



## Report- EJU Adaptive Event Venray the Netherlands

On Friday 24th November we had a team of six travelling to the Netherlands for the European Judo Get together Tournament, the first ever with the new rules for adaptive Judo. On Saturday, the team travelled to the venue and enjoyed watching the level 1 and 2 over sixteens compete. The medal ceremony added to the atmosphere with the display of drums and lights, and when 12 o'clock came, it was time to get changed and warm up.

Our competitors were spread onto four different mats meaning the coach knew she had a busy day ahead. First up was Freddie. His first match was against a GB Para Potential team member where he fought hard and just got caught off balance. He was even more determined going into his next fight against a particularly good Netherlands fighter, leaving it all on the mat, he got the win and secured himself a silver.

Collette was next up, and her first fight was against a strong Denmark side and was brought to the ground for a pin. Unable to get free, the win went to Denmark. Her next fight was again against a solid English Judoka. Both players were giving their all, but Collette managed to score two wazaris to secure a silver.

Chloe Finlay was our last of the VIs to compete. After the upsetting start of having to change mats and finding out her players to fight did not turn up, Chloe was then put into another category fighting sighted players. She pushed all the anxiety to one side and won both fights against strong opponents from Poland and Denmark by ippon, winning Gold.

Jonah fought against strong Judokas from Denmark, Croatia, and the Netherlands. He had two fights which he won by ippon, putting him into the semifinal where he won



again by Ippon. Keeping the strong positive attitude going into the final, Jonah again won by Ippon winning the Gold.

Daniel had four competitors from Netherlands and Denmark. Daniel worked through his nerves by dancing at the side of the mat before walking on. Something I have never seen before, but it worked well, as Daniel won all his four fights by Ippon securing yet another gold medal.

Last up was the youngest of the team, Shea. He had five strong competitors in his group from the Netherlands, Croatia, and Brazil. His first fight he was awarded the win by the referee. Going into the next fight strong, Shea threw his opponent by two wazaris winning the match. Losing his third fight to the strong Brazilian, who went onto winning the gold. The next two fights were so close that one was a referees' decision at the end of time, and the last a wazari on the last second. Shea won himself a well-deserved bronze.

Every one left everything on the mat, and not only was the weekend about Judo, but it was also about making new friends. Even the language barrier was overcome with the use of Google translate.

As their coach I cannot be any prouder of each one of them. Their commitment to training and on the mat is a display of their passion for the sport.

- Peggy Magee