

Daniel Cain: Autobody Repair

Competed in: WorldSkills Calgary 2009 – Team UK
Awarded: Bronze medal
John Barnes Award - this is awarded to the competitor who is considered to have contributed most to the team in terms of morale
Home town: Grimsby
Region: Yorkshire & Humber
Date of birth: 18/04/1987
Age at competition: 22
Employer: Just Car Clinics
Learning provider: Thatcham

Qualifications

- ATA Panel Technician (Senior)
- NVQ Level 1,2 & 3

City & Guilds
Qualified



What was your route into Team UK?

Daniel's first taste of competing came when he entered a competition hosted by Bodyshop magazine. Entering into the Young Panel Technician category Daniel made the finals in 2005, 2006 and 2007. In 2008, he won the award and was invited to take part in the WorldSkills selection process. Continuing his winning streak at both the Squad and Team selection competitions, Daniel was awarded a place in Team UK.

Why did you choose to get involved with WorldSkills?

Having heard such fantastic reports about the competition from a colleague at work, Daniel was sold on the idea.

"This was a great opportunity for me to further my career and demonstrate my skills and passion for the work I do."

What training did you undertake as part of your journey to WorldSkills and what impact did this have on your life?

Karl Vella, Daniel's training manager and the WorldSkills expert, designed a demanding training plan designed to incorporate all aspects of the skill. Daniel worked with the best in the country to further his knowledge of everyday and specific techniques relating to the skill.

"Much of the training was new to me including the work I did at the Toyota Academy. I was also taught better and faster techniques for tasks that I complete everyday. Training was a huge commitment and the amount of time I had to spend away from home had a real impact on my life."

What was WorldSkills like?

"WorldSkills was the greatest experience I've probably ever had. Seeing all the other skills, competitors from around the world and being there as the best of the best gave me a great feeling. The competition was so tough though. I was under so much pressure and it was mentally draining. My body has never ached like it did after those four days of competition and I have been doing this job for six years."

What did you have to do during the competition?

The autobody repair competition was broken down into nine modules that tested all areas of the skill. Throughout the 22 hours of competition Daniel worked on a single body shell to complete the nine tasks, which included aspects like straightening and replacing parts of the chassis. Every task was marked to WorldSkills standards which exceed those of the motor industry.

Who inspired you during your journey to WorldSkills?

"My Grandad was my inspiration throughout the journey to WorldSkills. He died during one of my first visits to Brathay so I wanted to do well for him, as I know if he were alive he would have supported me every step of the way."

What did being part of Team UK and competing at WorldSkills mean to you?

"Being surrounded by so much talent and being part of this fantastic team was the greatest opportunity I could ever ask for. Competing at WorldSkills has shown me that everything I have worked for in the past six years is paying off and it's looking good for the future."

How did it feel to win the Bronze medal?

"When my name got called I was speechless. It was a weight off my shoulders that I had achieved what I set out to do - win a medal!"

What has competing done for you both personally and professionally?

Daniel is experiencing the benefits of competing at WorldSkills already. His efficiency and quality of work have shown major improvement, but he is also noticing some changes in himself.

"I have become a much stronger and confident person. The experience has completely changed my lifestyle and I'm now a much more respectable member of the community!"

What is the dream?

After returning from the competition Daniel is determined to give something back and plans to pursue a career as a trainer.

"I really want to help train young apprentices and pass on my knowledge and skills. It would be great to be part of the next WorldSkills competitors' journey, giving them the benefit of my experience."

Would you encourage others to get involved in WorldSkills?

"I would encourage others as much as I can. It would be great if everyone knew about this fantastic opportunity and could have the same unbelievable journey I did."

What do you think of the event being held in London in 2011?

"It will be good to have something positive for the UK to focus on. I think young people have a bad reputation because of the actions of a few. WorldSkills is an opportunity for them to show the public what they can really do!"



For more information about the WorldSkills, UK Alumni, contact the UK Skills communications team:
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