

Media release for Southampton Diving Academy

World Student Games

Local diver, Gary Hunt (21), who trains with the Southampton Diving Academy based at the Quays in Southampton travelled to Izmir in Turkey to represent Great Britain at the World Student Games and came back with a personal best score in his individual event.

Gary, who only this year made his debut as a member to the British National Squad when he competed in Rostock, Germany at the Federation Internationale De Natation (FINA) Grand Prix in March, was chosen for the team flying out to the Games after his excellent showing in the British Universities (BUSA) Championships held at the Quays in June. In order to qualify for the team divers needed to reach qualifying scores equivalent to those required to secure places at the World Championships currently taking place in Canada.

Competing individually on highboard and in the synchronised events on highboard and 3m springboard Gary made a good showing in a highly competitive environment.

To take the 17th place in the individual highboard event Gary scored a personal best of over 520 points and gained his first ever place in an international semi final.

In partnership with Gareth Jones from Plymouth, Gary took 7th place with a score of 295 points, beating, amongst others, the American duo who are already well established on the international circuit.

In a new partnership with Ben Swain from Plymouth Gary achieved 9th position with a score of 261 points. This was the first time the pair had trained or competed together and they proved to be a good match, taking on a field that included the current Olympic champions.

Gary was delighted with the outcome of the Games. “This was a really great experience,” he enthused. “We came up against some of the best in the world and the atmosphere was amazing. Being a part of it all at the opening ceremony was something I’ll never forget.”

Director of Coaching, Lindsey Fraser, was also very impressed with Gary's success. "He did a very good job in Turkey and should be very pleased with his results," she said. "With this sort of international experience under his belt he has the chance of a great season this coming year."

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For further details call the Director of Coaching, Lindsey Fraser: 023 8072 0922.

Please note photo opportunities can be arranged.