

It is rare that youthful promise is fulfilled, but when it is, it is worth the wait.

Such was the display put on by Michael Greaney, NUIG at the recently held Connacht Senior Judo Championships. He demonstrated the full repertoire of skills in winning both the Gold in Men's +81kg category and Upper Kyu category. Although only 19, he put to the sword, much more experienced players, and those of higher grades. We should not be surprised. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Michael's late grandfather Tom Savage, one of the founding members of Galway Judo Club, back in the early 60's.

Another player, but of more tender years-she is only 10, is Amelia Milroy. She won all her fights inside the distance. However, it was the extraordinary style in her winning that was so captivating. She was both efficient and delicate and no player brought her into a sweat. She is one for the future. Her younger brother John, received the silver medal, but came second to Dylan McGrath of Annaghdown Judo Club. Dylan has been doing very well lately and though only 9 years old is a very determined young lad. Conor Murray also of the same club took Gold beating Eoin Hardiman in the final. Both players were on form and had some great earlier wins before meeting in the final.

There was a large contingent from the different universities around the country, both men and women. Ciarán Mulroy from Tipperary was another outstanding young player, who also took Gold on the day in the under 73kg category.

The championships were held in the new Knocknacarra Community Centre, Cappagh Road and is an ideal venue for such events. As befitting the locality the Mayor of Galway, Cllr Donal Lyons presented the prizes and congratulated the newly formed Knocknacarra Judo Club for hosting the event.

John Creaven, 2nd Dan,
Chairperson,
Judo Ireland.