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## Sport

# Denaeo's title win is perfect birthday gift

CITY of Leicester ABC's Denaeo George had an early 14th birthday celebration when he retained the National Schoolboys title.

Competing in the under 37kg class, the St Paul's School pupil beat two-time national champion Francie Coyle (West Ham) on a split decision in the semi-final.

That set up a final against Hull's Owen Ketley Club, another national title winner, and again the Leicester lad took a split decision.

The opening round was a cagey affair but George used his jab to good effect.

Ketley showed a lot more aggression in the second round and took the fight to the Leicester boxer but George ensured that he ended every exchange.

Round three followed a similar pattern but George's cleaner work and boxing skills stood out.

"I'm very happy to be national champion for the second year in a row, especially as my weight category was extremely difficult with three former national champions in it," said George, who is supported by D&J Catering and Prestige Designz.

"For the semi-final I knew that I had to be on my game from the start as Coyle is a two-time national champion and has only ever lost two fights.

"After beating such a good boxer it gave me more confi-

## BOXING

dence going into the final because, on paper, the semi-final was a much harder bout.

"As it happened, the final was actually a much tougher contest.

"Even though I'm a southpaw, I do find it tricky when I come up against other southpaws as the majority of my opponents have always been orthodox.

"I just did what I was told by my coach and thankfully that was enough to give me the decision."

George is coached by his father, Emerson, who said: "I am happy with what we have achieved together.

"We spend hours upon hours in the gym together and to win the national title for a second time means so much to both of us.

"Coach Paul Squire has been with us for every step of the competition and his advice has been invaluable.

"We added some new elements to the training leading up to the finals, including working with Rendall Munroe's former strength and conditioning coach Harry Singh at Leicester Fitness and Recovery.

"One of the areas Harry focused on was cognitive conditioning which was something totally new to us, but the benefits were clear to see."



BOXING CLEVER: Denaeo George with his father and coach Emerson, left, and City of Leicester coach Paul Squire

## Bradley kicks his way to Grandchampion Cup



LEICESTER Tang Soo Do students produced a string of outstanding displays in the national championships staged at Nottingham University.

The city club's instructor Bradley Dearnley, left, showed the way in the Korean kicking-based martial art.

He took the honours in three categories - forms, weapons and sparring.

Execution scores are given for precise technique, speed and power in the forms and weapons divisions.

The sparring category awards points for body and face kicks and punches to the body.

Dearnley was awarded the Grandchampion Cup for achieving the most points in the competition and that will allow him to continue his

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efforts to qualify for the World championships which will be staged in America next July.

Leicester students Jaspreet Kaur and Jeet Rai also put in strong performances at their first championships, which attracted competitors from across the country and even from the USA.

Leicester Tang Soo Do has classes for all ages and abilities on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to 8pm.

Anybody interested in training can contact Dearnley on 07876030796 or visit [www.leicestersd.co.uk](http://www.leicestersd.co.uk) or facebook @LeicesterTSD.