



Media Release

11 September 2003

KARINA WINS BRONZE AND SECURES PLACE FOR ATHENS

Karina Bryant has today won Great Britain's first medal in the 2003 World Judo Championships taking place in Osaka, Japan. Her bronze medal, on the opening day of the tournament, also guarantees Great Britain's place in the +78kg category for the Athens 2004 Olympics.

In the opening round, Karina won her first two fights against Lucija Polavder of Slovenia and Ahlem Azzabi of Tunisia. She lost the third fight to current Olympic Champion, Fuming Sun. The Chinese fighter went on to win the Gold medal.

The result against Fuming Sun took her into the repechage round where she beat Belkis Kaya of Turkey with a good throw, and Françoise Hartevelde of Netherlands in the repechage final.

In the fight for the bronze medal, Bryant convincingly triumphed against Daima Beltran of Cuba with an Ippon with just 30 seconds left on the clock.

Scott McCarthy, Chief Executive of British Judo said, "This is an outstanding result for Karina and British Judo. She fought four players ranked in the top five in the World along the way and once again Karina has saved her best for the highest-level competition.

"To open up the tournament with a medal will set the example and take some of the pressure off our other fighters. I expect to see much more positive news from this outstanding young fighter both in the Open category and in the Athens Olympics."

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