

# Junior all-stars

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Publication of the **Scunthorpe Telegraph**



Karanjit  
faces up to  
the biggest  
test of his  
time  
with  
Lincs

Cricket **PAGE 2**

## JOSHUA IS SET TO MAKE A BIG SPLASH AFTER GETTING RAVE REVIEWS



**A BIG TALENT:** Scunthorpe Anchor Swimming club's Joshua Jones, who qualified for his national age group championships. PICTURES: Katie Lunn

### SCUNTHORPE Anchor could have a swimming star of the future in their midst.

Twelve-year-old Joshua Jones, from Worlaby, has been described as potentially the 'most successful male swimmer Scunthorpe has ever had'.

That glowing reference came from his coach at Scunthorpe Anchor, Dave Leeman.

Joshua has already qualified for four national events this year and has the chance of qualifying for two more ahead of the national

by **David Freezer**

@qsmg.co.uk

championships at Ponds Forge, in Sheffield, in July.

"Joshua is having a corking season," Leeman told Junior all-stars. "He has got four national times so far and hopefully he can get another two."

"I am very confident that he will get his 100m back-stroke time because he has achieved it in one of his 400m splits before and I am very

confident about his 1500m too.

"I would say he is the most successful male swimmer Scunthorpe has ever had."

"He is certainly the most successful swimmer that Scunthorpe Anchor and CASA have at the moment."

Joshua, who attends Vale School at Brigg, obtained his three national times at the Radford Meet at Ponds Forge.

In the 400m freestyle Joshua beat the national qualifying time by 0.04 seconds with a time of 4.44.95, taking nearly 10 seconds off his personal best.

He then knocked nine seconds off his PB in the 400 I/M with a time of 5.19.07, more than eight seconds faster than the qualifying time.

In the 800m freestyle, Joshua's time of 9.51.42 was four seconds quicker than the national qualifying requirement, even though the first time he ever competed in this event was in February.

Joshua is less than one second off the 200m free and the 100m breast. This will make a total of six nationals - the most anyone has ever held or achieved at Scunthorpe Anchor.

But Leeman does not want to put too much pressure on Joshua just yet.

"It is hard to say how far he will go because age group swimming is very fickle," Leeman continued.

"It is not until they are 14 or 15-years-old that you can start to see if they are really good enough."

"But if things keep progressing the way they

are going then Joshua can go a long way in the sport."

"Last year he got a bronze medal and qualified for the 200m back-stroke final. But in this last year he has really grown."

"He has grown physically and in his confidence. He has always had the ability but maybe not the confidence."

"But now he is ranked number one in the country in his age group for the 400m breast-stroke."

"Joshua is a mix between natural ability and hard work. He is now usually doing seven sessions a week, sometimes twice a day."

"But swimming is one of those sports that you get out what you put into it and you don't get the status that Joshua has now without hard work."

"Our aim is to do better than last year and if Joshua can get into the top 10 then he will be pretty much guaranteed to get into the north-east training camps."

"It would be great for him to get into the camps, it would bring a bit of money his way and ease the financial burden on his parents a bit."

"To get a medal, he is probably going to need to knock another three or four seconds off his times but we have said to him to go for the win and the times will follow."

■ Brigg Lions and Yorkshire and Humber Sports Aid have donated money towards Joshua's training recently, giving him a boost ahead of the national championships.

