



University of Birmingham Branch



UBS Sport Scholarships Performance of the Month February 2011



Performance of the Month

February saw a real flurry of BUCS activity with Championships being contested and qualifying matches being played. It was a great month for UB Sport, who now lie 3rd in the overall BUCS league table, with a number of points coming in from our Sport Scholars.

With both the Cross Country and Indoor Athletics Championships being run this month, the Athletics and Cross Country club, as ever, represented the University well and brought home a good deal of BUCS silver wear. Leading the charge for the club was this month's recipient of the Performance of the Month award, Nick Goolab (3rd year Mathematics). Utilising a home advantage, Nick charged home to Birmingham's first BUCS Cross Country victory since 2007, claiming individual honours in the Men's Long race. After a conservative start, Nick pushed through the field and took to the front with only 2 athletes from the 250 strong field capable of living with his incessant pace. In the most exciting finish of the day, Goolab unleashed a devastating sprint finish to claim his first BUCS title by a margin of 3 seconds, leading his team to the top of the podium at the same time.



Other Notable Achievements

Cross Country

In addition to Nick's outstanding victory, Birmingham were by far the stand out team at the 2011 BUCS Championships. The red, blue and gold army were out in force on home soil and secured three team medals in addition to four individual podium spots. In the Men's Long race, 3rd year Sport Ex student, James Wilkinson, claimed the bronze medal to help secure Gold ahead of reigning champions, St. Mary's.

In the Women's race, the scholar duo of Hannah Walker (1st year Biology) and Sara Treacy (4th year Medicine) finished 5th and 6th respectively, taking the team silver just behind Loughborough.

The Men's Short race was almost a repeat of the Long race earlier in the day, with Birmingham's Carl Smith (3rd year Sport Ex) taking the win, and Dan Clorley (2nd year Business Studies) bringing home the bronze. Unfortunately their efforts were not enough to secure another team victory, but a very credible silver behind the ever strong St Mary's was well received by all.

A few weeks later, some of our scholars once again took to the country to contest the National Cross Country Championships in Alton Towers, in some of the most treacherous conditions ever reported. In the Junior Women's race, Hannah Walker had another outstanding run to finish 2nd, while track specialist Dan Clorley finished 11th in the Junior Men's section. In the senior race, James Wilkinson battled through the mud to finish a very credible 21st.

Athletics

Captained by this term's Lion Heart awardee, Michael Sweeney (3rd year Sport and Material Science), the Birmingham University Athletics club headed to Sheffield for their second BUCS Championships of the month, the Indoor Championships. Inspired from the endeavours of their cross country counterparts, the red, blue and gold contingent rallied well as a team and finished 3rd in both the men and women's team categories; the best result produced by the university in a number of years.

Individual honours we're not sparse with Gold medal performances from Sara Treacy in the 1500m, Bethan Partridge (1st year SPECS) in the High Jump, and current VPS, Julian Adeniran, in the 60m Hurdles. Further medals came from Simon Phelan (PhD Sports Coaching) and Pamela Hughes (1st year Physio) who both won bronze medals in the High Jump, and Nick Crutchley (3rd year Sport and Materials Science) who also took 3rd in the Pole Vault.

After a silver medal performance at the UK U23 Indoor Multi-Event Championships, Michael Sweeney has been selected to represent Great Britain in an international match against France in March. This will be Michael's first international honours.

Swimming

February also played host to the BUCS Long Course Swimming Championships in Sheffield. With great team spirit and weeks of hard work, the Swimming team produced their best ever result to finish 6th overall. In a meet that included the likes of Olympic Gold Medallist, Rebecca Adlington, our scholars also performed well individually. Alessandro Lazdins (1st year Medical Sciences) finished 8th in the 800m Freestyle, while Phil Hodgson finished a very credible 12th in the 1500m.

Boxing

Final year Sport Ex student Tommy Langford has had another busy month in the boxing ring. In an England vs. GB match, Tommy fought exceptionally well for the English contingency, very narrowly missing out on victory. Later on in the month, Tommy entered the ring once again this time coming out on top, beating the 2x British Youth Champion. He has now qualified for the Midland Finals which he will contest in March.

Badminton

The Munro played host to the first round of the BUCS knockout competition last month. In a head to head with Southampton that would decide the qualifier for the Quarter finals, captain and Sports Scholar, James Lauder (2nd year Sport and Materials Science) won both sets (21-4, 21-2) with his partner Andy Wainwright, in the Doubles match.

Hockey

The Women's firsts safely made it through to the semi-finals of the BUCS knockout competition after defeating Oxford University 7-0. First half goals came from scholars Alice Sharpe (1st year Economics) and Sarah Page (2nd year Geography), but the game belonged to Sophie Bray (3rd year Psychology), who put away 4 goals in the second half securing victory for Birmingham.

Alumni Watch

Our athletics alumni have also had a successful month. Biochemistry graduate, Hannah England, went to 5th on the UK Indoor all time rankings list at the Birmingham AVIA Grand Prix, when she ran a superb 4.07.15 in the 1500m.

At the National Cross Country Championships, Sport Ex graduate, Jon Pepper, had an outstanding race to finish 5th, showing a return to the form he displayed whilst a Sports Scholar at Birmingham.



Pictures from L-R: James Wilkinson, Tommy Langford, Bethan Partridge, Sara Treacy, Sophie Bray, James Lauder.

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

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