



8<sup>th</sup> June 2006

### **Young judo players part of first ever British training camp in Cuba**

Seventeen young judo players will travel to Havana this month to take part in British Judo's first ever training camp in Cuba.

The camp, which has been supported by UK Sport both financially and through their memorandum of agreement with Cuba, is part of British Judo's preparation for the Junior World Championships, which take place in the Dominican Republic from 12-15 October.

The seventeen young players range in age from 16-19 years old and are all members of the Great Britain junior national squad.

Whilst in Havana the young athletes will take part in judo sessions every day with many of the top junior and senior Cuban players. With Cuba being one of the strongest judo nations in the world – winning six Olympic medals in Athens – this experience will prove to be invaluable. The young Brits will also undertake physical strength and conditioning training on a daily basis.

It will be the first long haul training camp for many of the young team but Head of Delegation, Kate Howey, is well aware of the importance of training camps such as this, having won two Olympic medals and a World title during her career, "Cuba is one of the top judo nations in the World – the benefit this camp will have to these players will be immense", she said.

"An added benefit to holding the camp in Cuba will be the experience of acclimatising to the Caribbean heat and humidity. This will be important to those selected for the squad, which will travel to the Dominican Republic for the Junior World Championships."

In April, also as part of UK Sport's memorandum of agreement, Britain hosted the Cuban team who travelled to Birmingham to compete in the inaugural GB World Cup.

#### **For further information or photographs:**

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**Women:**

Category :	Selected:	Home Town	Club
-48kg	CHARLOTTE FARBON	Reading	Pinewood JC
-48kg	SINEAD ROTHWEL	London	Moberley JC
-52 kgs	KIMBERLEY RENICKS	Coatbridge	
-57kg	REBECCA DUNNING	Telford	Wolverhampton JC
-63kg	LAUREN BAVERSTOCK	St Albans	JSC JC
- 63 kgs	KATE WALKER	Kidderminster	Samurai JC
-70kg	SALLY CONWAY	Bristol/Edinburgh	Edinburgh JC
-70 kgs	GEMMA GIBBONS	London	Metro JC
+ 78 kgs	ABBIE CUNNINGHAM	Warrington	Warrington JC

**Men:**

-55kg	ASHLEY MCKENZIE	London	Willesden JC
- 60kgs	NATHON BURNS	Blackburn	Wolverhampton University
-60kg	RUSSEL PARKER	Stoke on Trent	Camberley JC
- 66kgs	MARCUS BASCOMBE	Poole	University of Bath
-66kg	JEAN-RENE BADRICK	London	Willesden JC
-73kgs	JEROME ROBINSON-REID	London	Willesden JC
- 81 kgs	VINCENT SKILLCORN	Portsmouth	Camberley JC
- 100 kgs	LUKE HUGHES	Huddersfield	Wolverhampton