

# SPORTSMAN IN FULL ARMOUR



ST MARYS koshiki expert Daryl Beahan contests his claim to a world title at the International Open Koshiki Karate Championships at Kyushu Island, Japan, on October 25.

Beahan is a first dan black belt in Budo Ryu karate and the 1998 state and national title-holder in the male lightweight division of koshiki, an offshoot of its sister sport.

He attended the world titles in Sydney last year and placed second in the International Super Martial Arts League and fourth in koshiki.

Beahan explained that koshiki, a hard contact tournament, is an optional competition to karate in which you wear bogu, a helmet and body armour.

"And we wear wetsuit gloves, not for protection but to keep the blood in," Beahan said.

"You only hit to the protected areas, so it's a very safe martial art competition although it doesn't lead to gradings as in karate.

"Rather, it's a chance to fight with people outside your own style, and it helps with my training and sparring technique."

At the senior level of competition, it's a full-contact sport but only to protected areas, Beahan said.

— ISABELL PETRINIC

ST MARYS KOSHIKI EXPERT DARYL BEAHAN