



University of Birmingham Branch



UBS Sport Scholarships Performance of the Month May 2011



Performance of the Month

May always marks the beginning of the Athletics outdoor season, and with so many of our scholars specialising in track and field disciplines, it also marks the start of a busy and often exciting few months for UBSport. After a successful BUCS Outdoor Athletics Championships, three Birmingham scholars were selected to represent British Universities at the prestigious Loughborough International. This annual event often attracts some of the country's top athletes as they set about starting their summer campaign, and this year was no different with the likes of World Champion Jessica Ennis and World Silver medallist Lisa Dobriskey lining up to compete.

Amongst the Birmingham athletes selected to race was current Vice President of Sport, Julian Adeniran. After taking gold at both the BUCS indoor, and more recently outdoor Championships, in the sprint hurdles event, Julian continued his fine form this season to again take victory. Storming to a new wind assisted PB of 13.72, Julian clinched the title from the second placed athlete by just .07 seconds, and at the same time earned himself the UBSport May Performance of the Month.



Other Notable Achievements

Athletics

Other Birmingham Scholars flying the flag for BUCS at the 2011 Loughborough International included fresher Hannah Walker (Human Biology) who contested the 3000m, and Pamela Hughes (1st year Physiotherapy) who finished an excellent 4th in a high jump event won by current Heptathlon World Champion, Jessica Ennis. In addition International honors were awarded to Bethan Partridge (1st year SPECS) in the High Jump and Sport Scholarships Manager, Luke Gunn in the 5000m, in the form of England senior vests.

The athletics scholars continued to impress a week later at the BMC Grand Prix event in Manchester's Sport City. An event specifically designed to help middle distance athletes run fast times, it attracts many of the country's top athletes, all in pursuit of those elusive Championship qualifying standards. With the European U23 Championships this year the Birmingham contingent were out in force and capitalised on the opportunity coming home with 4 qualifying times between them. Daniel Clorley (2nd year Business Studies) gained the 1500m standard when he ran 3.42.66, while James Wilkinson took the 5000m standard with a 14.04. On the women's side, both Lauren Howarth (3rd year Medicine) and Hannah Walker gained the 5000m time when they ran 15.51.49 and 16.06.93 respectively. The quartet will now look to the National Championships in June where they will hope to book their flights to the Europeans in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

On the same weekend, Dean Miller (3rd year SPECS) competed at the Paralympic World Cup in Manchester. Representing Great Britain, Dean contested the T36/37 800m and finished a very promising 6th in a PB time of 2.12.92. Dean will now set his sights on qualifying for the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

Rowing

After a solid performance at the recent BUCS regatta, Sarah Lonergan (1st year Law) has been selected to represent British Universities at the European University Sports Association (EUSA) Rowing Championships in Moscow at the end of the summer.

In disability rowing, Physics Sports Bursary recipient, Pamela Relph, secured her seat in the GB A boat heading for the World Cup in Munich after her outstanding performance at the trials. Competing in the adaptive mixed coxed 4, Pamela and her crew were undefeated for the duration of the regatta, clinching gold in the final and returning to the UK Champions.

Boxing

Final year Sport Ex student, Tommy Langford Captained the Senior England team that travelled to Canada this month in order to test themselves against the strong Canadian Olympic squad. Tommy, who was up against the Pan American medalist and Commonwealth and World Championship representative, fought well and only narrowly missed victory in both matches that he contested. Finishing on scores of 16-15 and 19-16, Tommy impressed the English coaches, who felt that he deserved the nod over his Canadian counterpart.

Alumni Watch

2010 Applied Golf Management Studies graduate, Lucy Williams, recently won the 2011 English Women's Amateur Golf Championships, defeating her nearest rival on the 19th hole in an outstanding final. Coming from one down on the 16th hole, Lucy snatched the title with a finish of birdie, eagle, birdie, and commenting after her victory said, "I'm so happy, shocked and over the moon! It was a brilliant match".

Sport Materials graduate and Sport Scholarship Manager, Luke Gunn, recently returned from racing at the IAAF World Challenge meet, in Rabat, Morocco. In his first outing over his preferred track event, the 3000m Steeplechase, Luke produced a brave performance against some of the World's best, despite suffering with illness in the days leading up to the race. He will now turn his attention to the European Team Championships in Stockholm, Sweden, where representing Great Britain & NI, he hopes to gain the qualification mark for this year's World Championships in Daegu, Korea.

Sport Scholarship assistant and recent Sport Ex graduate, Non Stanford, continued her good form this season, by finishing 20th at the ITU World Triathlon Cup in Monterrey, Mexico. After a string of good performances this year, Stanford has now been selected to represent Great Britain at the Senior European Triathlon Championships in Pontevedra, Spain.



Pictures from L-R: Daniel Clorley, Tommy Lanford, Sarah Lonergan, James Wilkinson, Hannah Walker.

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

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