

FOOTBALL
NSW

By George Stavroulakis

2019 NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES GOLD MEDAL DINNER

Premier Leagues Award Winners

Wollongong Wolves' Thomas James and Vesna Milivojevic were the talk of the 2019 National Premier Leagues Gold Medal Dinner after taking out the Player of the Year honours at the Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf precinct on Friday 13th of September.



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Players, coaches, officials as well as high profile guests attended what was a fantastic evening acknowledging the achievements from the top tier National Premier Leagues NSW Men's and Women's seasons.

Μια τηλ It was a fantastic season for both males and females as they got together in a monumental evening where over 360 guests attended with the night proudly presented by Simon Hill.

There were a number of special guests which included; Lynda Voltz, Member for Auburn and Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation, Dr Hugh McDermott, Member for Prospect, Federal MP Jason Falinski, Member for Mackellar, former Socceroo legend Les Scheinflug, FFA Chairman Chris Nikou, Hyundai A-League/W-League Head Greg O'Rourke, Western Sydney Wanderers CEO John Tsatsimas, Sydney FC CEO Danny Townsend, Macarthur FC Chairman Rabieh Krayem along with the Football NSW Board.

ONCE AGAIN, THE CLUBS VOTED IN A 3-2-1 SYSTEM AFTER EACH TEAM PUT FORWARD THEIR BEST TWO PLAYERS FOR THE 2019 SEASON.

The Club Championship awards were one of the first awards of the evening with Sydney University wrapping yet another one in the NPL NSW Women's category while for a record breaking 15th time, Blacktown City were top of the trumps in the Men's category.

Referees were honoured soon after as Ben Abraham took out the NPL NSW Men's category after a sterling season which also saw him earn a spot into the 2019/2020 Hyundai A-League referees panel. Isabella Libri clinched top honours in the NPL NSW Women's category and she too caught the attention of the W-League this time, pushing her cause as a fourth official which was an amazing honour for the Southern Districts Soccer Referees representative.

The announcement of the Player of the Year and Golden Boot winners in the Under 20/ Reserve grade competition were up next and what a season it was for both categories.

NWS Koalas' Tahlia Macri took out the honours in the Women's Reserve grade notching up an incredible 33 goals while Rockdale

City Suns' James Cakovski took out the 20 Men's scoring 13 for the year.

The Player of the Year awards were up next and Sydney University's Maxine Peak grabbed all the plaudits for an outstanding year in the 20's while Blacktown City's Suleyman Bangura stood out from the rest of the pack in a big season. No doubt these two players will be knocking on the senior doors for first grade contracts in season 2020 with both already earning minutes in their senior squads this year.

Goalkeepers were next on the awards block and it was Northern Tigers' quality shotstopper Eliza Campbell who took out the NPL NSW Women's category in what was an impressive year for the gun custodian. Mt Druitt Town Rangers' skipper and number one Carlos Saliadarre was next up and clinched his respective award after he guided the newly promoted NPL NSW Men's club to safety and more with the club just finishing outside a top five finals spot.

The Golden Boot award winners were announced soon after.

The 'Debbie Tait' Award for the NPL NSW Women's Golden Boot was awarded to Sydney Olympic's starlet and Young Matilda Susan Phonsongkham who scored 20 goals for the year.

Finally, in the NPL Men's category, it was a tight contest but Wollongong Wolves' English star Thomas James came through on

