Someone once said 'Sport is Australia's religion and Sunday is the day of worship'. They were wrong. Almost 300 students from The University of Newcastle proved that every day can be a day of worship when it comes to sport.

With 30 different sports and around 5,000 athletes from 27 different university campuses, the Eastern Australia University Games 1999 were, without a doubt, the biggest and best Eastern Conference Games in history.

From July 5 to 9, students from universities in NSW and the ACT congregated in western Sydney to compete in the Eastern Australia University Games. This year the games were hosted by the University of Western Sydney (UWS Macarthur). Events were held at various nearby locations in Liverpool and Bankstown. Sponsored by the Motor Accidents Authority, the Games’ message came across loud and clear: ‘You only get one body, Drive Safely.’

The Games were contested from Monday to Friday with most Newcastle athletes beginning on the Tuesday. Some sports such as Athletics, Swimming and Tae Kwon Do were held on one day only. However, the majority of team sports had to endure a series of preliminary matches. Endurance was indeed a key factor as the night life ensured that only the fittest survived to compete. The semi-finals and finals were contested on Thursday afternoon and Friday between the remaining survivors.

Some of the University’s best sports people combined to make sure that The University of Newcastle was a force to be reckoned with.

The very successful Athletics team came away from their events weighed down with a swag of ten individual medals as well as a gold in the medley relay and a bronze in the women’s 4 x 100m. Nicole Williams and Ayesha Bromley put in spectacular performances to bring home six and five medals, respectively.

The AFL boys did really well for a team that had never played together before, and in many cases, had never played AFL. They had some close matches and some not-so-close matches. Led by legendary captain David Reid, the boys finished with a commendable eighth placing.

The Men’s Basketball team accumulated enough points to secure their place in the play-off for ninth and tenth position. They won their last match, 52-48, in a close encounter against Cumberland Uni.

The Women’s Basketball team went down to Sydney Uni in their quarter finals but were stoked with their sixth placing, which should ensure they qualify for the AUG in Perth.

Natalie Ritter earned a silver medal for her golfing prowess and veteran Greg Gillard received a well-deserved bronze in his individual event. As a team, the male golfers finished second.

Our much publicised Gridiron team did not let us down. Having trained for only 6 weeks beforehand and being an affiliated club for only 5 days, they did well to finish with bronze.

In a Steel City clash to mirror last year’s performance, the Men’s Hockey team once again overcame Wollongong in the play-off for bronze, and with the inclusion of several more quality players for the Australian University Games, they should be medal contenders in Perth.

Women’s Hockey were unlucky to be placed in a pool with the top three teams. They may have been in for a shot had some key players not lost their way on the road trip out to the far flung hockey fields at Narellan. All things considered, they played well, with spirit and determination. Though finishing ninth the girls hope to qualify for Perth via a wildcard entry.

Martin Kelly was never seriously challenged for the gold medal in his black belt, over 100kg division in Judo. Martin showed why he will be a medal chance in next year’s Olympic Games by winning the final in ten seconds. Jadd Sanson-Fischer and Mette Sandvik were also medallists.

In their semi finals the Mixed Netball team improved on a six goal deficit at quarter-time to finish one goal behind the eventual champions, UNSW. They defeated UTS 42-38 to take home the bronze medal. The most valuable player was Paul McKew, and Alec Thomas consistently scored goal after goal, after perfecting the art of covering at least five metres in just one step!

The Rowing contingent did well in their first University competition since 1996. They finished with four silver medals for the men’s and women’s pair, men’s double and men’s coxed four.

The Rugby boys graced us with their presence at a Team Dinner held at the Hunts Motel for all
Newcastle athletes on the Tuesday of EAUG. Unfortunately, the team struggled with injuries and by Thursday they were unable to put a team on the park. However, they caused a big upset on Tuesday by beating the Australian Defence Force Academy 17–15.

Both Men’s and Women’s Soccer teams were unfortunate to lose their play-off matches in a sudden death penalty shoot out. The men’s team had some big wins initially, with standout performances from Mal Hinchcliffe, Tony Majurovski, Christer Bjorshol, Brenden Kelana, Gavin Ward and Marty Lau. The boys finished fourth, but are keen to improve on their performances at Perth later in the year. The team may have been down on experience as five of the regulars were in Spain competing in the World Student Games.

The highlight for the women’s soccer team would have to be their 13-0 demolition of ACU St Mary’s. Therese Nilsen was just one goal short of a triple hat trick. Newcastle was helped out by some very well placed own goals scored by the opposition, but as they came up against better teams this was not enough to compensate for all of the partying, lack of sleep and injuries. The girls played with lots of heart and eventually finished eighth.

Like the true professionals they are, the Women’s Softball team were able to put the disorganised draw out of their minds and focus on winning a bronze medal. They were assisted by excellent fielding from Teresa Clay, pitching from Danielle Ashton and batting from Kristy Porter and Naomi Bell. It was great to see many of the ‘Softball Mums’ drive down each day from Newcastle and the Central Coast to spur their team on.

The Swimming team ensured that Newcastle Uni had a very successful first day of competition. Overall, they won three gold medals, three silver and six bronze. Special congratulations go to Glen Sedgeman for his three gold medals and Aaron Lightfoot for his five medals.

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**Archery Club Takes Aim**

Due to the influx of new members this year, the University of Newcastle Archery club was able to field a team at the Eastern Conference University Games for the first time in many years. The team of Ben Graham, Mark Johnson, Melissa Becker and Julian Field, performed above expectations against a large showing from other universities, with all our competitors falling just outside medal range in their respective divisions. Thanks go to the Sports Union for all its help in fielding the team.

The club is committed to regular meetings for target shooting on No.1 oval (just near the newly refurbished squash courts) at midday every Monday and Wednesday (weather permitting). We invite anyone with a current interest in or curiosity about archery, to come over and try it out. We are happy to help beginners and we also cater for those with some archery experience through our ‘in-house’ competitions. Our club is experiencing a revival on campus and apart from archery, we hold club BBQ’s, and other social events.

Archery) → No 1 Oval Mondays & Wednesdays 12 Noon

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**Gold to Newcastle University Tennis**

A strong squad of tennis players competed in the Eastern Australia University Games in July. Many of the University’s top players came along to represent Newcastle, including Antony Capewell, Jenny-Anne Fetch and Kim Whitty. To add to our contingent, we enlisted the talents of Team Sweden (Erik Friberg and Mathius Landin) and Steffi (Stephanie Woiz) from Germany. Remaining squad members were James McLeod, Luke Medcalf, Rebecca Walker and Kelly Cunningham.

By the end of day 2 of the tournament, both the men’s and women’s teams had cemented their place in the semi-finals, thereby qualifying for the Australian University Games in Perth later this year. The women’s team did not get beaten by any of the other Universities, and took home the Gold medal. The men’s team was unfortunately overpowered on the day by UNSW and ended up winning Silver. The teams would like to thank all Newcastle EAUG members who supported us throughout the week especially the Soccer and Aussie Rules guys, Mick, Chris, Mel and ‘Captain Newcastle’.

Meanwhile at the World University Games in Majorca, Spain, the squad’s previous No.1 player and Blue recipient, Richard Nicholls, started well by winning both his first round singles and mixed doubles with partner Angela Lawrence. Unfortunately, the second round opponents proved too strong on the occasion. Nevertheless, our congratulations go to Richard on his selection in the Australian team.
In the Tae Kwon Do, Ben Cheng displayed amazing intuition by competing without his ‘coke-bottom’ glasses to win gold in his event. Other medallists were David Green, Tom Shanahan, Lachlan Gorrie and Stephen Lumley.

The Women’s Tennis team went through their competition undefeated and beat UWS Macarthur 3–0 in the Grand Final. The Men’s team almost did as well, taking the silver medal after going down to UNSW. All players performed well; especially Antony Capewell, Jenny-Anne Fetch and Stephanie Woiz.

The three Touch teams all supported each other from the sidelines and put in 110% on the field. Men’s finished with a silver medal, Women’s came fifth and the Mixed side came seventh. Brooke Playford, Luke Wolfenden and Chris Smith consistently stood out in all games.

The Archery, Badminton and Cycling contestants all did us proud for their efforts, despite not figuring in the medals.

The 1999 Eastern Australian University Games was a great success, both on and off the field. The week proved to be a very memorable occasion and many lasting friendships were formed. Newcastle’s reputation for partying remained intact. Camaraderie and team spirit was demonstrated when all Newcastle athletes got together for a Team Dinner on Tuesday.

The Newcastle athletes were assisted by a large contingent of international students, especially from Sweden, Norway, Germany and the USA. I’m sure their week of adventures in Western Sydney will feature strongly in the memories that they will cherish of Australia.

Some teams hope to repeat their spectacular performances when they compete in the prestigious Australian University Games to be held in Perth from 27 September - 1 October.

Posture & Flexibility is one of the new courses run by our Sport Union this year. However P&F has been run by the ANU Sports Union for over 12 years. P & F is also in its first year at the University of Sydney and at Adelaide University.

In order to further her studies before second semester, our very own instructor Sharon Clark has been studying at the ANU Sports Union, and the University of Sydney for the past 3 weeks. Sharon said that it is a great opportunity to go to Canberra and study in the classes, learning the latest stretches and continually refining her techniques.

Posture & Flexibility would just like to congratulate one of its members Larri Macpherson on taking out the overall second place in the NSW State Gymnastics Championships in Sydney and also second place in the Newcastle High School Championships. Larri will now be competing in the State High School Championships.

Attending the classes will increase the range of movement of the body’s joints and muscles and, in the short term, will leave you feeling relaxed. In the medium term, any athletic, dance or martial activity will improve. As you will become more familiar with the techniques that allows you to release accumulated stress (held as tension), the quality of movement, your posture, and your awareness will increase significantly.

You may wish to try P&F this second semester but book early as last semester was booked out.
Sports Union
Results and Events

TENNIS CLUB: Do it. Just do it. Join the University of Newcastle Tennis Club. Loads of tennis, BBQ’s and social events for all standards of play. Semester 2 comp is a mixture of your choice of singles, doubles or social tennis. All you have to do is turn up at the University courts (near Evatt House) on any Monday night with your $5 Membership fee and $2 to play each week. All standards are catered for, so come along. For further information contact Kelly on 49271838.

WOMEN’S HOCKEY: Reports to hand indicate that all grades are doing well and either drawing or winning regularly. It is likely that 1st, 2nd and 4th grades will make semi-finals. Other grades have a chance but are not currently in the top four.

THE YHA TRAVELLER INFORMATION NIGHT: Whether heading off for a few weeks or a few years, you’ll need to do some planning before you board that plane. We’ve got together people from the travel industry and put together a night full of great travel info - all for you, and all for free! The YHA Traveller Information Night, Wednesday 25th August, at the Newcastle Workers Club - For more info, keep an eye out around the campus, or call Jody Hoffman at YHA NSW on (02) 9261 1111.

MASTER OF THE GAMES TO SPEAK AT BLUESS DINNER: Dr Adrian Hurley, the newly appointed CEO of the Newcastle and Hunter Events Corporation, will be the guest speaker at the University of Newcastle Blues Dinner to be held on Friday 27 August, 1999 in the University Union. In his new position, Dr Hurley will be responsible for coordinating the 8th Australian Masters Games to be held in Newcastle in September 2001. Dr Hurley is a former member of the Illawarra Hawks Basketball team and was coach of the Australian Men’s Basketball team, the Boomers, at the 1988 and 1992 Olympic Games. For bookings, please contact the Sports Union on 4921 6962.

RECREATION COURSES FOR THE 1999 SECOND SEMESTER:
Enrol at the Sports Union Office. Full payment must be made on enrolment. If cancellations are not notified before the class commences, money will not be refunded. The Sports Union has the right to cancel classes due to insufficient numbers - full refunds will be made.

BELLY DANCING $30.00
Call for details - starting soon
Format: 6 weeks for 1 hour per week

GOLF COACHING $30.00
Starts Friday 20 August Time 12.00pm
Format: 6 weeks for 1 hour per week

INTRODUCTION TO MASSAGE
$30.00
Starts Monday 16 August Time 5.15pm
Format: 6 weeks for 1 hour per week

JUGGLING $25.00
Starts Thursday 26 August
Time 12.00pm
Format: 6 weeks for 1 hour per week

POSTURE & FLEXIBILITY $55.00
Call for details - starting soon
Format: 14 weeks for 1 1/2 hours per week

SELF DEFENCE $20.00
Starts Tuesday 17 Aug
Time 12.00 - 1 pm
Lambert Room University Union

SENIOR FIRST AID $90.00
Starts Wednesday, 18 August
Time 5.15pm - Format: 4 weeks for 4 1/2 hours per week

SPORTS STRAPPING $40.00
Monday, 30 August Time 6.30pm
Format: 3 hour course
(tea/coffee provided)

SURFING FOR BEGINNERS $30.00
Call for details - starting soon
Formats: 6 weeks at Nobby's
Board and some wetsuits available

TEENI S LESSONS $40.00
1. Starts Tuesday 17 August
Time 9.00-10.30 am
2. Starts Thursday 19 August
Time 9.30-11.00 am
3. Starts Friday 20 August
Time 2.30-4.00 pm
All Formats: Six week course at Squash & Tennis Pavilion

YOGA $20.00
Call for details - starting soon
Format: 6 weeks for 1 hour per week

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Contributions are welcome.
Please send articles, results, fixture lists, clearly labelled photos to:
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