

World Games 2017 Poland

The best 8 fighters in the world qualify for this event and we haven't had anybody from GB in 12 years.

Jordan travelled to the North of England on the Sunday prior to the competition for a week's pre train. We discussed what we would be doing throughout the week and we invited Joe Kelloway to train along with my club's senior fighters to help Jordan prepare.

Mervin Etienne also arrived mid week and started working with Jordan on focusing for this event.

Pre training went well and Jordan was ready to go and challenge the best karate ka around for a medal at the World Games.

On arriving in Poland at the airport we were very well looked after and from the start it hit home what a big occasion this was with only Jordan and myself, no national squad with us. We could have felt small compared to other teams that travelled altogether for all the sports but that didn't faze us.

After Jordan had weighed in and the coaches meetings finalised, we had a day to rest so Jordan could focus on the event. I knew the draw and it was going to be a tough day.

World Games 2017 Poland was about to start, the warm up area isn't the same at these games because it's not as busy it's just the top eight in your section, so the atmosphere is different, but this did not faze and Jordan off he went to prepare.

Jordan's pool for the -67kgs

Hungary

Algeria

Australia

Four athletes round robin 2 points for a win 1 point for a draw 0 points for a loss, winner of pool A fights second place in pool B in the semi finals .

First fight England v Hungary

This was a repeat of the WKF World finals in Austria 2016.

We knew this was going to be a tough fight as Hungary had a point to prove.

Jordan was ready and confident. Jordan lost the first point and senshu but Jordan was too sharp and creative for the Hungarian with Jordan coming back to win 3-1. 2 points in the bag.

We were quickly ushered out and back into the tunnel ready to fight again. Jordan was back on the tatami within 4 minutes

Second fight England V Australia

Jordan came out firing but, the Australian didn't engage at all and held off. Jordan was a little tired now and settled for the draw. 1 point to Jordan

This time we had four fights before Jordan was on again, so Jordan managed to rest and I knew Jordan would be at his best.

Just before the match I'd realised Jordan had already secured second place two of the others in the pool had messed up so no matter what Jordan was in the semis but, I didn't tell him as I wanted him to win the pool and be on fire for the final.

Third fight England V Algeria

Jordan was at his sharpest in this fight and proved too much for the African champion scoring with sharp hands and a great ura mawashi to win 6-0 . 2 points

Winner of pool B andvancing to the semi finals

Semi final England V Dominican Republic

The fighter from DR was very physical and aggressive but Jordan matched him at his own game. The DR couldn't handle Jordan's barrage of techniques and was disqualified.

Jordan Thomas was now in the final of the World Games 2017

Final England V France

These two fighters are the best in the division and they just cancelled each other out on this occasion. As we got deeper into the fight they both became more cagey unlike the start. They drew 0-0 and it went to flags, Jordan lost on flags this time around but these two fighters will have many more battles in the future.

Jordan Thomas was the first to qualify for a World Games in 12 years from GB and he did his country proud winning a silver medal. Two world finals in 9 Months. The competition was amazing, well run, great standard and the athletes were so well looked after by the staff and volunteers they couldn't do enough for us, so just think how amazing karate in the Olympics will be like in 2020 .

Paul Newby