Eastern Australian University Games 2000

Take 150 keen university sportspersons, involve them in a number of pre game activities both on and off campus, then throw them into a journey of some distance to attend a week long adventure of sport, friendship and severe socialising.

Early Monday morning, 3 July 2000, 150 Newcastle University students met at the University, primed for the 10 hour trip down to Albury Wodonga to compete in the 2000 Eastern Australian University Games.

Various sports were contested during the week including men’s AFL; men’s and women’s basketball; golf; women’s hockey; women’s and mixed netball; women’s rugby; men’s soccer; men’s, women’s and mixed touch and men’s and women’s tennis.

Day one produced excellent results with all teams competitive in their respective sports.

As the competition continued many of our teams made it to the quarter finals which were to be played on the Thursday. Unfortunately the weather changed for the worse with most outdoor sports being cancelled and final placings were determined on countback.

The men’s AFL played a tough physical game on Thursday, which placed them 7th. A great result for a group of guys who were new to the game. Our men’s and women’s basketball teams flew through the qualifying rounds – women undefeated after all round games. The men ended up 5th, to qualify for the Australian University Games and congratulations to our women’s team which won the bronze medal in extraordinary circumstances.

Our golfers enjoyed the competition until the weather ended their rounds early. Defensively, women’s hockey was one of the best teams on the turf, but struggled to put the ball in the net at the other end and finished 11th. Netball was played only 10 minutes away from the motel resulting in great support for both our women’s and mixed sides which placed 10th and 8th.

Our women’s rugby side secured the bronze and considering the number of players fielded each game, this was a terrific result. The men’s soccer and men’s touch had their eyes on the gold medal once again, but due to the inclement weather conditions, ended up with bronze. Mixed touch qualified for the upcoming Australian University Games, placing 4th whilst our women’s touch team ended up in 10th position.

The men’s tennis team won the gold medal whilst the women’s side placed 4th after a hard fought competition.

Congratulations and thank you to all team members with favourable reports being heard about Newcastle University. A great time was had on and off the field and we look forward to doing it all again at Ballarat in October.
Night Surfing Hits Newcastle

As part of the 2000 Australian University Championships for Surfiding, the Sports Union staged Newcastle’s first ever Night Surfing competition on Wednesday 5 July.

Night surfing is not new, but an official night competition under lights only occurs in Durban, South Africa and Bondi, and definitely not in the middle of Winter!

Over 500 people gathered at Newcastle Beach in cold and blustery conditions to see five teams compete in a Tag Team format. Teams representing Newcastle, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and surfers representing “the Internationals” were corralled on the beach, while one surfer from each team braved the two metre wind swept swells thumping the sand bar from the South.

Each surfer could catch three waves and their score depended on the number of manoeuvres completed on the wave... take-off and fall-off, and their score would reflect this. Reflective iridescent tape was employed as a safety measure, and the tape gave off an eerie glow under the lights.

Judging was under the experienced guidance of John Hancock from the Newcastle Surfing Association, who enjoyed judging his first ever night competition.

Kennards and Wreckair provided two light towers, one placed on the beach directly in front of the Club and the other on the rocks to the left of the Club to provide plenty of light in the competition area. The competitors said there was little problem picking out the waves, even in the difficult conditions.

The Tag Team format was used as this style of competition allows for surfing and a sprint along the beach set to a 60 minute deadline, bringing in the crowd and involving them in more than one aspect of surfing.

After many heart stopping moments, surfers pushing themselves and their equipment to the limit, the New South Wales Team came out victorious with Newcastle coming in runners up, followed by Queensland, Victoria and the Internationals. All those who took the time out to come and have a look warmly received the event.

A Summer Night Competition is already on the books, so keep an eye out.

Photo kindly supplied by Mr. Brian Williams

Underwater Hockey - During the last week of July, the University’s Underwater Hockey Club (NUHU) competed at the Gold Coast in the first annual Gold Coast Invitational competition. Teams from across both Queensland and New South Wales entered, ensuring there would be a high level of competition. Newcastle entered two teams: Newcastle’s feared ‘Stingrays’ and the newly formed Newcastle B team. Unfortunately, Newcastle B came in last, but considering that most of the players on the team haven’t been playing for more than six months, they played exceptionally well against the other much more experienced teams.

After a very close game for second place, the Newcastle Stingrays ended up third overall proving once again that, despite being the newest club in the state, they are the team to look out for. A few last minute withdrawals due to sickness meant each team was a person or two short. Special recognition and thanks goes out to the brave players who had the endurance to substitute for the other team, effectively playing twice as much as everyone else.

Women’s Soccer - Club history was made on Sunday 30 July when the Women’s Soccer Club secured their place in the Newcastle- Port Stephens- Macquarie-Hunter Valley women’s first grade final for the first time. They guaranteed their position in a fast paced game against New Lambton. Their victory came in extra time when striker Therese Nilsen found the back of the net to produce a 2-1 scoreline.

Photo of soccer player in action
MEN'S SOCCER - The Men's Soccer Club has completed a remarkable season by placing second in the 2HD State League NSW Second Division. This achievement has been made all the more remarkable after the club was promoted to the competition this season.

First grade was only pipped by last year premier's West Wallsend. The club's success has filtered down to the lower grades where its youth team finished in third place.

WATERPOLO - The University Waterpolo Club were successful at this year's AUS East competition with both its men's and women's teams qualifying for the Australian University Games. Both teams put in solid performances to reach the quarterfinals, with the women going on to win their semifinal against Macquarie University to secure their place against Cumberland in the final. Unfortunately they went down to Cumberland, bringing home the silver medal. Outstanding performances by Elle Goodwin who gained selection to the NSW Merit team, and also by Libby Magann, who stepped up in the absence of some key players in the semifinals.

The men's team performed well in the quarterfinals and then played off against UTS for a chance to play in the finals. Unfortunately they went down to UTS who eventually took out the gold medal. The men's team then played Macquarie to eventually be placed 4th in the overall competition. Outstanding performances by Philip Reid gained him selection in the NSW Merit team, as well as a great performance by first time competitor David Woosley.

JUJUTSU - The Jujutsu Club is enjoying one of its most successful years ever. As well as huge participation rates, there have been a number of firsts for the club. Tim Humphries recently spent 4 weeks training at the ANU under 8th Dan black belt John Bear and whilst there, he was graded to 5th Kyu. Craig Jakubowski also recently graded to 6th Kyu. Their introductory course was extremely successful with nine of the students successfully grading. The club is running another introductory course this semester and if you are interested in joining the club or want some more information, please contact the Sports Union or email the club at uninewjujutsu@hotmail.com.

FENCING - On the 1-2 April the University Fencing Club competed in the AUS Fencing Championships hosted by CSU Mitchell. The experienced Newcastle team all put in a great effort to take out the first three placings. Club President Gavin Mott won the event with Grant Snowswill coming a close second and Malcolm Edwards third.
News and Events

Australian University Sport

COMING EVENTS

15 October
AUC Triathlon held in Brisbane

3 - 8 December
AUC Softball played at Brisbane

3 - 7 December
AUC Waterpolo at the Gold Coast

4 - 8 December
AUC Golf played at Wollongong

and of course the big one, the
2000 Australian University Games
held in Ballarat 2-6 October

If you would like further information, please contact our office on 4921 6960 or have a look at the AUS website www.unisport.com.au

WATCH THIS SPACE

We will soon be having the GRAND OPENING of our newly constructed Ray Watt Pavilion and for our recently refurbished tennis courts and tennis shed extensions. Keep an eye out for more details in coming issues of Backpage.

EXTRA, EXTRA!

The Sports Union is currently offering some great classes of instruction, so why not get involved.

For more information, contact us on (02) 4921 6960

The Sports Union web page can be found at: www.newcastle.edu.au/assoc/su/

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Philip Reid of the Waterpolo Club. Philip has gained a place in the National Under-20 squad which is currently touring Europe. Along with competing in two European tournaments, the team of young Australians will also be involved in training camps in Slovakia and Slovenia.

The newly redeveloped Ray Watt Oval was christened on 22nd July by the University’s Soccer Club in their Northern NSW second-division match against Lake Macquarie.

Congratulations to Alicia Jenkins, Gemma Dashwood and Heath Francis who have been chosen to compete in the upcoming Paralympics. We wish all of them the very best of luck.

Contribution deadline:
Next issue: No 4 12 October

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