

# Body boarder rides crest of success wave

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**R**IDING the wave of success, Mark McCarthy, 24, came fourth in the International Body boarding Association (IBA) World Tour recently.

A professional body boarder, McCarthy, who lives in Richards Bay, completed his first IBA World Tour, and competed against 200 of the best body boarders in the world. The tour ended last week in the Canary Islands.

The annual event takes place in locations and surf spots spanning the globe.

McCarthy is a member of the South African Body Boarding Association, who nominated him to participate in the IBA tour.

Still trying to come to terms with his top five placing, McCarthy who returned to South Africa on Wednesday, said he was "overjoyed" with his results.

"It is a dream come true to compete against the world's best body boarders in some of the best waves in renowned surfing cities around the world.

"Two years ago I would never have seen myself competing against some of my idols, it has been an amazing year I



would never change it for anything.

"I thoroughly enjoyed it. The competition has taken me to Australia, Chile, Spain, Portugal, Venezuela and the Canary Islands. The best thing about it is that I got to travel and participate in a sport I love."

McCarthy started body boarding at

the age of 13, and honed his technique by watching others. Before long he was riding the waves like a pro.

His talent was later spotted by nine-times body boarding world champion, Mike Stewart.

Stewart said he has been sharing his wealth of knowledge with McCarthy and



**BODY** boarder Mark McCarthy did South Africa proud when he came fourth in the International Body Boarding Association World Tour in the Canary Islands recently

working on improving his performance in the past year. "Mark works very hard at what he wants. He will do whatever is necessary to get to where he wants to be," Stewart said.

"If he stays on his present course he has the potential to achieve his dreams, but it all depends on him."

McCarthy will be spending the holidays with his family, before he heads to Hawaii early next year to participate in the IBA tour, which starts in February.

"Hopefully next year I will do a lot better and clinch the title of world champion," he said.

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