

## **Sports volunteering puts student Jamie on path to work**

**Wolverhampton University student Jamie Chapman is fairly new to sports volunteering, but he can already see the benefits for his career, as well as for the young people he helps to coach.**



Jamie, who is 21 and comes from Cannock, has just completed a degree in Sports Science. He has been able to get involved in voluntary football coaching, and helping young people to develop general sports and fitness skills.

Alex Thompson, sports development officer at Sport Birmingham, helped Jamie see what opportunities were on offer to get involved in volunteering.

Says Jamie; "As well as being fun and very rewarding, gaining experience of coaching is really going to help me to find a job in sports development. Through Alex, at Sport Birmingham, I have been able to get involved in the Birmingham Youth Games, helping out with registration and encouraging the athletes."

Jamie's passion is football, and he has given his time to help out at local football development days. The specially organised days, which include mini tournaments, take place across the area and help young players improve their skills, and offer taster sessions to boys and girls who'd like to have a go. He is also going back to school, spending a few hours a week as a volunteer coach at a primary school in Cannock.

"Next, I would like to get my FA level one coaching qualification, and get involved in coaching other sports as well as football. It's great all round, I can help kids get involved in sports and I am improving my job chances too. Fantastic."

**END**