



BIG PLAYERS

in Milton Keynes: Sports, Arts & Media

Going for Gold

Milton Keynes' own young sportsmen and women, all members of Marshall Milton Keynes Athletic Club, have an excellent chance of competing in the 2012 Olympics in London, as well as in 2008 in Beijing.

THOMAS GREEN of Little Brickhill
'The perfect start to my preparation...'

- currently ranked in world top 8 for the Paralympic Club and Discus events
- highest ranked Under-20 athlete in both events.
- on the UKA World Class Pathway.
- awarded the prize for the most improved athlete in the Paralympics Throwing squad.



'My first meeting with the squad was on a two-week warm-weather training camp in Canberra - a fantastic opportunity for me to train alongside world class athletes in a very focused and intense environment...It was the perfect start to my preparation for the Summer'

(Student page in www.sirhenryfloyd.bucks.sch.uk)

(Photo ©JC Photography)

GREG RUTHERFORD of Milton Keynes
'I have to focus on the positives'

- teenaged long jumper who competed in the 2006 Commonwealth Games
- comes from a talented sporting family - both his grandfather and great grandfather played professional football and his father was also a gifted athlete.
- had two years of torn hamstrings, turned ankles, scar tissue and cysts: 'I have to focus on the positives because if I thought about the negatives I'd go nowhere.'
- won the Silver Medal at the European Athletics Championships, June 2006



'I've wanted this so bad, I had total heartbreak at the Commonwealth Games and I was determined today not to let anything hurt me.'

(from MK News)

KADI-ANN THOMAS of Wolverton, Milton Keynes

'I'm delighted to have medalled here...!'

- the British Universities' 200 metre champion
- won the 200m Silver Medal in the World University Games in Bangkok, 2007
- member of a scratch 4x400m relay team which won the Bronze Medal.
- won the 100m at the Namur International meeting



'I'm delighted to have medalled here. I've never had to run four times in a single event and to do so over two days is tough. However, it was the same for everyone and I'm so pleased with my performance.'

(MMKAC website)

CRAIG PICKERING of Milton Keynes

'I know I've got a long way to go but if I make the most of my abilities, I will get there'

- won the 100m Bronze Medal in the 2003 World Youth Championships.
- came second in 2007 UK Championships and World Trials
- selected to take part in the World Championships in the 100m
- part of the 4 x 100m relay team which won the Bronze Medal.



'If you want to be a top athlete, then you have to be disciplined. You have to eat good food and train hard'

(Interview in www.news.bbc.co.uk)

(Photo © JC Photography)

MERVYN LUCKWELL of Milton Keynes

'The most obliging chap you'd wish to meet!'

- ranked second in the UK in Javelin in 2007
- won a Bronze Medal at the World Trials and UK Championships
- won the Javelin with 70.69m at the UKA Jumps fest in Birmingham, June 29th 08
- another 2m on his personal best would give him the B qualification for Beijing while a further 4m improvement would achieve the A qualification and automatic selection



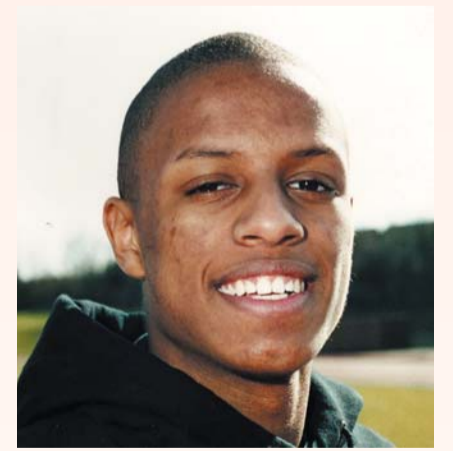
'Mervyn is an outstanding all-round clubman, representing Marshall Milton Keynes in five of the six Southern Men's League meetings. He also tops the club rankings in the discus, and has competed in the 200m, 110m hurdles, long jump and hammer when requested by the team manager. He's a thoroughly nice bloke, and the most obliging chap you'd wish to meet!'

(MMKAC website)

NB **The Men's Over 18 Citizen SportsAward this year (April 2008) went to MMKAC's Mervyn Luckwell with athletics team-mate Kadi-Ann Thomas winning the girls' award.

CHRIS CLARKE of Bradville, Milton Keynes
'It feels great to win something!'

- number One in the World Youth Rankings at 400m
- ranked fourth at 200m last year - won the England Athletics Men's Indoor 200m title
- ambition is to represent Great Britain at the Beijing Olympics in the 4x400m relay.
- nominated as flag-bearer for the GB Team at the opening of the Beijing Olympics



'I feel in good shape. Finally it's my turn to get going!'

(Feature in www.news.bbc.co.uk)

(Photo © JC Photography)