



## Media Release

18<sup>th</sup> August 2003

### British Judo announce World Championship Squad

British Judo has today announced its squad for the World Judo Championships taking place in Osaka, Japan from 11-14 September.

The players will travel to Japan knowing success here means automatic qualification for Athens 2004. Qualification rules mean that this is the only event in the International Judo calendar that allows automatic qualification for the Olympics. In Japan, the top five men and top five women for each weight category will secure their place at the Games.

After the World Championships, qualification is determined by performances at a series of "A" Tournaments running up to and including the European Championships in May 2004.

Commenting Udo Quellmalz, Performance Director of British Judo said: 'This will be one of the most important competitions for British Judo since Sydney 2000. We are going to Japan to bring back medals and also qualify as many players for Athens as possible. Once it is over the players will have two weeks rest and then it's into serious Olympic build up.'

Quellmalz is confident that the British team can achieve a high number of automatic qualification places at the Championships.

"Ideally I would like the British team to come back with seven Olympic places" he said.

There are high hopes for the team despite the championships being held in Asia, home to many of the World's most skilled Judo players. Over 700 players will compete in the event, which will see Great Britain up against some of the strongest Judo teams in the World, including Korea, Japan, France and Russia.

"There is no doubt that this will be a tough tournament for us. Not only is Japan one of our toughest competitors but they will also have the home team advantage. However we have a very strong team, which will stand amongst the best in the world."

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

#### Men's Squad

-60kg - Craig Fallon  
-66kg - David Somerville  
-73kg - Matthew Purssey  
-81kg - Euan Burton  
-90kg - Winston Gordon

#### Women's Squad

-52kg - Georgina Singleton  
-57kg - Sophie Cox  
-63kg - Karen Roberts  
-70kg - Kate Howey MBE  
-78kg - Rachel Wilding  
+78kg & Open - Karina Bryant

cont/...



The team will depart for Japan on the 4<sup>th</sup> September to spend six days preparing for the event in Osaka.

Note to Editors

To request interviews or profiles of the players please contact Emma Reed.

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