

Young Scottish badminton stars gear up for UK School Games

Sixteen of Scotland's young rising stars will travel to the University of the West of England in Bristol this weekend to compete in the UK School Games from August 28-31.

The strong squad includes Longniddry's Craig Pollock, who last week was one of four young Scottish badminton players to be chosen to represent Scotland in the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Indian city of Pune.

Led by coaches Karen Stalker, Bill Hogg and Lena Robertson, the team also includes current Bank of Scotland U17 National and U15 Quadrangular girls singles champion, Bothwell's Kirsty Gilmour.

The UK School Games is a multi-sport event for the UK's elite young athletes of school age and are the culmination of an annual programme of competitive opportunities at a regional and national level.

Run over 4 days and comprising 9 different sports, the final of the UK School Games is designed to replicate the feel of a major multi-sport event such as the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games.

Scotland's badminton players brought back one silver and three bronze medals from last years Games in Coventry and this years squad will hope to emulate and perhaps even surpass that feat.

The full Scotland squad is:

Boys: Michael Campbell (Edinburgh), Matthew Carder (South Queensferry), **Ryan Clunie (Westhill, Aberdeenshire)**, Patrick MacHugh (Kinross), Gregor McVean (Mauchline, Ayrshire), Craig Pollock (Longniddry), Stuart Sineath (Shetland), Craig Morrison (Motherwell),.

Girls: Fiona Archibald (Larkhall), Emma Cook (Mauchline), Emma Gallacher (Wishaw), Kirsty Gilmour (Bothwell), Robyn Glen (Erskine), Kirsty McGlynn (Greenock), Caitlin Pringle (Clarkston), Shereen Spittal (Mauchline).

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