

# PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## STAFF AND STUDENTS NOMINATED FOR SPORT AWARDS

Yeovil College staff and students have been nominated in 5 out of 9 categories at the forthcoming South Somerset Sport Awards Evening, due to take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Westland Conference and Leisure Complex.

Nominees for Senior Performer of the Year include **Ben Gibb**, who recently won a national title at the English Schools Combined Events Championships. He is nominated through his involvement with Yeovil Olympiads Athletics Club. **Sam Weale**, an ex-Yeovil College A Level student, has also been put forward for this award. He was a competitor at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the Modern Pentathlon.

A current student and staff member are going head to head in the Coach of the Year category. **Lee Murgathroyd** is a current NVQ Sport, Recreation and Allied Occupations – Coaching, Teaching and Instructing student, who previously gained a BND in Sport and Exercise Science with the College. He plays rugby for Ivel Barbarians and the College's Rugby Academy and his nomination marks a return to form following a back injury last year which prevented Lee from playing. Current Somerset County Coach **James Elkin** has also been nominated for this award. As well as running the College's enrichment activities, James has coached the Badminton Academy for four years, during which students have qualified every year for national competitions and won medals. He was nominated through Somerset Badminton.

Current second year BND Sport student and Yeovil Olympiad **Michael Gibson** has been nominated for Rookie Coach of the Year. He plays Hockey for the Yeovil and Sherborne Hockey Club and was recently selected to compete for the British Colleges South West Hockey squad.

Two students have been nominated for the Junior Performer of the Year award, which is sponsored by Yeovil College. **James Bell** has been selected as a member of the Gryphon West Gym Club. He is a first year BND Sport student whose activities include trampolining and hockey. He recently competed in Holland as part of the British gymnastics team and will be taking part in the British championships later this month. **Craig Zimmerman** has been nominated as a member of the Bushido Martial Arts Club. The King Arthurs School pupil is currently on a 14-16 Young Apprenticeship programme studying Engineering two days a week with the College. His key activities are judo and jujutsu and he is the current world Jujutsu Kumite champion and Grappling champion. Craig is coached by Kathryn Purnell, FESCO and Sports Coordinator at the College, who also runs judo sessions for staff and students as part of the enrichment programme available.

Last but not least, **Bill Whistlecroft MBE** has been nominated for the Lifetime Services to Sport award, which goes to someone who has spent at least 5 years making a significant contribution to local sport. Bill is a Level 4 Athletics coach and former Yeovil College Head of PE, who currently coaches on the College's Athletics Academy programme. He was nominated as part of the Yeovil Olympiads Athletics Club.

Chris Burton, Department Manager for Sports and Leisure, said "*It gives me great pleasure to reflect on the positive contribution Yeovil College sports department make to the provision of sporting opportunities in the community. In a range of categories we are represented by our coaching staff, current students and ex students. All nominees are to be congratulated on the quality of their selfless dedication to sport.*"

The South Somerset Sport Awards will be presented on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at the Westland Conference and Leisure Complex.

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## **Notes to Editors**

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