



## Media Release

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### GREAT BRITAIN WIN TWO SILVER MEDALS ON FINAL DAY OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Craig Fallon and Karina Bryant have won silver medals for Great Britain on the final day of the World Judo Championships in Osaka, Japan.

Craig Fallon, the youngest member of the British Squad, won the silver medal in the –60kg weight category. At just twenty years old, he adds the World Championship silver medal to his 2002 Commonwealth title and European medal wins this year. These include silver at the European Championships and gold at the prestigious Paris Super A Tournament, where he became only the second British man in history to bring home the title.

Throughout his pool round, Fallon looked superior, winning fights against Scott Fernadis of Australia, Sjarhei Novikau of Bulgaria and Nam Chol Pak of the Peoples Republic of Korea. In the semi-final he met Oliver Gussenberg of Germany, where Fallon triumphed in the final seconds. In the final he lost to Min-Ho Choi of Korea by Ippon.

Karina Bryant's silver medal in the Women's Open category is her second win this Championships, having scooped the bronze medal on the first day of the tournament in the –78kg category. The twenty four year old has a history of success in this category at the World Championships, having won the bronze in 1999 and her first silver in 2001.

As a top five placing in Japan secures a place for the Olympics, Craig's result will automatically qualify Great Britain in this weight category for Athens. This joins the places qualified by Georgina Singleton in the –60kg, Kate Howey MBE in the –70kg and Karina Bryant in the +78kg earlier in the tournament.

Scott McCarthy, Chief Executive of British Judo said, "An outstanding finish to this World Championships with two silver medals on the last day.

"Craig Fallon is improving every day and no challenge seems to be too tough for this phenomenal young fighter. To earn a silver medal at the Worlds at this young age is quite a feat - and we will continue to watch Fallon's career closely and hope to see an Olympic medal in Athens".

"Karina adds a silver to her previously earned bronze, which concretes her reputation as one of the most consistent performers in big events over the past 5 years. She is peaking at the right time in the run up to Athens - there is little doubt if she remains healthy she is a very serious medal prospect."

"We have qualified four places for Athens and this is a good start toward our target. We look forward to building on this through the European A Tournament season next year".

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## **Note to Editors**

Craig Fallon's silver medal is the best result for the British Men's team since Graham Randall won the World Championship title in 1999.

Craig Fallon is from Wolverhampton. His personal coach is Fitzroy Davies from Hardy Spicer Judo Club in Birmingham. He is a full time resident of the National Judo Academy at Bisham Abbey.

Karina Bryant is from Camberley. Her personal coach is Mark Earle from Camberley Judo Club.

Great Britain finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the medals table out of the 97 countries competing.

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