

UK School Games 2009

The Uk School Games 2009 got off to a wet start in Cardiff. As the opening ceremony saw 1,600 athletes drenched by torrential rain, nevertheless everyone enjoyed it and were geared up for the competition that followed the next day.

The standard of volleyball this year was extremely high which made many of the matches very competitive. It certainly made for great viewing. The girls final where rivals England North and England South were neck and neck at one set all. Both Teams had great hits but somehow the defenders always managed to pass the ball, in the end points were won by tactical plays. The match went to a nail biting third where England South were the victors.

The boys final which saw England Central playing Scotland West, both teams played well with power hits left right and centre, the teams were evenly matched and was close to say the least. This match also went to a third set which had the crowd sitting on the edge of their seats. The Scottish and Irish were the people who were disappointed as Scotland West narrowly missed out on the gold. The tournament this year was very intense as all teams played Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

However in the finals on Sunday not one of the teams showed any signs of tiredness and came out all guns blazing. It was not just the finals which showed great volleyball through out the competition all teams played exceptionally well. The Scottish teams played very well, The Scotland West girls had great hitting tactics and defensive work and were not given justice with a bronze medal. It must have been there awesome coach!

The Scotland East girls came in fourth in the tournament which was their best result of the games. They were obviously downhearted about being out of the medals but they showed great determination in their matches and this showed as they were the only team to take a set from the winners England South.

The Scotland East boys also came in fourth and played very well. The defensive work was amazing along with the power hitting they were just unlucky not to have got a medal. The competition venue this year was excellent as the two courts were back to back so if you wanted to watch both games you could do so by sitting in the middle.

For the Scotland West Volleyball Team – male and female, the tournament was a success as they won the tournament overall. This year a new award was introduced known as the super 6, where the best 6 boys of the tournament and the best 6 girls of the tournament were recognised. For the boys two Scotland players got awards, Andrew McGregor as best passer and Jamie McHardy as best attacker.

For the Scotland girls I was really pleased to get the award as best server.

Overall the volleyball tournament was a success for 2009. 2010 athletes have a tough act to follow!