

Natalie Berry

Hometown: Bearsden, Glasgow

I am 18 years old and have been climbing for 10 years. I have been a member of the British Junior Competition Climbing Team since 2003 and my best achievements to date are:

- Six times British Champion
- Winning the British Youth Open summer 2010
- Winning a round of the European Youth Series in Kranj, Slovenia in 2007
- Gaining 3rd place overall in the European Youth Series in 2006 and 2007
- 4th in the World Youth Championships in Imst, Austria in 2006
- 5th in the WYC in Beijing in 2005.

In total I have one gold, two silver and one bronze medal from European events. I am also the current Senior Female British Lead Climbing Champion and Scottish Youth Climbing Champion.

My ambition is to make the finals and possibly gain a podium place at the WYC in the EICA Ratho, Edinburgh in September this year (my final year as a junior). I also aim to compete in Senior World Cups and earn podium positions as well as completing hard routes outdoors to the best of my ability.

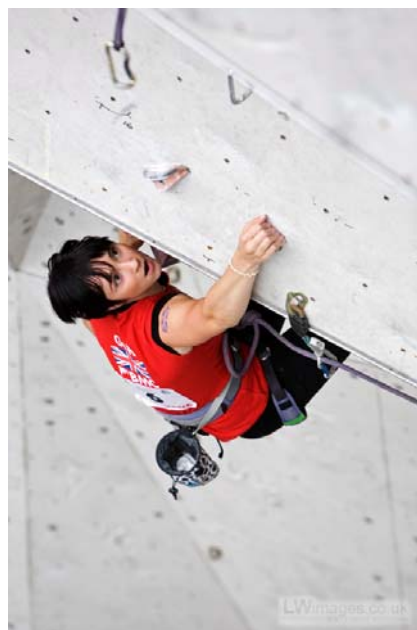
My strengths as an athlete are my determination to succeed and my composure in stressful competitive environments. I understand that self-belief and motivation are crucial elements for success. I also think another of my strengths is my willingness to help others on my team and my respectful attitude towards those who I compete against.

I am currently a coach for the Quickdraw Climbing Club (a club for 8-17 year-old talented climbers) and run sessions once a month with a fellow GB Junior Team member. This year I was appointed Captain of the British Climbing Team and have been selected to become a British Team Regional Coach for the Scotland region next year.

This September I will begin studying French and German at the University of Edinburgh, following another of my passions - languages.



left: One of Natalie's first competitions at Glasgow Climbing Centre (Photo: Dave Berry)



Photos: Lukasz Warcheka

I have been helped and influenced by too many people to name, although Neil Mcgeachy, Neil Busby and my boyfriend Robbie Phillips have been of particular assistance over the last year in training for the WYC event.