

Wesley Edwards – Double National Champion



Five students from D'Arbonne Martial Arts Training Center in Farmerville traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico to compete in the United States Karate Alliance National Championships over the weekend of April 16th through the 19th. Competition was extremely fierce featuring invited competitors from all across the United States. (Nationals is a "by invitation" event, so all competitors must prequalify). Pictured are (from left to right) Brantley Turnage – 1st place as member of 8 & 9 year old beginning Team Sparring, 3rd place 8 & 9 year old beginning girls Sparring; Kristin McPherson – 5th place 12 & 13 year old advanced Weapons; Sensei Rodney McPherson – 4th place Master's Black Belt Weapons, 4th place Master's Black Belt Forms; Allison Gilmore – 4th place Black Belt Women Weapons, 2nd place Black Belt Women Light Weight Sparring. Then we have Wesley Edwards who had his best tournament ever – 1st place in 14 & 15 year old Advanced Chanbara, 4th place in 14 & 15 year old Intermediate Forms, and 1st place in 14 & 15 year old Intermediate Sparring. Next year Wes will now be defending champion for both of these divisions. This was a long distance to travel and we are very proud of the good showing by our representatives. Many of the students at D'Arbonne Martial Arts Academy hope to continue our success at the USKA World Championships in New Orleans on July 30 through August 2, 2009.