merry christmas etc

The final edition of Back Page for 1994 is a combined November/December issue as everyone knows that campuses become virtual ghost towns at the end of October. However, sport does continue even through the Summer months and so we'll be keeping you up to date throughout the University recess. As this is the last issue before Christmas, however, I'd like to wish you a healthy and happy break and remember, champagne is lethal stuff!

See you next year,

Lindy Burns
Editor

newcastle places 2nd, statewide, in 1994

The final placings for all sports contested under the ECTSA (Eastern Conference Tertiary Sports Association) for 1994 were released recently with Newcastle finishing 2nd - only 24 points behind the overall winner, Sydney. The placings are worked out by totalling the results of all of the competitions between all of the 25 universities within NSW. The final points tally reads as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>165</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Macquarie</td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Wollongong</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>ANU</td>
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<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>UTS</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
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<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
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</tr>
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<td>12th</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Nepean</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>ACU (North Sydney)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Wagga</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>Hawkesbury</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>ACU (Castle Hill)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th</td>
<td>Southern Sydney TAFE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>ACU Signadou &amp; Mt St Mary</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>CSU Albury &amp; ADFA</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

repairs to no. 1 oval

Most people (particularly those associated with the Cricket Club) will be aware by now that the damage to the wickets on No. 1 oval will mean that they will be unavailable for use during the '94-'95 season.

However, the word is out that this story will eventually have a happy ending as Sport and Rec. have taken the opportunity to conduct some timely renovations on the ground.

The cricket square has been dug out, rotated to run in a north/south direction, raised, laser levelled and re-turfed with a special blend of, primarily, couch grass. The practice wickets will also be renovated during this time. And while we're all waiting for the proverbial grass to grow, synthetic grass will be laid on the concrete practice wickets on No. 4 oval and an arrangement has been made with Newcastle City Council for the University Cricket Firsts to use No. 1 Sportsground as their home ground this season.
university blues and colours

After the publication of the September newsletter, several people cornered me in a variety of rather uncomfortable ways, demanding to know more about the “blues” and “colours”. And so, in order to prevent further personal discomfort, I offer the following information. Blues were originally the colours awarded for outstanding sporting achievement at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Because both University’s colours were shades of blue, they became known as “blues” and were primarily awarded to those who played in matches between the two institutions. Today “blues” are awarded at most “English-style” universities throughout the world and, while each institution has its own selection criteria, they are widely recognised as an award of both excellence and prestige. Newcastle University awarded its first “blue” to Doug Chapman (now Director of Engineering at Newcastle City Council) back in 1955 - however up until 1966, when Newcastle finally achieved its autonomy, the blues presented were either in the name of the University of New South Wales or New England. For example, Brian O’Shea’s Rugby blue from 1964, is from the University of New South Wales, although he naturally remains on our honour roll.

The awarding of “colours” began in 1973 with the Sports Union eager to reward excellence in sporting administration in addition to the already existing, “on-field” award; the “blue”. In essence, it formally recognised what most players had known for a long time - without administrators there would be no game for them to excel in.

I have always found the blues and colours board in the Auchmuty Sports Centre quite fascinating. Can you imagine the sheer size of the presentation ceremony in 1968 when 11 blues were awarded? Or what it might have felt to be Ms S.E. Richardson (nee Brown) in 1964 when she received her hockey blue in the same year as six Rugby blues!?

For many people, however, the names listed over the page (we’ll list the colours recipients next issue) will be mean little. So, over the next few months we’ll be taking a closer look at some of them - who they are, what they achieved and what their life is like today. And who better to start with than one of the best; Robyn Leggatt.

robyn leggatt

Robyn Leggatt (nee Fernley) is one of the best hockey players Australia has ever produced. Her selection in the NSW GSSA Open School Girls in 1973 was just the beginning of a long and illustrious career that culminated in being named the Captain of the Australian Women’s Olympic Team in 1984. Robyn’s hockey “blue” in 1975 came as a result of her being named in both the NSW Senior State team as well as the Australian Intervarsity team. However, after finishing her first year at Uni, Robyn decided to transfer “over the creek” to pursue a Diploma in Education - Physical Education course at the then, Newcastle College of Advanced Education.

Robyn was virtually an automatic selection for the State Senior side from 1975 until her retirement in 1985. Prior to that, she had been awarded the captaincy of both the NSW and Australian U/18 teams and had also been selected in the NSW U/21 side in 1974. Therefore, it was inevitable that Senior Australian selection would come along.

It did - in 1978 - but she had to wait another two years before being chosen again in the national side in 1980. This time, however, she cemented her place and played with the team for the next four years. In early 1983, Robyn was awarded the Vice-Captaincy of the Australian team and the Captaincy later that same year; just in time to lead the side to the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984. In fact, 1983 was a big year all round for Robyn - she was named the NSW Sportswomen of the Year, the Newcastle Sports Star of the Year, the Player of the Series at the National Championships, a member of the World Team from the World Cup and married her fiancee, Peter.

However, two years later she found herself facing one of the toughest moments of her life. The day before the National Championships in 1985, Robyn snapped a cruciate ligament and knew that it would be at least 12 months before she would be able to even compete at the elite level again. Faced with a long and arduous recovery period coupled with her ever increasing teaching and home commitments, Robyn decided to retire. Not surprisingly, children followed soon after - Jamie (now 8) and Eryn (5) and Robyn Leggatt today is a teacher, wife, mother, hockey coach and mentor for many young people. A PE teacher at Waratah Technology High, she also finished that degree she started back in 1975, albeit by correspondence through Charles Sturt University.

Although Robyn is pleased about the increased sponsorship and media coverage that hockey is receiving today, she is glad that she played at the time she did. “I think we had a more balanced lifestyle then,” she says. “We trained hard, but we could still work and pursue other interests. For the kids today, their sport is their career and they have little time for anything else.”

“Out of all the things I’ve done, I think the most important thing is the knowledge that I fulfilled my potential. And, as a result, I feel that I could achieve anything that I put my mind to,” Robyn explains. “If I could pass only one thing onto my children and my pupils, it would be this.”

And so, even those who never had the chance to see her play, are still benefitting today from the marvellous career of Robyn Leggatt.

Robyn Leggatt ... a champion, then and now
sport exchanges with university of british columbia

The University of British Columbia Athletic and Sport Services
Department is extremely interested in arranging sport
exchanges with Commonwealth universities around the world.
The Department is prepared to exchange sport teams, coaches
and sport personnel, share appropriate research, materials and,
where possible, to do joint symposiums and conferences
related to sport. If necessary representatives of the
Department would be prepared to visit these universities in
person in order to expedite the program. If you or your team,
club, Department or Faculty is interested in pursuing this
matter, please make direct contact with:

Dr Robert G Hindmarch
Director, External Relations
Department of Athletics and Sports Services
War Memorial Gymnasium
272 - 6081 University Boulevard
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z1
Ph: 604 822 2531 Fax: 604 822 6011

social sport review
by simon navin, 1994 social sport co-ordinator

This year I was again given the opportunity to help organise and
run the Social Sport competitions.

First Semester
First Semester saw three mixed touch competitions and one
mixed netball comp. take place. Both staff and students
participated with some sides gaining the expertise of State reps.
in their sides.

A total of 29 teams took part in the social sports offered with
Wednesday considered the most popular day for people to
participate. Three separate competitions were held on the
Wednesday - Touch (12noon - 1pm), Touch (1pm - 2pm) and
Netball (1pm - 2pm). Two sports were held on Tuesdays -
Volleyball and Touch. The Volleyball competition had only
three teams and was played in the most social of ways - my
thanks goes to those who competed. Winners of the first
semester competition were:

Tuesday Touch NPSOB
Wednesday Netball Teds
Wednesday Touch (12noon - 1pm) F Troop
Wednesday Touch (1pm - 2pm) The Salesmen

No finals were held in Volleyball due to the small number of
teams.

Second Semester
The Second Semester competition drew less competitors but
no lessening of the quality. The eventual winner of the Tuesday
Touch competition, Syphilis Antidote, was a mixture of
previous competition players, imports of a few local players and
players from University representative teams. This proves that
the Social Sport competition is not only popular amongst those
who enjoy the social aspect but is respected by the more
serious Touch players.

A total of 10 teams entered the Wednesday Touch Comp.
This lead to the formation of two pools. The teams were
randomly divided and played a round robin over five weeks. At
the conclusion the top two teams from each pool played off in
the semi-finals. In the end, the knowledge gained from the
hours in Physical Education lectures proved to be the difference
for the 2nd year PE team, Felching Gerbals.

The game to decide the "overall champion side" was contested
on the day of the Second Semester Social Sport BBQ. The
winner from Tuesday's comp., Syphilis Antidote, and the winner
of Wednesday's comp., Felching Gerbals (I don't make them up,
I just write them) played off in front of an appreciative crowd.
It was a tight struggle with Syphilis Antidote cementing
themselves as the best in Second Semester, 1994.

Congratulations to all who took part and thanks to both the
indoor and outdoor staff for their help in running these
competitions.

Special thanks should also go to Eagle Boys Pizza, the referees
(Kerrie Bradley, Donna Hollingsworth, Brad Dorothy, Don
Hunter, Chad Gillies and Craig Bagnal) and Kylie McLean.

Simon Navin (centre) and Alan Duncan (right) congratulate the captain of Syphilis Antidote

Champion of champions: Syphilis Antidote

Winner of Tuesday comp: Felching Gerbals
1955  
D.P. Chapman (Basketball)
G.M. Stephens (Basketball)
L.R. Williams (Basketball)

1959  
N.E. Brock (Athletics)
J.R. Rogers (Cricket)
B.L. Adcock (Rugby)
A.R. Andrews (Rugby)
P.L. Simmington (Rugby)
A.J. McGowan (Rugby)
D.A. Magin (Athletics)
K.P. Gilbert (Rugby)
R.S. Levi (Cricket)
D.A. March (Cricket)
S.E. Richardson (Ms) (Hockey)
W.J. Coulter (Rugby)
J.J. Davies (Rugby)
B.P. O'Shea (Rugby)
D.D. Rogers (Rugby)
R.L. Watts (Rugby)
R.W. Wilson (Rugby)

1968  
B.J. Couper (Basketball)
M.V. Wall (Ms) (Basketball)
C.A. Whitehead (Cricket)
R.N. Hanley (Cricket)
S.A. Tarbox (Cricket)
D.C. Nelson (Golf)
M. Clark (Ms) (Rowing)
W. Kingston (Rugby)
R.N. Hatherley (Rugby)
L.A. Dean (Rugby)
M.L. Goldman (Rugby)
A.M. Perrin (Ms) (Badminton)
A.J. Wardle (Fencing)
B.M. Devir (Rugby)
K.E. Brown (Rugby)
D. Williamson (Rugby)
C.J. Hanna (Squash)
D.K. Lai (Tennis)
M.E. Bridson (Ms) (Tennis)
V.A. Green (Ms) (Athletics)
J.A. Hawkins (Badminton)
D.R. Lang (Cricket)
P.R. Dodd (Rugby)
R.K. de Tozer (Rugby)
R.M. Wilkinson (Rugby)

1974  
D.G. Cummings (League)
E.L. Collard (Ms) (Hockey)
J.G. Walter (Ms) (Hockey)
R.J. White (Soccer)
J.E. Pegg (Squash)
F. B. Wilkinson (Squash)
G. Cox (Athletics)
P. Hazelwood (Ms) (Hockey)
R. Leggett (Ms) (Hockey)
T. McLenan (Squash)
G. Walsh (Rugby)

1976  
J.J. Andrew (Cricket)
W.B. Taggett (Hockey)
D.J. Willet (Rugby League)
J.G. Arthur (Rugby League)
R.J. Armstrong (Squash)
S.P. Whitman (Rugby League)
B. Atkins (Rugby)
M. Besty (Athletics)
P.J. Briggs (Cricket)
K. Morris (Ms) (Hockey)
H.E. Leary (Ms) (Hockey)
R. Haberl (Table Tennis)

1977  
A.C. Richardson (Ms) (Volleyball)
D.A. Rintoul (Rugby League)
W.A. Wileman (Rugby)

1978  
A.C. Richardson (Ms) (Volleyball)
D.A. Rintoul (Rugby League)
W.A. Wileman (Rugby)

1979  
M. Besty (Athletics)
P.J. Briggs (Cricket)
K. Morris (Ms) (Hockey)
H.E. Leary (Ms) (Hockey)
R. Haberl (Table Tennis)

1980  
J. Achnum (Ms) (Volleyball)
D.A. Rintoul (Rugby League)
W.A. Wileman (Rugby)

1981  
L.E. Burns (Ms) (Basketball)
J.L. Hughes (Ms) (Basketball)
T.E. Curran (Cricket)
C.J. Wright (Hockey)
P.J. Turley (Rugby League)
K.E. Stone (Ms) (Squash)

1982  
T. Farrell (Orienteering)
P. Horton (Table Tennis)
V. Schofield (Ms) (Volleyball)

1983  
G. Aford (Squash)
A. Butler (Cricket)
S.E. Curran (Hockey)
K. Plater (Rugby League)
C. Ross (Cricket)
N.F. Wright (Rugby)
D.W. Meldrum (Hockey)
R. Blyth (Rugby)
J.E. Pegg (Squash)
C. Ross (Athletics)

1984  
F. Dawes (Ms) (Powerlifting)
J. Gordon (Surfing)
A. Kohlrusch (Athletics)
D. Lightfoot (Athletics)
A. Kingston (Rugby)

1985  
A.J. McGowan (Rugby)
R.N. Hatherley (Rugby)
R. Leggett (Ms) (Hockey)
R. Blyth (Rugby)

1986  
J. Horstly (Diving)
G. Reynolds (Hockey)
P. Sweeney (Hockey)
O. Droop (Hockey)
A. Ekert (Rugby)
P. Heanley (Rugby)
L. Mahony (Surfing)

1987  
J. Andrew (Cricket)
W.B. Taggett (Hockey)
D.J. Willet (Rugby League)
J.G. Arthur (Rugby League)
R.J. Armstrong (Squash)
S.P. Whitman (Rugby League)
B. Atkins (Rugby)
M. Besty (Athletics)
P.J. Briggs (Cricket)
K. Morris (Ms) (Hockey)
H.E. Leary (Ms) (Hockey)
R. Haberl (Table Tennis)

1988  
J. Achnum (Ms) (Volleyball)
D.A. Rintoul (Rugby League)
W.A. Wileman (Rugby)

1989  
M. Besty (Athletics)
P.J. Briggs (Cricket)
K. Morris (Ms) (Hockey)
H.E. Leary (Ms) (Hockey)
R. Haberl (Table Tennis)

1990  
J. Horstly (Diving)
G. Reynolds (Hockey)
P. Sweeney (Hockey)
O. Droop (Hockey)
A. Ekert (Rugby)
P. Heanley (Rugby)
L. Mahony (Surfing)

1991  
A. Abbo (Hockey)
G. Cocking (Hockey)
K. Rochester (Volleyball)
D. Willis (Basketball)
A.R. Beazley (Water Ski)

1992  
B.P. O'Shea (Rugby)
M.E. Bridson (Ms) (Tennis)
B. Atkins (Rugby)
J. Horsley (Diving)

1993  
B.P. O'Shea (Rugby)
M.E. Bridson (Ms) (Tennis)
B. Atkins (Rugby)
J. Horsley (Diving)