

Transition from 1st degree to 2nd degree.

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After testing for my 1st degree black belt I knew that my journey to 2nd degree black belt would be a long and tough one. So my journey began in summer camp 2006 in Flagstaff, Arizona after testing in front of Grandmaster Hee IL Cho, Master Darcy, and Master Ameris. Each of the classes was at least 1 hour to 2 hours each day. By the last couple of days I was so sore I could barely walk, but I toughed it out.

After returning from summer camp I went from the kid's class to the adult class. My mom told me that it would be harder, but I was up to the challenge. Each day I trained in the adult class, the harder it seems to me. I felt like stopping, but after a couple weeks it felt as normal as the kid's class.

The adult class is a faster pace than the kid's class. At the end of each class my muscles hurt more than before. 2007 was a totally different year. A couple of weeks later I begged my mom to let me do the grappling class. My mom let me join it. So I did the class every time I could come. Also in every class I learn something new each time by Mr. Rivera who is a phenomenal grappling teacher. Then one day Mr. Farrell asked my mom to help on the judging

panel and ask me to come in to help spar some people. For almost all the tests, I came to help out.

Then there was winter camp in Honolulu, Hawaii. In the five day camp we went over forms, one steps, and the new curriculum. In those five days I learned a lot. There was also a very big international test there. I could not test because I have to wait two years, and my time was not up. So I sat back and watched the test and thought of what I can do for my test. After that we came back and Cho's Tae Kwon Do New Mexico started the new curriculum. The new curriculum had interesting techniques. Also the test times changed again. In my own opinion, the testing schedule works well for everyone. I also look forward to be tested on my Bo staff form; because this is the first time I will be tested.

When turning 13 I was a lot different. I was more determined, focused, and self confidence towards Tae Kwon Do. Before I was 13, I was becoming lazy, and was out of it. When I was sick I thought about it and that my 2nd degree test was coming up fast. I was getting somewhat nervous, because I have not tested in 2 years. So I trained even harder now because I wanted to be the best in the test. So for the past couple months I tried to give it 110% or better. Now I am ready to become a 2nd degree black belt.