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CRAIG FALLON BECOMES WORLD JUDO CHAMPION

Craig Fallon has today become World Champion at the 2005 World Judo Championships taking place in Cairo, Egypt.

His gold medal in the men's –60kg weight category, on the last day of the Championships, makes him only the third British male to achieve a World Championship title, following in the footsteps of Neil Adams MBE who took the title in 1981, and Graeme Randall in 1999.

The 23 year old dominated the competition in the preliminary rounds beating Arturo Cenicerros of Mexico, Gal Yekutieli of Israel, and Egusa Tatsuaki of Japan. In the semi final he triumphed over Salamat Utarbeyev of Kazakhstan before meeting Ludwig Paischer of Austria in a tense final, with Fallon winning the match with a yuko (five point score).

The result for Fallon, who trains at the Hardy Spicer 83 Judo Club in Wolverhampton, tops his other great successes, which include silver at the 2003 World Championships in the Japan, and gold at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

Also today Karina Bryant won silver in the Women's Open weight category, her sixth World Championship medal. The 26 year old Brit was disappointed not to clinch the gold, losing only to Midori Shintani of Japan in the final.

The silver is the second to come from Bryant at the Championships, having also placed 2nd in the Women's +78kg weight category on Friday.

Colin McIver, Performance Director said, "Craig Fallon has become our first World Champion in six years and has achieved what only two British men have accomplished before him. This is an outstanding result, a title that proves his talent, and comes after a great deal of hard work. We will see a lot more things in the future from this exceptionally talented young athlete.

"In addition Karina Bryant has yet again delivered on a World stage, winning two silver medals. She is undoubtedly one of the top heavy weight female judo players in the World".

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