

# Reward Jamie for Judo effort

## Balloch-based fighter a star for Scots squad

Fraser Clarke

**A talented local Judo player is appealing to the public for sponsorship, as he prepares to represent Scotland in Switzerland.**

Jamie Black, 25, from Balloch, is recognised as one of the country's most gifted fighters, however, without external funding he's having to finance his own way to the top.

Speaking to the Lennox Herald, Jamie said: "The national centre is in Ratho in Edinburgh, and that's where the full-time athletes train. But I've got a full-time job and I'm working, so I don't find it too easy to get there.

"I'm managing to make it once a week just now, but that's where the full-time players train every day, and I'm having to fund myself to do these competitions because I can't make it there as often as they want me to.

"It's really difficult. "I'm actually higher up than a lot of players on the British ranking lists now, and some of them are getting fully funded. I just don't really think that it's fair that they aren't taking anything to do with me because I can't get to Edinburgh as much."

Jamie's judo career started at a young age, and talent clearly runs in the family.

He continued: "I started in Judo

when I was four and I'm 25 now, so I've done it for quite a few years. When I was younger I was Scottish champion quite a few times - I don't know if I could put a number on how many times though!

"I'm excited, because it's been quite a while since I've been out the country to fight. I'm a wee bit nervous as well because it's been a long time, but I'll keep my fingers crossed and see how it goes.

"I seem to do quite well against foreign players when they come to visit the national centre, so hopefully it goes well.

"My sister Leanne went to quite a lot of big competitions. She's incredible, she's a silver Commonwealth medalist - so there's no pressure on me at all!"

Jamie's proud Mum, Alison, added: "It's very frustrating. If you speak to a lot of people involved in the sport, the older people especially, it's really frustrating for them because he's an entertaining player. When me and my husband go to competitions, he's the sort of player that people move to go and watch.

"He's really come on in the last eight to nine months, and that makes the funding side of things very frustrating. It just doesn't seem to be there.

"As a family we're doing our best to get him to the events. Hopefully someone will be able to give us a wee boost, because we're very proud of him."



**Action shot** Jamie throws down an opponent

Despite the frustration, Alison couldn't be more grateful to Clyde Judo Club, and Jamie's training partner Chris Wright, for their support.

She continued: "His coaches at Clyde

Judo Club are fantastic. Jamie's also got the patience to help the younger ones who are coming through, so he's giving a wee bit back for what the club's done for him."

# U13s play their first game of the year

## Rugby

The Loch Lomond/Hills U13 team played their first game of the year when they faced Strathaven at Hughenden.

The boys started slowly, understandable since the last game they played was in November, due to the awful weather over winter.

They missed a few tackles from the kick off allowing the opposition to score early on.

The visitors reacted well with some great possession with multiple phases of play that resulted in Ledgy scoring a well worked try.

Unfortunately, too many missed tackles allowed the opposition forwards to make up ground and score meaning the boys were always chasing the game.

The forwards dominated the scrums and competed well at the line outs



**Line-up** Loch Lomond RFC youngsters throughout the game however the quick opposition defence limited the backs chances.

Generally the team performed well with some good passages of play and offloading however there is plenty to

work on at training.

Loch Lomond U13s faced Biggar at the Dillchip in their second pool game of the cup competition.

From the kick off, Biggar used their big forward pack to drive into

Lomond's defence, putting the hosts under sustained pressure which resulted in a few early scores.

Lomond worked together as a team, to stay in the game and after stringing phases of play together, Proctor ran past several defenders to score in the corner.

Lomond scored again just before half time, with Glancy taking a quick lineout and passing to Munn who was fouled.

Munn took a quick penalty and broke through to cross the line.

Biggar however proved too strong, and with decisions going their way, they continually had the front foot.

All credit to all the Lomond team, who never gave up, and played with passion. Lomond faced Allan Glens at the Dillchip at the weekend in their third cup pool game and are away to East Kilbride on Sunday.

See next week for more.