

# PRESS RELEASE



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## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNISED AT SPORTS AWARDS

Three current Yeovil College students had their sporting achievements recognised at the South Somerset Sports awards.

**Craig Zimmerman** won the Junior Performer of the Year award. He is a pupil of King Arthurs School who attends the College as part of his Young Apprenticeship in Engineering. His achievements include being the current National Ju Jutsu champion and World Ju Jutsu Kumite and Grappling champion, representing Great Britain at international level. 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.

First year BND Sport student **James Bell** was also recognised in the Junior Performer of the Year category. He was highly commended for his achievements in gymnastics. In recent months, he has represented the South West and Great Britain and has won 8 medals in the last year, including 4 golds.

In the category of Rookie Coach of the Year, **Michael Gibson** was also highly commended. He is a second year BND Sport student and nominated for his involvement in the Yeovil Olympiads Athletics Club. Michael was been fast-tracked for a Level 2 England Athletics Coaching qualification and fulfils a number of key coaching roles, including being a lead coach on the UK Athletics Star:Track scheme.

Yeovil College's Head of Sport and Leisure Chris Burton was at the glamorous ceremony, where she presented the Junior Performer of the Year award, which is sponsored by Yeovil College. She said *"It was a really good evening and a pleasure to witness the overwhelming contribution volunteers make to sports provision in the community. The sports students at Yeovil College are excellent ambassadors and an example of the positive value that the youth of today can contribute to our society."*

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### Notes to Editors

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### Photos

Photo 1 - Junior Performer of the Year Craig Zimmerman with coach Kathryn Purnell of Yeovil College.

Photo 2 – Special Guest Stephen Parry with Yeovil College students Craig Zimmerman and James Bell (on his left and right) and the other nominees for Junior Performer of the Year 2008.