



Joshua Nathan has earned a place in the Team GB Senior squad

Your Sport

ATHLETICS

UKA role is just the job for students

UK ATHLETICS is set to continue its successful collaboration with the Hive College in Birmingham after linking up in 2017 to give young adults a chance to gain valuable work experience.

The Hive, who place young adults between the ages of 19-25 with non-behavioural disabilities with organisations for them to upskill towards permanent employment, started working with UK Athletics late last year as part of the Disability Confident Leader commitment, and the project continues in 2018.

UKA achieved the Disability Confident Leader level prior to the start of the World Para Athletics Championships London 2017 in recognition for work on disability for the championships and our internal policies and procedures.

Within the governing body, the communications and major events teams welcomed a college student on a six-week placement carrying out a number of roles.

The partnership will continue into 2018 with UKA supporting another student in gaining important work experience.

Donna Fraser, Equality, diversity and inclusion lead at UK Athletics, said: "We are very proud of our commitment as a Disability Confident Leader and I am delighted to continue our work with the Hive College. Last year's student found the placement incredibly useful; learning new skills and growing in confidence which is very encouraging for all involved."

"This is one of many initiatives we will be delivering throughout the year around disability. As we move towards a more diverse and inclusive organisation, this is a fantastic opportunity for us to work with The Hive and the remarkable students, who we are learning from too."

Julie Pallister, placements co-ordinator at the college, added: "The students have found the experiences of work very rewarding. It will help them to determine what strengths and skills they have and what vocation they would like to progress in. It is because of the experiences offered by employers and organisations like UK Athletics that have led to 80 per cent of our students progressing into paid employment."

Josh inspired by Rio heroes after winning GB selection

GYMNASTICS

By LESLEY BROWNE

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JOSHUA Nathan says he is relishing the chance to pick up tips from Olympic medallists Max Whitlock and Nile Wilson after becoming the fourth City of Birmingham Gymnastics Club member to join the senior men's Great Britain squad.

The youngster graduated from the junior ranks at the start of the year and has quickly earned his place with the seniors in Team GB's ranks alongside Rio double gold winner Whitlock (floor and pommel horse) and horizontal bars bronze medallist Wilson.

He has followed City of Birmingham's seasoned internationals Joe Fraser, Hamish Carter and Dominic Cunningham into the senior squad.

"It has been great training with the seniors, they are really inspirational

training partners," said Nathan. "I have looked up to them for so many years and it is privilege training alongside them.

"I've watched them competing from such a young age and it's fantastic to finally be a part of that GB Senior team regularly working with the likes of Max and Nile.

"I have trained with a few of the squad before and it is wonderful to see their skill level and they are generous with their advice and support.

"The boys are all very helpful and there's a great team atmosphere that really lifts your spirits and gets you pumped ready for your routines. They're great guys to train with."

Nathan enjoyed a busy and suc-

cessful 2017. He began the year captaining the Great Britain Junior Boys' team in Katy, Texas, for a two-day training camp with teams from the USA, Japan and Columbia before competing in the international 2017 'Ricky Deci 761 Memorial Competition' where Great Britain took the all around team silver.

Nathan, making three individual apparatus finals on floor, pommel and high bar, scored an impressive 13.40 points to take the junior international individual gold on pommel, completing one of the most difficult routines of the competition.

He also had a great English Championships, taking the overall bronze medal in the Under-18s, and added

the bronze medal in the U18s British Championships.

He qualified for the 'Masters' event which brings together the top 10 gymnasts with the highest scores throughout the men, senior, under-18s and junior events. On the high bar, Nathan secured silver with 13.1 points.

The youngster finished the year competing on behalf of French club EVB Bellegarde and helping them win a place in the First Division of French National League Championships finals.

City of Birmingham gymnastics development officer and international performance coach Phil Barrow said: "I am so very proud of Josh, his work ethic, drive and determination to succeed. Josh has performed outstandingly and delivered the professional job required to support and elevate him to the GB senior men's artistic gymnastics national squad. Well done, Josh!"

“It's fantastic to finally be a part of that GB Senior team regularly working with the likes of Max Whitlock and Nile Wilson.”

Joshua Nathan

Adeleye's a golden boy after knockout success

BOXING

A UNIVERSITY of Wolverhampton student is celebrating a knock-out success after clinching a gold medal at a sports championship.

David Adeleye won gold at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Boxing Championships at the weekend.

The third year BA (Hons) Business Management student - who has been boxing for six years - beat his

opponent in the first round to clinch the title in the 91kg plus category.

David, 21, who is originally from London but lives in Wolverhampton during term time, said: "I was delighted to win - it was great for the University to do well at the BUCS Championships and great for me too."

"It was a fantastic experience.

"My plan is to continue getting as much experience as possible at an amateur level, and look at turning professional next year after I graduate."

David was encouraged to consider boxing by a school teacher when he was younger, as he was 6ft 1 by the time he was 14 years old. After going along to a gym to watch, he found he enjoyed the sport: "I enjoy the discipline - if I wasn't doing all the training I wouldn't be as fit as I am. You have to be very disciplined and focused."

James Dale, Student Sports Team Coordinator, said: "Having been involved with David's training camp for the past two months, it has been

a pleasure to support a student who has shown dedication to prepare for this opportunity. As with many boxing matches, David had a few complications along the way but he never let that distract him from what was important to him and his university, that gold medal!

"I would like to congratulate David on his gold medal that is thoroughly deserved. Well done champ!"

The BUCS Boxing Championships took place at Staffordshire University on Saturday and Sunday.