



t: 01509 631 692
f: 01509 631 690
e: emmareed@britishjudo.org.uk

10 May 2004

British Judo head to Europe for last Olympic qualifying event

The British Judo team will compete at the European Championships in Bucharest from the 14-16 May knowing that it is the last opportunity for some to secure their Olympic place for Athens.

Four British places are already secure from results achieved by Craig Fallon, Georgina Singleton, Kate Howey and Karina Bryant at the 2003 World Championships. However, in the categories not automatically qualified, the European Championships mark the end of a gruelling European Olympic qualifying season, which has seen the players attend tournaments in nine countries.

With the top nine men and top five women in Europe within each weight category claiming a spot for Athens, results at each qualifying tournament have provided vital ranking points. The European Championships is the last qualifying tournament and perhaps the most crucial as it provides double points for 2nd-9th place, or automatic Olympic qualification for those picking up a gold medal.

Sophie Cox, currently sitting 3rd in the Women's -57kg weight category, looks the most secure from those British players still looking for qualification. For four others it hinges on both their own and their European counterparts performances in Bucharest.

Winston Gordon (Men's -90kg) and Rachel Wilding (Women's -78kg) sit just inside the qualification zone and need to retain their position by performing equal or better than those below them. Sarah Clark (Women's -63kg) and James Warren (Men's -66kg) currently sit just outside contention and are likely to need a medal place position.

Georgina Singleton and Karina Bryant are also present in the squad, which heads out to the Romanian capital on Wednesday.

Commenting Udo Quellmalz, Performance Director of British Judo said: "This is no doubt the most important European qualifying tournament for us, as it will be the decider on how many places we qualify for Athens.

"The double points up for grabs mean that everything can change in Bucharest. We are in strong positions in many categories, but it is important that we perform well in order to protect what has been achieved so far. For those still looking to get into a qualifying position, the points available provide an ideal opportunity to move right up the rankings and clinch a place."



t: 01509 631 692
f: 01509 631 690
e: emmareed@britishjudo.org.uk

The full team line up with weight category is as follows:

Men's Squad

-60kg John Buchanan
-66kg James Warren
-73kg Matthew Purssey
-81kg Euan Burton
-90kg Winston Gordon

Women's Squad

-52kg Georgina Singleton
-57kg Sophie Cox
-63kg Sarah Clark
-70kg Karen Roberts
-78kg Rachel Wilding
+78kg Karina Bryant

The Team GB Judo Squad will be announced at a press conference in London on 20th May.

Please contact Emma Reed for further information.

For further information:

Emma Reed
Public Relations Officer
British Judo
Tel: 01509 631 692
Mobile: 07702 882951
emmareed@britishjudo.org.uk
www.britishjudo.org.uk