

DIVER THOMAS DALEY CROWNS A SENSATIONAL YEAR WITH GOLD IN CANADA

In Canada on Sunday, Thomas Daley crowned a spectacular first year on the Senior Circuit, with a victory in the Men's Synchronised Platform, with a brand new partner with whom he had been diving for just 1 month. Competing with former World Junior Champion Blake Aldridge from Southampton, the pairing took the highly experienced scalps of the USA's World Championship bronze medalists Boudia/Finchum (who finished 3rd) and Britain's own Olympic silver medalists Waterfield/Taylor (in second), who had not been beaten by a British pairing for over 10 years.

It was the end to an amazing evening for Thomas, which began with him being crowned the BBC's Young Sports Personality of the year in front of 8,000 people at the NEC in Birmingham. Unfortunately he couldn't be there, but they showed a recorded message from Thomas accepting his award – an accolade previously afforded to the likes of Wayne Rooney, Theo Walcott and Jenson Button!

Just prior to the synchronised event, Thomas also secured 6th place in the individual Men's Platform, having qualified in 3rd place. In the prelim, he scored five 10's on his back 3½ and in the final, he scored five 10's on his back armstand triple. Unfortunately, he just ran out of steam in the final and couldn't quite maintain his impressive consistency, however this is still a remarkable performance in an event littered with World Championship medalists and contenders.

Making it another fabulous weekend for Plymouth Divers, Sarah Barrow & partner Monique McCarroll from Southampton, became the first British Divers to guarantee their places on the World Cup Team, when they took a bronze medal in the Women's Synchronised Platform event. The pairing picked up a bronze medal with a personal best score which would have seen them finish 3rd at this year's World Championships. This was the second of a three leg trial for the World Cup, however they also won the first leg and therefore, secured their slots on the team ahead of the more experienced pairing of Tonia Couch and Stacie Powell.

Tonia Couch and long term partner Stacie Powell, also from Southampton, finished 5th in a contest which saw the top 6 pairings achieve a score which would have finished in the top four at the World Championships.

Both Sarah and team-mate Tonia Couch won through to the finals of the individual Women's Platform, but with the priority being on synchro and the synchronised event starting straight after the individual final, the decision was made to withdraw from the individual final. Sarah finished 10th and Tonia 11th in the prelim and were the top two British divers.

With Brooke Graddon having won recently in Holland, and Tonia's recent British record, this bodes well for Plymouth's divers at the British Championships and World Cup Trials which begin on 4th January.