



University of Birmingham Branch



UBS Sport Scholarships Performance of the Month December 2010 & January 2011



Performance of the Month

December

As 2010 drew to a close, and most people started relaxing for Christmas, our Scholars were still out competing around the world. However, there was one performance that stood out from the rest. In an England vs. Ireland Senior International boxing match, final year Sport Ex student, Tommy Langford, fought his way to an impressive 10-3 victory. Tommy set straight to work behind a solid lead hand, pushing through his oppositions tight guard and allowing the rear hand to come into play. 3-1 up, Tommy kept a tight guard in the second round throwing two powerful back hands and finishing 5-2 up. In the third, he worked behind an accurate piston-like attack, pushing his Irish contender around the ring and forcing him to hang on to survive. Following his success, Tommy was again selected to represent England, this time in an international clash with Scotland. Despite an excellent match Tommy missed out on victory to a member of the Scottish Commonwealth team.



January

January saw a quiet start to the year, with no BUCS championships being contested. However, one of our scholars received some fantastic news that would have seen her a strong candidate for the award during even our busiest months. Alice Sharp, 1st year Economics, won the prestigious UK Youth Hockey 2010 Player of the Year award. The young midfielder was plucked out of the Under-18 National programme and into the England Under-21 squad where her performances helped win a silver medal in the European championships, last summer.



The University of Birmingham head coach, Phil Gooderham, commented on Alice's fantastic achievement and said, "Alice slotted straight into the England team where she held her own playing in midfield against the other countries' best players. Alice has a great attitude, tremendous hand skills, eliminating players easily and rarely losing possession."

Other Notable Achievements

Cross Country

December played host to the 2010 European Cross Country Championships in Portugal with three of our scholars tackling the best that Europe has to offer. First up was 4th year Medic, Sara Treacy, who, representing Ireland, finished a very credible 28th in the U23 Women's race. In the U23 Men's race, Nick Goolab, 3rd year Maths, crossed the line in 25th for the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team. Unfortunately final year Sport Ex undergraduate, James Wilkinson had to retire from the race due to illness, just 2 weeks after an outstanding performance at the trial race in Liverpool, which suggested that he would be one of the favourites for European gold.

In the new year fresher Hannah Walker, Human Biology, earned herself an England vest for the Antrim International in Northern Ireland. Racing against a strong field that included the European Junior Champion and Commonwealth 10,000m Champion, Hannah finished an exceptional 8th.

Athletics

First year physio, Pamela Hughes, was crowned the Midland Champion in the high jump when she jumped 1.75m at the Birmingham NIA. Close behind in second was fellow fresher, Bethan Partridge, SPECS, who jumped 1.70m.

At the 2011 London Indoor Games, current VP of Sport, Julian Andeniran, ran a personal best of 7.93seconds in the 60m hurdles, to finish second, just 0.01seconds behind the winner. In a turn of events Bethan and Pamela both jumped well again to finish 1st and 3rd respectively.

At the 2010 Aviva Athletics Awards, Ed Aston, final year Maths, received an 'Excellent Achievement Award' after his debut Senior GB vest at the World Indoor Championships last March.

Lacrosse

Recent scholarship recruit, Alice Bruynseels, 2nd year medicine, has been selected to travel as part of the Senior England Lacrosse team in their upcoming tour of the states.

Swimming

Freshers Phil Hodgson, Sport Ex, and Alessandro Lazdins, Medical Sciences, travelled to the Geneva International this January, where, despite recently returning from a heavy block of training, performed very well against a high quality line up. Both contested a number of events, with Phil reaching finals in the 400m Freestyle and 200m Individual Medley, and narrowly missing qualification for a top 8 spot in the 100m Butterfly.

Alumni Watch

The 2003 Geography and Geology graduate, James Fair, has been named in the International Hockey Federation All Stars team 2010 after his exceptional performance at the XIX Commonwealth Games as the England goalkeeper. The team, which feature a total of 36 players and four coaches who have lit up the hockey world with their achievements over the past 12 months, has been compiled using the recommendations and opinions of hockey experts from across the globe including players, officials, coaches and journalists.

Biochemistry graduate, Hannah England was also recognized at the 2010 Aviva Athletics Awards, when she received the 'Outstanding Achievement Award' following her excellent performances at a collection of International Championships last year. While UBS coach, Bud Baldaro, won the prestigious 'Coach of the Year' award in recognition of his outstanding reputation and achievement as a distance expert.

At the European Cross Country Championships, Sport Ex graduate, Sarah Waldron, was part of the victorious GB U23 Women's team, when she finished a very promising 21st, while fellow Sport Ex graduate, Phil Nichols, and French & English graduate, Frank Tickner, finished 18th and 48th respectively in the Senior Men's category.



Pictures from left to right: Phil Hodgson, Hannah Walker, Pamela Hughes, Bethan Partridge, Sara Treacy, Ed Aston.

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

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