



PRESS RELEASE

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KEARNEY WINS BRONZE AT COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Team NI has secured its first medal on the opening day of competition at the Commonwealth Games, when Lisa Kearney clinched Bronze in the women's -52kg judo category.

The Belfast judoka beat Canadian Audree Francis-Methot, forcing submission from her opponent with 32 seconds of the contest remaining.

Earlier in the day, Sport Northern Ireland supported athlete Kearney beat South African number one Sinothanda Mva in her quarter-final but lost to England's Kelly Edwards in the semi-finals.

"I'm delighted to win the medal and the first in judo since Lisa Bradley twelve years ago and so happy to win the first for Northern Ireland at these Games. Hopefully this will give my judo team mates a wee boost and the rest of Team Northern Ireland. It's very special to get the first one," said Kearney afterwards.

Aileen Reid also shone on an international stage on the first day of competition when she claimed sixth spot in the triathlon. Competing at Strathclyde Country Park, the 32 year-old Derry woman led the group throughout and only fell behind in the closing three kilometres, finishing 50 seconds behind the winner – her training partner – Jodie Stimpson of England.

Commenting after the race, Reid said: *"I'm pleased that I gave everything that I had. Maybe I could have squeezed a bit more out. I died a little bit on the second lap of the run going down the hill when my leg started cramping. I didn't know whether to keep pushing and risk falling over myself. I pulled back a little bit and managed to stay running and stay on my feet. I can't turn my nose up at finishing sixth in the Commonwealth Games. The girls that were there today were world class."*

Sycerika McMahon missed out a place in Friday's final of the 50m breaststroke by 4 hundredths of a second. She finished fifth in the semi-final in a time of 31.56 and was ninth overall.

Gemma Kane was eighth in her semi-final in a time of 1:02.74 and was 16th overall while Jordan Sloan was also eighth in his semi-final of the 100m backstroke (16th overall) but set a personal best of 57:03 - the fourth PB for Northern Ireland swimmers on day 1.



The women's 4x100m freestyle relay squad (Sycerika McMahon, Bethany Firth, Rachel Bethel and Danielle Hill) were 8th in the final in a time of 3:52.88. Australia won the gold.

One of the youngest athletes on Northern Ireland's 116-strong Commonwealth Games squad, 14-year old Danielle Hill, came 20th in the Women's 200m freestyle heats earlier in the day. *"It was a very strong swim. I think I went a little fast but I'm still learning. I'm hoping to progress and be even better for my main events," she said.*

Squash player Madeline Perry beat Zambian opponent Sharon Chimfwembe in her round of 32 match to make the Ladies Squash round of 16. Perry won 11-3, 11-2, 11-4 within eight minutes. She will now compete against Australian Kasey Brown tomorrow. Brown ended Perry's hopes in agonising fashion at the 2010 quarter-finals in Delhi.

In Badminton, Sinead Chambers and Caroline Black lost their doubles match in the mixed team badminton. Tony Murphy and Tony Stephenson lost their badminton men's doubles match against Peter Mills of England and Chris Langridge of England in their opening Group F tie in the mixed team event at Emirates Arena.

Commenting after the match, Tony Murphy said: *"It is amazing. I have been waiting several years to represent Northern Ireland at the Games so it has been great."*

Alannah Stephenson lost her women's singles match in three games in the opening group F tie in the badminton mixed team event at Emirates Arena.

Alannah said: *"I'm really happy with the way I played but I'm disappointed that I couldn't finish it off in the third. I was a wee bit nervous at the start but I think I grew into it. I don't know if that was the best I've played but it was one of my bigger performances."*

Earlier today the Men's Lawn Bowls Triples Team (Paul Daly, Neil Mulholland, Neil Booth) was successful, securing a win against Kenya, 21-13. The Men's Triples took on the Cook Islands and secured a win of 17-15, while the Women's 4s were beaten 18-4 by Fiji.

Catherine McMillan was beaten 21-12 by Jersey's Lindsey Greechan in her second group game of the ladies singles. The men's pairs - Martin McHugh and Ian McClure - lost to Malaysia 22-14, their second defeat of the competition.

In Table Tennis, the Women's team played Singapore but were beaten 3-0. They will play Sri Lanka tomorrow morning. Northern Ireland's men's table tennis team lost 3-0 to India in their second game of the group stages of the team event after beating Guyana in the morning. They face Vanuatu on Friday morning.

In Netball, the Northern Ireland team started strong but were defeated by Malawi with a score of 71-50.

Speaking after the match, Noleen Lennon, who changed from Goal Shooter to Goal Keeper at half time, said: *"We got off to a really good start but they had such a strong finish. It was a great experience, a great buzz!"*



In squash, Michael Craig lost out in 3 games by top ranked Indian player Harinder but said “this experience at a young age” will help him develop.

COLLATED RESULTS:

LAWN BOWLS Men’s Triples, N Ireland (Paul Daly, Neil Mulholland, Neil Booth) 21, Kenya 13; Women’s Singles, Catherine McMillen v NDUNGU MN KEN 21-10; Men’s Pairs, N Ireland (Martin McHugh, Ian McClure) 16, Malta (John Borg, Leonard Callus) 18; Women’s 4s FIJI vs NI, Fiji won 18-4; Men’s Triples, NI vs Cook Islands, 17-15

TABLE TENNIS Men’s team – (Paul McCreery) won first match vs Guyana (Paul David). Women’s Team, Group 1 Match 2, Singapore vs NI, 3-0

JUDO Lisa Kearney won BRONZE medal against Canadian opponent Audree Francis-Methot. Won QF but lost on golden point to Kelly Edwards, England, in SF.

SWIMMING

EARLIER TODAY: 50m Butterfly Men - Conor Munn (20th), 1st in Heat 4, 25.57, PB, Curtis Coulter (21st), 25.73, 6th in Heat 6. Munn and Coulter did not qualify for SF.

SQUASH Michael Craig lost his round against Harinder Sandhu. Did not qualify.

TRIATHLON Aileen Reid, 6th in the Women’s Triathlon. Emma Sharkey 28th.

BADMINTON – MATCH 1 ADCOCK Chris / ADCOCK Gabrielle 2-0 (21:8 21:17)
CHAMBERS Ciaran / CHAMBERS Sinead; MATCH 2 OUSEPH Rajiv 2-0 (21:5 21:9)
STEPHENSON Tony; MATCH 3 WALKER Sarah 2-1 (21:9 8:21 21:13) STEPHENSON
Alannah; MATCH 4 MILLS Peter / LANGRIDGE Chris 2-0 (21:11 21:9) STEPHENSON Tony
/ MURPHY Tony; MATCH 5 ROBERTSHAW Kate / OLVER Heather 2-0 (21:7 21:10)
CHAMBERS Sinead / BLACK Caroline

MEN’S TRIATHLON – Conor Murphy (12th) 1.52.29, Russell White (23rd) 1.57.53, Harry Speers (27th)

SQUASH – Women’s Singles Round of 32 - Madeline Perry beat Sharon Chimfwembe of Zambia in all three matches, 11-3, 11-2, 11-4. She will compete against Kasey Brown of Australia, who knocked her out of the tournament in Delhi.



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