Academy Action

August 2011
The Official Newsletter of the South West Sydney Academy of Sport

ATHLETE GRADUATION NIGHT

August saw over 450 athletes, coaches, parents and sponsors, plus local, federal and state representatives including The Hon. Graham Annesley Minster for Sport and Recreation, attend the annual South West Sydney Academy of Sport, Graduation Dinner.

The night recognised all associated with the Academy for their contribution to what has been an exceptional year of achievement. The success of high performing individual athletes was also recognised.

Several awards were presented during the evening including coaches' awards for each squad, 'SKINS Dedication to Task' awards, the perpetual Jim Medway trophies, Coaches Service Awards, the Macarthur Credit Union "Community Spirit" Award, and Clive Graham Memorial Trophy. The night culminated with the announcement of Greater West Sports Foundation Chairpersons Award nominees and the Chairpersons winner.

Coaches' awards were presented to the following athletes from each squad. Golf: Sam Williamson, Rugby League: Brayden Boaden, Softball: Mason Rossi and Skye Weeks, Netball: Isabella Tomassetti, (pictured) Hockey: Lachlan Springett and Andrea Seymour, Harold Matthews Rugby League: Matthew Sheck and Ten Pin Bowling athlete Tristan Foo.

Coaches Service Awards are presented to volunteer coaching and support staff members recognising their long term years of service. Five year silver awards were presented to Tony Jackson: Softball. Lesley Darby: Softball, David Shorrocks: Netball and Gary Howell: Netball with two special 10 year awards going to Hockey coaches Andrew Woolner (pictured) and Des White.

The Clive Graham Memorial Trophy for the most outstanding athlete/s in the "Lone Star' program in 2011 went to Judo athlete: Padriac Kearney

The Macarthur Credit Union "Community Spirit" Award is and award for athletes who not only achieve on the sporting field but put back into the community. This year third year Softball athlete Jay Schouten was the recipient.

The night also included a presentation from Olympic gold medalist, beach volley ball player Kerri Pottharst. Keri inspired the audience with her story, overcoming injury and adversity to win Olympic gold. Kerri also inspired audience members, Jocob Andaloro, (pictured) Sue Woolner, Sian McInnes and Macarthur Credit Unions David Cadden to take part in her walking on glass demonstration.

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With the help and support of Pat McGeown, the night also included the launch of the new South West Sydney Academy of Sport song. Written by local artist Fred Day, the song was performed for the first time live by Fred with support from another talented local artist Joseph Gatehau. (pictured).

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the 2011 Greater West Sports Foundation Chairperson Award winner.

Nominees included Kenny Vatuvei: Rugby League, Brooke Lawrence: Netball, Alec Bush: Harold Matthews Rugby League, Jacob Andaloro: Hockey, Jay Schouten: Softball and Ben Clapham: Golf. (pictured)

With such an outstanding group of nominees, selecting a winner was a difficult task. The recipient has to show an attitude that embraces the Academy and its required high level of social skills, communication skills, leadership, athlete respect philosophies, and responsibility.

The 2011 winner Brooke Lawrence was first selected into the Academy Netball program in 2009, as part of its 15 years Netball Development program.

Since beginning her scholarship with the Academy Brooke has at all times verified the philosophies and beliefs of the Academy.

Brooke has demonstrated tremendous leadership skills both on and off the court; and has developed into an effective communicator with the ability to build a rapport with not only team mates and coaching staff members, but also state and national coaches.

The Academy Netball program has not been as privileged for quite a few years to witness such a success story such as Brooke's.

In 2010, Brooke was selected in the Under 15's NSW Combined Catholic Schools Team, the NSW All Schools and the Open NSW Combined Catholic Schools Team.

At the tender age of 16 Brooke has reached the pinnacle of the Academy Netball program, something that is not usually achieved until 18.

Brooke is regular player on court for Manly in the State League 'Waratah Cup' competition, the highest elite open age competition in NSW.

And, this year Brooke also gained a scholarship with the NSW Institute of Sport and was selected into the NSW U17's team which finished 'runners up' at the 2011 National Championships.

When asked, Brooke's head coach Joanne Morgan said "Brooke was the perfect nominee for Academy Chairpersons award. Her commitment to the sport both as a player and volunteer is readily evident through her total dedication."

Brooke's leadership skills, commitment to the Academy program, communication skills, respect for others and excellent sporting achievements make her a worthy recipient of this year's Greater West Foundation Chairpersons award.

Brooke Lawrence presented with the Chairperson Award by The Hon. Graham Annesley MP.

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SKINS™ Dedication to Task Award

Skins™ Compression Garments have been a proud supporter of the Academy since 2006, providing the Academy's State and National representatives with a quality package of Skins™ Compression wear.

The South West Sydney Academy of Sport has implemented a monthly award to a member of the Academy Community who shows dedication, contribution and commitment to task in their Academy training, support and community promotion of the organisation.

Academy Members are encouraged to nominate a person they see fit of receiving this high profile award via the nomination forms available on the SWSAS Academy website: www.swsas.org.au/swsas/skinsaward.htm

This months winner received a plaque of recognition presented at the 2010 Graduation and Sports Awards Dinner and will be featured in the monthly Corporate Update.

The Skins™ Dedication to Task Award

Winner for August – Kodee Heddle

Kodee has been part of the SWSAS netball umpire program for 2 years and has recently been selected in the SWSAS under 15's Netball Development Program.

As part of the umpiring program Kodee attended all team training session, completing fitness sessions and attended all tours and events to umpire and support the squad.

For young umpires attending the Clubs NSW Academy Games and NIB Games provide a great opportunity to be coached by NSW umpires as well as exposure to elite level games.

Kodee has been an invaluable member of the 2010/2011 Netball program and we wish her all the best with her Netball as part of the 2011 under 15's Netball Development Program.

2011 Calendar

Subject to change.

SEPTEMBER 2011

6th – U15's Netball Training

13th – U15's Netball Training

19th Coaching Staff Nominations Close

24th / 25th – U15's Netball Camp

* For more information go to www.swsas.org.au

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY ACADEMY OF SPORT

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