Blues Sports Awards

2006

Monday October 2

Sir Neil Waters Lecture
Theatres Foyer
The New Zealand Universities Blues award is the highest sporting accolade given in the NZ tertiary system. It is part of a tradition dating from 1922 in New Zealand and earlier in England, where the colours of Oxford and Cambridge Universities came to be a symbol for sporting excellence.

Sporting ‘Blues’ have been made famous by the rivalry between England’s most famous universities, Oxford and Cambridge. ‘Oxford’ blues were only awarded for ‘real’ sports, such as rowing, rugby and cricket. Athletes in other codes could only aspire to half blues. One Irish University purportedly awards top athletes ‘pinks’.

Massey University’s earliest recipient of a New Zealand University Blues Award was Mac Cooper in 1934 for Rugby. Mac Cooper also won a Rhodes Scholarship in 1934 and played against the NZ All Blacks in 1935 for Oxford and Scotland. George Robinson and E Orgias were awarded Blues in 1935 for Athletics. Hockey player, H B Lawry also won an NZU Blue in 1935.

In 1990, Massey University resurrected the practice of awarding Blues to its top sporting students in all sports with the Massey Blues Awards. The University and the Students Association, with the Bank of New Zealand also providing sponsorship, funded the awards. A selection committee was elected and a formal set of guidelines for potential recipients established, to ensure a high standard and consistency across the codes. Improved marketing and an increasing student role saw an increase in student nominations.

From 1990-1994 the annual MUSA Sportsperson of the Year award was made to an outstanding sports achiever. From 1995 onwards individual MUSA Sportsperson and Sportswoman of the Year awards have been presented. In 1999, the major sponsor Bank of New Zealand introduced a trophy for Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year for both the Palmerston North and Albany campuses. Outstanding Contribution Awards have been presented since 1991. These awards recognise those who work behind the scenes in areas such as coaching, fundraising or provision of administrative support to club sports, cultural activities or international clubs and societies.

With the diverse range of excellence in the world of the arts and design, 1997 saw the first Cultural Award presented, in addition to the sporting Blues.

The University values the event and genuinely wishes to honour the individual achievers. Students nominated must excel in their chosen sport or cultural pursuit, as well as their academic studies. A huge commitment and discipline are required to be a Blues and Cultural Award recipient, as students must successfully juggle the often-heavyworkloads of university study with heavy training and performance schedules.

In 2005 the Blues Committee agreed to discontinue the presentation of an overall Massey University Sportsperson and Sportswoman of the Year Award. From 2006 the Bank of New Zealand trophy will be presented to the top performing Sportsperson and Sportswoman of the Albany and Palmerston North campuses.
2006 Massey Blues Awards

Athletics
Charles Nicholson
Jacobus Nel
Elizabeth Orchard
Laura Roozendaal

Cricket
Carl Cachopa
Gareth Hopkins
Jason Donnelly

Equestrian
Lisa Coupe

Fencing
Yafei Fan

Golf
Jenna Hirst

Ice Hockey
Amanda Green
Kimberley Greer

Judo
Andrew Hay

Kart Sport
Brent Humphrey

Netball
Katie King

Rugby
Robert Coulhoun
Bradley Grimmer
Anna Richards
Ryan Wilson

Surf Lifesaving
Chris Moors
Johanna O'Connor

Tennis
Aaron McDougall

Triathlon
Anna Hamilton

Yachting
Matt Coutts

2005
Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportsman of the Year
Michael Bullot, Yachting

Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportswoman of the Year
Helen Norfolk – Swimming

2004
Massey University Sportsman of the Year &
Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportsman of the Year
Scott Talbot-Cameron – Swimming

Massey University Sportswoman of the Year
Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportswoman of the Year
Helen Norfolk – Swimming

2003
Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportsman of the Year
Scott Talbot-Cameron – Swimming

Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportswoman of the Year &
Massey University Sportswoman of the Year
Alison Fitch – Swimming

2002
Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportsman of the Year
Jon Paul Tobin – Boardsailing

Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportswoman of the Year &
Massey University Sportswoman of the Year
Alison Fitch – Swimming

Cultural Award
Te Waka o Nga Akonga Maori – Kapa Haka

2001
Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportsman of the Year
David Kosoof - Hockey

Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportswoman of the Year
Alison Fitch – Swimming

2000
Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportsman of the Year
Mark (Sharkey) Robinson, Rugby

Bank of New Zealand Albany Campus Sportswoman of the Year
Meredith Orr – Hockey

Massey University Sportsman of the Year
Chris Whitehead – Surf Lifesaving & Kayaking

1998
MUSA Sportsman of the Year
Dean Kent – Swimming

MUSA Sportswoman of the Year
Louisa Wall – Netball & Rugby

1996
MUSA Sportsman of the Year
Jamie Hunt – Triathlon

1995
MUSA Sportsman & Sportsperson of the Year
Joseph Spooner – Yachting
Bank of New Zealand
Massey University Auckland Award

Sportswoman of the Year Nominees

Yafei Fan - Fencing
- Ranked New Zealand No 3 Women’s Epee

Johanna O’Connor - Surf Lifesaving
- World Lifesaving Championships Australia, February 2006 - 2nd Women’s Tube Rescue
- 2nd Women’s Board Rescue, 2nd Women’s Taplin Relay
- Ranked New Zealand No 2 across three disciplines

Anna Hamilton - Triathlon
- Ranked New Zealand No 2 U23
- 4th U23 ITU World Champs, Bridgeport, USA, February 2006

Bank of New Zealand
Massey University Auckland Award

Sportsman of the Year Nominees

Jason Donnelly - Cricket
- New Zealand U19 Team, World Cup Cricket, Sri Lanka, February 2006

Gareth Hopkins - Cricket
- New Zealand “A” Team tour to Sri Lanka, October 2005
- New Zealand “A” Team tour to Australia, July 2006

Andrew Hay - Ice Hockey
- New Zealand Ice Blacks Team to World Championships, Division 2, Latvia, April 2006

Alister Leat - Judo
- New Zealand Senior Men’s Judo Team to Oceania Judo Championships, Tahiti, July 2006
- Commonwealth Judo Tournament, Ireland, June 2006 and the World Judo Championships, Cairo, September 2005

Ryan Wilson - Rugby
- New Zealand U21 Colts to World Cup, France, June 2006

Matt Coutts - Yachting
- NZL Yachting Trust Youth Team to the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships, England, July 2006 – 6th Overall

Blues Awards Committee

Chair
Dr Sarah Leberman

Members
Ms Kaye Connor
Mr Mark Christie
Ms Eimear Clowry
Dr Margot Edwards (Albany)
Mr Richard Hollings (Albany)
Ms Christine Scott
Mr Dennis Slade
Dr Stephen Stannard

Blues Awards

Proudly supported by: