



Media Release

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Kate Howey finishes fifth after injury at World Championships

Olympic medallist, Kate Howey MBE has finished fifth at the World Judo Championships in Japan, after pulling out of the fight for the bronze medal due to a knee injury.

Although she did not win a medal, her performance at the Championships, on the second day of the tournament, guarantees Great Britain's place in the –70kg category for the Athens 2004 Olympics.

Kate put in convincing performances during the first round of the competition, beating Anett Meszaros of Hungary, and then Silvia Schlagnitwett of Austria, Dongya Qin of China and Adriana Dadci of Poland all by Ippon.

The wins took her into the semi final where she faced tough Cuban, Regla Zulueta. It was during this bout that Kate sustained a knee injury in the final minute, and then conceded due to injury in the last 12 seconds. Kate's injury left her unable to fight Annett Bohm of Germany for the bronze medal leaving her in the fifth place position.

As a top five placing in Japan secures a place for the Olympics, Kate's result will automatically qualify Great Britain in this weight category for Athens. Yesterday, Karina Bryant got the bronze medal in the +78kg weight category.

Scott McCarthy, Chief Executive of British Judo said: "Kate has once again performed at a supremely difficult competition to secure a fifth place and qualify the place for Great Britain in Athens.

After a difficult year in which she was hit by nagging injuries it is the mark of a true champion to respond in style at the World Championships. It is terribly disappointing that Kate was denied the opportunity to fight for the Bronze after a knee injury in the semi finals.

Kate has shown she can overcome adversity and we look forward to more key medals from this great player - who has been of the most consistent elite players in the world over the past ten years."

Note to Editors

Also competing today were Winston Gordon in the Men's –90kg category, Euan Burton in the –81kg and Karen Roberts in the Women's – 63kg category. Karen Roberts won a tough first fight but lost to Olympic medallist, Gella Vandecayeye. Unfortunately the Belgium was beat in her next fight, which left Karen out of the repechage round.

Winston Gordon narrowly missed qualifying the Olympic place. He won against Eduardo Costa of Argentina with an Ippon in the fourth minute, against Maxim Rakov of Kazakhstan and against Gerhard Dempf of Germany with an Ippon after 1 minute 22 seconds. However, he lost his final fight against Francesco Lepre of Italy to go out of the Championships. A win in this fight would have also qualified the place.



Still to come:

Saturday:

Women's

-57kg (competing for Great Britain - Natalie Barry)

-52kg (competing for Great Britain – Georgina Singleton)

Men's

-73kg (competing for Great Britain – Matthew Purssey)

-66kg (competing for Great Britain – David Somerville)

Sunday:

Women's

Open (competing for Great Britain – Karina Bryant)

Men's

-60kg (competing for Great Britain – Craig Fallon)

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