



University of Birmingham Branch



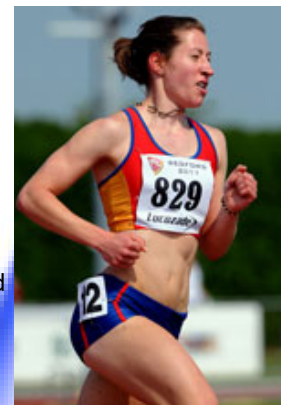
UBS Sport Scholarships Performance of the Month April 2011



Performance of the Month

In a weekend that saw Catherine Middleton crowned the Duchess of Cambridge and the future Queen of England, our own UBS Sports Scholars were out, busily earning their own titles. After a flurry of medals and the those all important point earning performances, the University of Birmingham finished the month second only to Loughborough in the BUCS league table, with an ever increasing lead over 3rd placed Leeds Met.

Sixty miles away from all the excitement of the Royal Wedding, at a Blustery track in Bedfordshire, Aprils Performance of the Month winner was preparing to be crowned BUCS Champion in the women's 1500m. Going through the first 400m in a modest 75.1, a group of five athletes, including UBS Scholar Alison Leonard, pulled away from the rest of the field with ease. At the bell five became three, and it wasn't until the final bend that Alison stamped her authority and dealt an extraordinary injection of pace that left the rest of the field in her wake. The third year Biology student powered home to victory in 4.24.86, almost 2 seconds clear of the second placed Loughborough athlete.



Other Notable Achievements

Athletics

Adding to Alison's Gold at the 2011 BUCS Track and Field Championships, was current VPS Julian Adeniran, who also stormed to the top of the podium in the men's 110mH. Fresher's Hannah Walker (Human Biology) and Caoimhe King (Law) both claimed silver in the women's 5000m and Triple Jump, respectively, while scholars Daniel Clorley (2nd year Business) and Simon Phelan (PhD Sports Coaching) were amongst Birmingham's bronze medalists in their events, the 1500m and the High Jump.

Despite a number of key players missing from the team, Birmingham fielded finalists across the board of events, and were rewarded for their efforts with an outstanding Women's team bronze. The men narrowly missed out on a medal and rounded off the weekend in 4th.

Cycling

April proved to be a very busy month for the Cycling team, who had three separate Championships to contest. First up was the 3 Up Team Time Trial, in which UBS Lionheart awardee, Xavier Disley, led his team to an unexpected silver medal.

The following weekend played host to the Individual 10mile TT in Oxford. UBS Scholar and third year Sport Ex student Ella Hopkins added an individual bronze medal to her ever growing collection of BUCS metalwear when she covered the course in 24mins45secs, just 15seconds off the top spot. Newly recruited TASS scholar Lara Nyman also produced an outstanding performance, finishing 5th in a time of 24mins57seconds. The girls combined performance landed them another BUCS title, Women's Team Champions. Xavier Disley was also back on his bike, finishing an agonizing 1second off the podium in 4th, in both the Individual and team categories.

To round off the month, a small team headed over to Cambridge for the 25mile TT Championships. In a similar turn of events Xavier finished a very credible 4th, only 15 seconds off the gold medal rider.

Rowing

In the 2011 BUCS Regatta, the UBS boat club contested high winds at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham. A gold medal came in the form of James Manfield in the men's intermediate single, while scholar Sarah Lonergan finished 5th in the Championships pair and 4th in both the

Championship single event and Championship Coxless 4. Third year medic Mark Jinks added to the clubs success with a 5th in the Championship single.

Equestrian Vaulting

Following a string of excellent performances, 2nd year Sport Materials student, Lucy Philips, has been selected to represent Great Britain at the European Championships in Le Mans, France, this August.

Rugby

The women's rugby union team narrowly missed out on the BUCS trophy title, when they took silver at the final match against Bath. Despite the absence of UBS rugby scholar Garnet Mackinder, the team fought well and the match ended with a agonisingly close 19-22 score. Unable to make the final, Garnet was however, instrumental in ensuring the team made the final over the course of the season.

Judo

Another scholar heading for International honors is Political Sciences undergraduate, Diego Scardone. Following his silver medal at BUCS in March, Diego has been selected as the reserve for the Great Britain Students team that will travel to Sarajevo, for the European University Judo Championships this coming June.

Alumni Watch

April was a busy month for our Graduate Scholar, Non Stanford. The former Sport Ex undergraduate started the month with a trip to Antalya, Turkey, for an ITU European Cup race, where in her first Olympic Distance triathlon of the season, she finished 7th. Despite a solid performance, Non admitted to being disappointed and added, "I got my race nutrition all wrong and didn't take on enough fuel during the race. I was working hard on the bike to keep the front group driving and had no energy left by the time we hit the 10km run". Determined to prove her form, Non then headed to Japan, for the ITU World Cup in Ishigaki. In a very strong field, Stanford produced the performance of her career to date to finish 10th.



Pictures from L-R: Caoimhe King, Ella Hopkins, Lucy Philips, Diego Scardone, Hannah Walker.

Please send any omissions, additions or corrections to Luke Gunn (l.s.gunn@bham.ac.uk)

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