

Corbin Daiber, 9, to become youngest Ki-Do black belt

Corbin Daiber of Highland will become the youngest ever Ki-Do Karate student to achieve the coveted rank of black belt.

At 9 years old, Corbin will receive the honor during the Ki-Do Karate black belt graduation ceremony from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Highland Knights of Columbus Hall.

Corbin has already dedicated five years to martial arts training and has excelled far beyond where 97 percent of children and adults give up.

Corbin is small in stature at 53 inches tall and 59 pounds but a giant where it matters most — in self-discipline and determination — his instructors say.

"Many times Corbin would have to practice his techniques against other students two or three times his body weight, but he did not let that get in his way," said senior instructor Zach Rakers.

Corbin not only held his own during normal practices and rank tests throughout the years, but he also is well on his way to completing the difficult tasks of black belt. The Ki-Do Karate black belt challenge is a 12-week test that challenges students day by day.

For students to reach the level of black belt, they must undergo a whole person transition: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

In an effort to help students achieve this state, students must complete 12 tests in areas ranging from responsibility and integrity to courage and from kindness and humility to mastery and

confidence

To achieve in in these area, they must:

- Keep an accurate and honest journal of progress daily to help reach the student's goal.
- Attend and participate fully in normal classes and earn required ranks. Black belt candidates are expected to set an excellent example in regular classes as other students look up to them as role models.
- Attend black belt classes weekly.
- Show respect and kindness toward others, especially instructors, teachers, parents, and family members.
- Perform a past kata blindfolded.
- Break two wooden boards with jump spin knife and switch spin side kick. A black belt is powerful and under complete control, especially when performing techniques.
- Defend against an instructor attacking with a knife.
- Perform a minimum of 1,500 push-ups in 12 weeks.
- Perform a minimum of 1,500 sit-ups or crunches in 12 weeks.
- Perform a minimum of 100 acts of kindness in 12 weeks. Acts of kindness do not include normal chores, responsibilities and/or expected behavior, such as cleaning your room, getting along with siblings and/or not arguing with parents.
- Perform a minimum of 12 service hours (acts over an hour) in 12 weeks. May be done for family, friends, charities and/or organiza-



YOUNGEST BLACK BELT — Corbin Daiber, 9, executes a jumping side-kick with senior instructor Zach Rakers. On Sunday, Corbin will become the youngest student in the history of Ki-Do Karate to earn a black belt.

tions, excluding Ki-Do Karate.

- Pass the written black belt exam.

When Corbin was asked what black belt meant to him, he said, "Doing fun drills, kicks and stuff. It is always making good decisions and helping others."

Ki-Do translates into English as "the way of inner strength." A true black belt in Ki-Do Karate practices perseverance in reaching goals, makes good decisions in everyday life and resists unhealthy peer pressure, Ki-Do official said.

Corbin has already had to make some tough choices, often giving up another fun activity to attend karate class.

But becoming a black belt is a family affair

for Corbin's family, as his father, mother and older sister have all achieved that status. In addition, Corbin has a younger brother and sister who hope to follow in his footsteps.

"We want to celebrate the achievement of a remarkable young man and educate the public on what a true black belt is all about," said Dave Daiber, who is the owner of Ki-Do Karate and a master instructor. "We hope his accomplishment and our event will help send a positive message to others, especially youth in our area. It is our hope and goal to change the public perception of what the martial arts are truly about.

"As our motto states, it is Ki-Do Karate's goal to 'change our community one black belt at a time.'"