Local Kookaburra wins NT’s highest sporting honour

27 March 2015

The Minister for Sport and Recreation Gary Higgins has congratulated Jeremy Hayward on being named the 2015 NT Sportsperson of the Year.

The 22-year-old Kookaburra forward received the prestigious sporting award at the 2015 NT Sports Awards at the Darwin Convention Centre this evening.

The NT Sportsperson of the Year award is presented to an athlete who achieved outstanding sporting performances during the previous 12 months.

“Jeremy is a most deserving winner,” Mr Higgins said.

“He made his debut with the Kookaburras during 2014, has 27 Australian caps and 10 goals. He was part of the gold medal winning Australian team at the 2014 World Cup in the Netherlands and was named junior player of the tournament, setting a fantastic example to his peers, our up-and-coming hockey players and athletes from other sports.”

Mr Higgins also congratulated the NT Junior Sportsperson of the Year and wheelchair basketballer Tom O’Neill-Thorne.

“Tom has had an amazing 12 months, winning a gold medal at the World Championships in Korea as the youngest member of the successful Australian Rollers team and being named Australia Male Junior Wheelchair Basketballer of the Year in 2014. He is also a former NT Junior Sportsperson of the Year recipient,” he said.

“I’m especially pleased that both Jeremy and Tom are NT Institute of Sport scholarship holders. They are among a host of other winners who can proudly claim to be NTIS products, highlighting the investment the Northern Territory Government has made to encouraging, supporting and growing our young sporting talent.

“Congratulations must go to all the winners tonight. You do us all proud in whatever capacity you represent or support sport in our community.”
Nearly 300 of the NT’s best athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and support staff attended this year’s awards to celebrate sporting achievements both on and off the field in 2014. There were 59 nominees representing 29 sports.

“The number and diversity of the sports represented is a tribute to how much Territorians love their sport. It also highlights that our geographical location is not a barrier to sporting greatness,” Mr Higgins said.

“The Territory Government will continue to invest in grassroots sports, the NT Institute of Sport and on bringing elite sporting events such as the NRL, AFL and A-League to the Territory to promote game development and healthy lifestyles.”

A full list of the 2015 NT Sports Awards winners follows.

**NOMINATED AWARDS:**

**NT SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR**

Jeremy Hayward - Hockey

**NT NEWS - NT JUNIOR SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR**

Tom O’Neill-Thorne - Wheelchair Basketball

**NT MASTERS SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR**

Ryan Coppola - Cycling

**COLEMANS PRINTING – NT TEAM OF THE YEAR**

NT Men’s Rachuig - Tenpin Bowling

**104.1 TERRITORY FM – LOCAL PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR**

Rebecca Voukolos - Tenpin Bowling

**CENTRALIAN ADVOCATE – VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Ian Berry - Hockey
MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION – OFFICIAL’S AWARD
Samantha Hacon - Touch Football

CARLTON & UNITED BREWERIES – ERIC JOHNSTON COACH OF THE YEAR
Matthew Roberts - Tennis

NON-NOMINATED AWARDS:
STEVE ABALA ROLE MODEL ADMINISTRATOR’S MEDAL RECIPIENTS
Karyn Bailey - Netball
Desmond Abbott - Hockey

HALL OF CHAMPIONS INDuctees
Mark Davies (dec) - Athletics
Mark Hickman - Hockey

ROLL OF HONOUR INDUCTEE
Clare Labowitch - Swimming
Sharyn Smith - Sports Medicine

ACTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARDS INDUCTEE
Nightcliff Tigers Football Club - Australian Football League

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