

NSW

NSW Premier League 2011 Gold Medal Dinner

By Mark Stavroulakis

The 2011 Gold Medal Dinner was held at Lily's Function Centre, Blacktown on Saturday evening in what was a lavish affair for the NSW Premier League and NSW's top tier competition.

A number of players and officials from the NSW Premier League were present on the evening as well as special guests such as FFA's John Boulton along with Football NSW Chairman Robert Sestan, Football NSW Directors Mark Reading, Stephen Hayes and Greg O'Rourke and Football NSW CEO Eddie Moore. The talk of the evening was on who would be crowned the 2011 Gold Medal winner replacing last season's award winner, Blacktown City FC's Tolgay Ozbey. The evening started with the "Fair Play" award as the Rockdale City Suns scooped up the night's first silverware in what was a tough season for the club. The Under 20's Golden

Boot award was up next and Marconi Stallions' talented young attacker Marco Sama took this out after scoring 17 goals for the year as he reaffirmed his position as one of the deadliest up and coming strikers in the business. The Golden Boot award was the next award which followed and Sydney United's 26-year-old red-hot striker Luka Glavas took out the plaudits after he scored 13 goals in 22 matches. Glavas was certainly one of the key men in the Reds' NSW Premier League season which saw them finish second and grand finalists to Sydney Olympic in what was a good year for the former Hyundai A-League marksman. "I am delighted to have received this award but it

wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the players around me as well as our coaching staff. "The club worked hard both on and off the pitch in getting to where we got today, yes we are disappointed at missing out on a Grand Final victory but all the players can hold their heads up high as we had a pretty good year. "Obviously winning any individual award is a huge honour and I hope to do the same again in 2012." The Media Award was up next and the 'Football Sack' scooped this for their fantastic coverage of the competition while the Maltese Herald were awarded the Foreign Language Media Award from Football NSW Media Manager Mark Stavroulakis. The Football

Sack is a voluntary website that aims to combine quality reporting with irreverence and humour - using social media and the internet to build and improve upon the coverage of the Hyundai A-league and football in Australia especially in this case promoting the NSW Premier League which they have done remarkably throughout season 2011. The Sack plays host to a growing number of writers from across Australia and New Zealand. One of their primary objectives is to increase exposure for young journalists and allow them to grow their sports writing portfolio. Along with news articles, match reports and other written content, The Sack also features a highly popular podcast iTunes,

a thriving Twitter account, and a growing number of videos on Youtube. Editor Matthew Greenlaw and Twitter coordinator Pete Nowakowski especially have been the driving force behind the Football Sack's commitment towards the NSW Premier League and we look forward to seeing them at our venues in 2012. Meanwhile, the 'Maltese Herald' played a pivotal role in promoting the NSW Premier League in season 2011 for its brilliant coverage on the competition. With its rich Maltese roots, Parramatta FC were highlighted daily but the entire competition received great coverage in what was a superb season from this ethnic newspaper. Editor Lino Vella along with Rita Kassas were

instrumental in drumming the support through and we hope the same will continue in 2012. A number of other media publications were thanked during the evening such as the Manly Daily, Blacktown Advocate, Fairfield Champion, St George and Sutherland Shire Leader, Canterbury Bankstown Express, Inner West Courier, O Kosmos, The Croatian Herald, La Fiamma, Vesti, Goal Weekly, Soccer International and 442. Sutherland Sharks was then presented the Club Championship Award as the club excelled as an entire group for season 2011 as they finished up with 327 points while Sydney Olympic finished second with 323 and Blacktown City FC third with 305. The

The 2011 Football NSW All Stars team was as follows:

1. Brody Crane (South Coast Wolves)
2. Chris Tadrosse (Bonnyrigg White Eagles)
3. Michael Cindric (Sydney United)
4. Brett Studman (Sydney Olympic)
5. Travis Major (Blacktown City FC)
6. Nick Stavroulakis (Sutherland Sharks)
7. Steven Hayes (Sydney United)
8. Nahuel Arrarte (Marconi Stallions)
9. Alex Smith (Sydney Olympic)

10. Chris Triantis (Sydney Olympic)

11. Luka Glavas (Sydney United)
Coach: Peter Tsekenis (Sydney Olympic)

The time had come to select the Grade 20 Player of the Year and after calculating all the points it went down to the wire with two joint winners, Marconi Stallions' Marco Sama and Sutherland Sharks' Klim Gjorjeski took out the honours. Both Sama and Gjorjeski put on amazing displays for their respective clubs which saw them pip the likes of Bruno Pivato, William Mellor, Milan Atlagic and Luke Grima for the coveted award.

2011 Silver Medal

By Bruce Da Silva

The 2011 Silver Medal Dinner was held at the Mounties Sports Club on Friday evening in what was a lavish affair for the NSW Super League, State League Division One and State League Division Two.

Granville Rage's red hot striker Kris Holbrook (30 points) took out the major gong ousting Central Coast FC's Jamie Lobb (28 points) and West Sydney Berries (26 points) young midfielder Stefan De Jesus. Holbrook was delighted with his achievement but was quick to heap praise on his team mates. "I didn't think I had the best season. "But I obviously wouldn't be standing here if it wasn't for the boys. "Thanks to my team mates, it's been a good season considering the injuries, suspensions and players leaving half way through the year. "All of my goals were pretty much tap ins so I'd like to thank the boys for putting it on a platter for me, thanks boys!" Moving on to the other awards within the NSW Super league category, Premiers and Champions Blacktown Spartans dominated proceedings. Coach Ben de Haan was acknowledged for his fantastic year at the helm of the Spartans with the 2011 NSW Super League Coach of

the Year. The 15 year veteran was quick to acknowledge the teams efforts in what was a close NSW Super League competition. "The boys turned up every week ready to play, win, lose or draw the week before. "Even with the difficult end of the season when there were six to seven teams in the mix, it was an unbelievable effort." The 2011 NSW Super League Goalkeeper of the Year was nominated by the clubs and this year there were joint winners, Daniel Nash from St George FC and Blacktown Spartans shot stopper Carlos Saliadarré. Whilst the 2011 Golden Boot for the NSW Super League was won by West Sydney Berries forward Dimitri Zakilas with 14 goals - one ahead of Silver Medal winner Kris Holbrook. The NSW Super League Grade 20 player of the year was won by Lachlan O'Conner from St. George FC after some outstanding performances in 2011. The youngster has been earmarked as one to watch out for in 2012. In State League

Division One, Mt. Druitt Town Rangers forward Hosyar Cakal stole the show winning both the Golden Boot (19 goals) and the Player of the Year. Cakal dedicated the win to the team and was quick to point out to the crowd in attendance it was 19 goals in 19 game. Grade 20 NSW Super League Player of the Year was also won by a Ranger, this time James Mawien was acknowledged for an excellent season. The coaching partnership of Aidan Desmond and Glenn Lockhart from Mounties Wanderers was acknowledged with the Coach(es) of the Year Award. Former Bonnyrigg White Eagles keeper Ali Akbal was awarded Goalkeeper of the year for a string of excellent performances between the sticks for Mounties Wanderers. In State League Division Two, Northbridge FC won three of the four major awards on offer. Northbridge FC's Ry Hardy was awarded the Player of the Season after a great season with the Premiers. Former Sutherland Shark now



Hakoah FC midfielder Neil Jablonski took out the Golden Boot award - banging in 26 goals throughout 2011 from midfield. Northbridge FC shot-stopper Craig Whitehouse was awarded Goalkeeper of the Year, whilst Coach Joe Hayward was awarded Coach of the Year after an excellent season which saw the club promoted to State League Division One. In the nights other major awards, Referee of the Year, as deemed by the referee's assessors each week, was taken out by Adam Susz while the Media Award was awarded to Fairfax's Blacktown Sun Newspaper after excellent coverage in 2011 of the Blacktown Spartans excellent season. The nights final major award, the Charles Valentine Medal - a medal presented annually in recognition of an outstanding contribution which merits the highest possible acknowledgement by Football - was awarded to David Bertenshaw of Hawkesbury City FC. David John Bertenshaw, born 1950, played his junior career in the dominant Granville Representative teams. He progressed to first grade at 17, playing

in the highest level of the time. An early highlight was playing a warm up match against the 1974 world cup squad. After a distinguished playing career, he focused on coaching and in particular youth and coach development. He performed many director of coaching roles and became a Vice President of the NSW Coaches Federation. In 1989 he shifted his focus to the development of soccer in the Hawkesbury District. He has been the driving force for the development of the Bensens Lane Soccer Facility. His passion, dedication and organisational skills have seen the complex develop into a first class football facility that is capable of hosting finals matches at all levels. His passion for helping sports is witnessed by his donation of countless hours to the Hawkesbury club and the Hawkesbury City Sports Council, over which he presides. It is clear that football and all sports have benefited from his dedication to the Hawkesbury area, and they are extremely lucky to have him! David accepted the award and stated he was completely humbled by the recognition. David Bertenshaw, a truly

State League 1 Player of the Year Award - Hosyar Cakal (Mt. Druitt Town Rangers) & State League 1 Grade 20 Player of the Year Award - James Mawien (Mt. Druitt Town Rangers)