tournament McCallum lost the Grand Championship to Steve Fisher in an accumulated points situation in which the two did not fight off but were awarded the total number of points each had scored during the day. He was Grand Champion of the U.S. Nationals in Texas, took second place at the PKA Nationals by defeating Robert Harris and Bobby Tucker, and claimed first place in middleweight at the U.S. Karate Championships, while taking third place in middleweight at the Mid-America Diamond Nationals. McCallum might be said to be over-rated, but most of those who have seen him compete