

SPORTS

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Browns linemen try kung fu

The Browns' defensive line may not be any better on the field in 1988, but it should be more equipped to handle problems in dark alleys.

For more than a month, the behemoths of the defense have been learning the kung fu style of the martial arts under the direction of **Don Niam**, a native of Akron. Niam thinks kung fu techniques can be applied to football.

He made the suggestion to **Dave Redding**, the strength coach. It got the approval of **Tom Pratt**, defensive line coach, and the lessons began at the team's fitness center.

"The first day, it was a somewhat confusing but it has gotten better and better," said Niam, who has been in this field for 15 years and has his own workout center in Akron. "It's a new way of executing power.

"They can feel the difference in the hits."

Nose tackle **Bob Golic**, former varsity wrestler at St. Joseph High School and Notre Dame, has been the most apt pupil.

"One of my strengths has been through wrestling techniques," he said. "Kung fu emphasizes leverage and body control. It should help keep the hands of the offensive linemen away from our jerseys."

■ Wide receiver **Brian Brennan**, captain of the winning fivesome the last two years, will defend his title in the Browns NFL Alumni golf tournament Monday at Akron's Firestone Country Club.

The field will include three of the Browns' Hall

of Fame players — **Lou Groza**, **Marion Motley** and **Paul Warfield**.

■ New York Yankees' boss **George Steinbrenner** brought his wife and some of his family home to Cleveland to see the weekend series and visit his mother. He is using **Art Modell's** loge and will take time out today to visit his dentist. He and the Browns' majority owner huddled at length during last night's game.

■ **Bill Horton**, who played with the old Cleveland Crusaders in the World Hockey Association in the 1970s, died recently of congestive heart failure in a Utica, N.Y., hospital at the age of 41.

■ **John Velotta** wanted to do something to fight cystic fibrosis after his young wife, **Patty**, died of the disease. So he organized a celebrity golf tournament, which was held Thursday at Pine Ridge Country Club. More than 200 people, including several Indians and Browns, participated. All funds go toward research of the disease.

■ **Chris Dudley**, the Cavs' backup center, had a busy day Thursday after returning from two weeks in South Africa where his mother is a teacher. The Yale graduate took part in the Velotta tournament and lectured at the Willoughby South and St. Ignatius basketball camps.

■ **Ron Harper** will be at today's invitational track meet at Medina High School. ... Cavs assistant coach **Dick Helm**, a longtime member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, will speak at the chapel service for both the Indians and Yankees tomorrow.

CHUCK HEATON

OFF THE CUFF
