



ILLAWARRA ACADEMY OF SPORT

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KEIRAN GOVERS WINS THIRD ANNUAL TOBIN AWARD

The Illawarra Academy of Sport, at its Annual Presentation Ceremony on Friday 25 February 2005, proclaimed Academy hockey player and Keiraville student Keiran Govers as its third winner of *The Tobin Family Award*.

The Award, named in recognition of the Tobin Family's contribution to sport in the Illawarra, was presented by Mr Ted Tobin.

Govers in winning the award beat an impressive field of young Illawarra sports achievers including Joshua Minogue (Swimming), Josh Wall (Cycling) and Madeline Heiner (Athletics).

The past twelve months have seen Govers excel on both the local and national stage. At sixteen, he was voted "1st Grade Player of the Year" in the Illawarra Men's Hockey Association. Govers was Player of the Tournament at the Australian All Schools Championships; selected in the Australia All Schools side and the NSW Under 18's.

He captained the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges team and was one of only six selected this year to the NSW Institute of Sport Pre elite squad which aims to prepare players for the 2007 World Cup

Govers' performances on the turf and his dedication to learning were rated highly by the Tobin selection panel.

The panel of sports experts was chaired by Craig Smith from City Coast Credit Union and included Peter Bowman former director of the Australian Institute of Sport and Olympian and Commonwealth gold medalist Kerryn McCann (athletics) and top ten international surfer Michael Lowe.

"The selection panel's task in identifying a single winner amongst all these fine performances was great" said Craig Smith.

The recipient of *The Tobin Family Award*, in addition to a trophy, receives financial support of \$5,000 sponsored by City Coast Credit Union. The sponsorship will be used by the athlete to visit and be coached by elite coaches at an international standard sports centre of their choice either in Australia or overseas or used towards attending international competition. This makes *The Tobin Family Award* one of the most significant junior sports development awards in Australia.

2002 Tobin recipient Rebecca Borgo used her scholarship prize to travel to Moscow where she won a World Junior Track medal in the keiren event. Last year's winner, Anita Cowley travelled to

white water heaven in Canada where she trained under the guidance of Canada's top kayak coaches and paddled some of the best rapids in the world. In January this year she was selected in the Australian Open Squad.

Also recognised on the night were Academy Sport Athletes of the Year: Sam Hardaker (Swimmer with a disability); Jill Lihou (Cricket); Josh Wall (Cycling); Lincoln Tighe (Golf); Emma Cobbin (Hockey), Madeline Heiner (Athletics); Jaimie McLean (Netball); Brad Hudson (Rugby League); Daniel Palmer and Keiran Wallace (Rugby Union); Alisha Kawalla (Sailing) and Joshua Minogue (Swimming).

For more information, please contact Ms Marji Parr, Program Manager, Illawarra Academy of Sport at the Academy on 02 4283 5611.