

World University Winter Games 2007

Ice Hockey

BRITAIN'S YOUNG Ice Hockey players were outclassed in Torino, but will no doubt have benefited from the experience of playing a much higher standard opposition than they are used to.

Canada overcame Russia 3-1 in the final to win the gold medal.

The 22-man British squad included players from fifteen different universities, and could only manage three shots on goal as they went down 12-0 to the Czechs in their opening match.

The Brits improved the performance in their next game, but gave away 22 minutes of penalties during a 10-0 defeat at the hands of Italy.

The worst was still to come for Great Britain, although they did at least score in each of their remaining three games. Stewart Bliss (Nottingham) scored on the way to a 22-1 loss against Finland, and Lee Haywood (Nottingham Trent) set up Adam Robinson (Sheffield Hallam) to score in the final period as Kazakhstan eased to a 20-1 victory.

Some pride was restored in the last game as Northumbria's Ben Campbell brought Britain into contention at 3-1 down halfway through their final match against Japan, but the Japanese team pulled away in the final quarter for a 7-1 win.

Snowboarding

IN THE exciting Snowboard Cross competition, where four boarders travel down a course together, which unsurprisingly results in several crashes, Newcastle University's Ivy Taylor was Great Britain's only hope.

She made it through to the quarter-



Great Britain's Adam Robinson against Italy

finals (the last 16 boarders), but narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals, finishing as the second fastest of the quarter-finalists that failed to qualify, which placed her tenth overall.

The men's and women's Snowboard Cross events were both won by French boarders, with Leo Trespeuch winning the men's race and Diane Thermoz Liaudy beating compatriot Delphine Carponcin to gold in the women's competition.

Leeds University's Laura Hill went for Britain in the women's Half-Pipe competition, but despite an improvement from her first run to her second, she missed out on a place in the final.

Edinburgh's Daniel Breen also improved his score on his second run in the men's Half-Pipe, but it wasn't enough to put him in contention for qualification to the final.

Short Track Speed Skating

NOTTINGHAM TRENT'S Anthony Douglas was the top performer for Britain in the Short Track Speed Skating, but was still well off the pace of the medallists at the Palavela in Torino.

Surrey's Ben Jones failed to make it out of the preliminary heats of any of the 500m, 1000m, 1500m and 3000m events, but Douglas was able to advance beyond the opening stage of the two shorter races.

After winning his preliminary heat and

finishing second in the next round, the Nottingham Trent student just missed out on a semi-final place in the 500m, coming in third in his quarter-final. Douglas again looked in decent form in the 1000m but was disqualified from his second round race.

In the women's competition, Gemma Cooper (Nottingham) and Sarah Henderson (Nottingham Trent) were well off the pace of the top skaters, failing to get past the first round of any of the events.

Korea and China were dominant throughout the Short Track competition, winning all but two of the 24 individual medals awarded, with Hye-Kyung Kim winning two gold medals in the women's individual events and Si-Bak Sung winning all four of the men's individual races for Korea.

Alpine Skiing

GREAT BRITAIN took seven skiers to Italy to compete in the Alpine Skiing events, but none ever looked likely to challenge for a medal.

The best performance came from Campbell Beaton (UWE), who managed 35th place in the men's Slalom race.

The other four British men failed to finish the Slalom, but all completed the Giant Slalom – David Harrison (Edinburgh) in 60th, John Campbell (Durham) 63rd, Freddie Clough (Oxford) 64th and Andrew Du Plessis (Birmingham) 66th, with Beaton only managing 75th. In the men's Super G, Campbell finished in 45th place, two ahead of Harrison.

Neither Katherine Smart (Heriot-Watt) nor Claire Robb (Aberdeen) could finish the first run of the women's Slalom, but Smart did manage a 51st-place finish in the Giant Slalom.

The best results for the women came in the Super G, where Robb finished in 36th – just over six and a half second behind the winner, and one place ahead of team-mate Smart.

Unfortunately, the downhill events due for the final day of skiing competition had to be cancelled, so the Brits didn't have a chance to improve on their results.

Figure Skating

ONLY TWO British competitors were entered in the Figure Skating, with Thomas Paulson (DMU Leicester) and David Richardson (Henley College) in



FISU - Nicolas Messner

the men's individual event.

Paulson found himself in 24th place after the short program, one place in front of team-mate Richardson. Computing student Paulson moved up the field after the long program and finished in 21st place, with Richardson moving up one place to 24th.

Silver medallists from the 2006 Winter Olympics Dan and Hao Zhang went one better at the World University Winter Games, comprehensively outclassing the opposition to win gold in the pair's Figure Skating.

Other Sports

HOME FAVOURITE and gold medallist from the 2006 Winter Olympics Enrico Fabris won three gold medals in the Long Track Speed Skating events, winning the

1000m and 1500m individual races as well as helping the Italians to team gold, and setting track records in each event.

In the demonstration sport of synchronised skating, the Swedish team held off the challenge of Finland to take first place, with Russia taking the bronze medal.

All but one of the 36 medals on offer for the Biathlon events went to an athlete from either Russia, Belarus or Ukraine, with Andrei Makoveev picking up three gold medals for Russia. The medals were more widely spread in the Cross Country Skiing, though Belarus and Russia again picked up plenty.

Austria and Russia shared the four Ski Jumping gold medals equally between them, but it was Japan who were most impressive in the Nordic Combined competition, winning two golds, one silver and one bronze.



Action from the Snowboard Cross competition

FISU - Nicolas Messner



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Oxford ease relegation fears with hard-fought win

BUSA Rugby Premier Men's South A January 24 2007

Oxford 23 UWIC 16

by Jonathan Fennell

OXFORD UNIVERSITY Greyhounds began 2007 with a closely fought win over UWIC in the BUSA Premier League in January. Both sides looked to play expansive rugby but failed to find fluency to match their adventurous spirit.

In a scrappy first half dominated by handling errors, Oxford opened the scoring with a ninth-minute penalty by fly-half Tim Catling. UWIC hit back with a nicely worked try by wing Rhys Crane after 22 minutes.

UWIC's aggressive and powerful running game was characterised by some bullocking carries by tight-head Glyn Hoosen-Owen and blind-side Darren Lewis. Oxford defended well on their line and hit back with a dra-

matic length of the pitch counter attack after 36 minutes. Wing Jonan Boto scored in the corner after some fine linking-play by James Jones and Chris Mahony. A penalty by UWIC number ten Sam Osborne left the sides level 8-8 at half time.

The second half got off to a pacy start with concerted pressure by UWIC on the Oxford line. UWIC deservedly turned field position into points with a penalty by the dominant Osborne.

Oxford regained their composure and took advantage of the sin-binning of UWIC's Hoosen-Owen to score a driven line-out in the left-hand corner after a number of fine positional kicks by Catling - replacement Winston Cowie was the man left holding the ball.

Oxford continued to pile on the pressure and missed a chance to put the game beyond UWIC when Humphrey-Baker and Tomleson failed to convert a two-on-one

with the line at their mercy. Almost inevitably UWIC took the moral ascendancy and blocked down a Mahony kick to once again take the lead 16-13 - the hard working Crane scoring his second try of the match.

With the match seemingly drifting away from Oxford, Mahony repented for his earlier error with a superb 60-metre solo effort leaving the UWIC defenders flat-footed and confused. Catling converted, giving the home side a four-point advantage going into the last seven minutes. By now UWIC had run out of steam and Oxford finished the match in the UWIC 22 managing a further penalty from Catling.

Overall Oxford coach Kevin Brennan was pleased with his sides performance and complemented both teams on their adventure and committed defence. In the end the pace and dynamic running of the Oxford backs made the difference between two evenly matched forward packs.

Turkey and China to host student events in 2011

ERZURUM IN Turkey and Shenzhen in China have been named as the host cities for the 2011 Winter Universiade and Summer Universiade respectively (the Universiades are the student equivalent of the Olympics). FISU announced the successful candidates in Torino, Italy on the eve of the 2007 World University Winter Games (Winter Universiade).

The Turkish city of Erzurum had previously put in a bid to host the 2009 Winter Universiade, which will be held in the Chinese city of Harbin, but this time held off the challenge of Maribor in Slovenia to win the right to host the Games in 2011.

Turkey also hosted the 2005 World

University Summer Games, in Izmir, where Great Britain came away with 19 medals, including three golds, but this will be the first occasion that the Winter Universiade has been held in the country.

There was more competition for the right to host the 2011 Summer Games, with four other cities in contention – Kaohsiung in Chinese Taipei and the European trio of Murcia (Spain), Poznan (Poland) and Kazan (Russia). It will be the second time in ten years that the Games have been held in China, following the 2001 event in Beijing, and the fourth occasion in that period that the Games have been held in Asia.

Please send your match reports and other sport articles to Sports Editor Geraint Tucker at:

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