Outstanding sporting talents were recently celebrated at the Macquarie University 2019 Blues Awards on Thursday 31 October 2019. Athletes were recognised for their achievements athletically and academically while representing Macquarie, their state and Australia in the past year.

Twelve athletes were awarded the highly prestigious Blue Award, and eight received a Half Blue Award. Five athletes, one club, one team and one sport administrator received recognition in other award categories, including the Female and Male Sport Athletes of the Year.

Tyler Martin, 2016 award recipient, and Louise Mason, Deputy Chancellor, presented the coveted Chancellor’s Award to Tom Trbojevic, who is studying for a Bachelor of Applied Finance with the degree of Bachelor of Economics (BAppFinBEc). Tom played rugby league for Australia in 2018 and played a pivotal role for NSW rugby league in the State of Origin series game two, scoring three tries. Tom plays for the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles in the National Rugby League competition.

The Leigh Barnier Award was presented by the Barnier family to Dr Deidre Anderson.
Blue Winners
Nick Andrews, Mattias Braach-Maksvytis, Adam Camerlengo, Clare Costanzo, Dominique Du Toit, Thomas Green, Jessica Henderson, Aleksandra Kotevski, Jacob McCorry, Tri-Anh Nguyen, Tess O’Connor, Jess Sewastenko

Half Blue Winners
Kiera Austin Ewan Belgrove, Ciaron Fitz-Gerald, Maggie Price, Olivia Price, Madeleine Proud, Carla Tremolada, Elena Zhao

Chancellor’s Award
Tom Trbojevic – Rugby League

Female Sport Athlete of the Year
Jess Sewastenko – Powerlifting

Male Sport Athlete of the Year
Tom Trbojevic – Rugby League

Rookie of the Year – Oscar Jones
Oscar Jones – Ocean Skiing

Club of the Year – AFL
2019 was the AFL club’s most successful season, with all five of the Macquarie teams making finals. The club has continued their growth, securing long-term sponsorship, partnerships with community youth clubs, and establishing a Macquarie alumni masters’ team.

The John Lincoln Services Award – Josh LeBlanc
This award recognises long term volunteer service to a sport club, sport program or Unisport event, and was presented to Joshua LeBlanc of the Cheerleading club.

The Ted O’Keeffe Scholarship – Jess Sewastenko
The Ted O’Keeffe Scholarship recognises the outstanding contribution made by former president of the Macquarie Sport and Recreation Association, Ted O’Keeffe, who served as president for 14 years.

This year’s recipient, Jess, volunteers across an extensive portfolio both in the community and at Macquarie University with Macquarie’s CanToo Pod this year and assisted in raising funds for Macquarie’s cancer research centre.

Jess is a record-breaking powerlifter who is ranked number one in Australia. Jess is the second woman in history to reach 500+ points and has broken two powerlifting world records in 2019.
Kim Guerin Leadership award – Kodie Vandenberg
Honouring the late Kim Guerin, this award recognises a student leader who demonstrated outstanding leadership while representing Macquarie, leading with integrity, resilience and compassion while always striving to create a supportive and positive team culture. This year’s winner, Kodie Vandenberg, led the mixed and women’s Netball teams for the past two years and, through her resilience, passion and dedication, has led the mixed team to their first national title while setting the benchmark for leadership amongst her peers.

Leigh Barnier ‘Spirit of the Games’ Award
In memory of Leigh Barnier, former student and athlete at Macquarie University, this award honours his life and contribution to Macquarie sport. The Leigh Barnier Spirit of the Games Award recognises a current student or graduate of Macquarie University who has displayed an unselfish level of commitment to the University and an unwavering demonstration of sportsmanship and esprit de corps within their sporting and academic pursuits.

Dr Deidre Anderson is the recipient of this year’s Leigh Barnier Award. Dr Anderson graduated from Macquarie with a PhD, and holds a masters, several post graduate degrees and a Bachelor of Arts. Dr Anderson held several positions at Macquarie from 2003 – 2017, including as Deputy Vice-Chancellor Students and Registrar. Dr Anderson holds several chair positions across various organisations.

2019 3x3 Basketball World University Championships
Recently crowned Australian Gold Medallists, Macquarie University Men’s 3x3 Basketball Champions flew to Xiamen, China, to compete in the 2019 3x3 Basketball World University Championships.

After a 14th placed finish in 2018, the team competed admirably, falling just short of a finals appearance to place 6th in the 2019 competition.

A massive congratulations to the guys, who in even reaching and competing in the World University Championships is an accomplishment unto itself – to finish sixth – even more so. Well done!

Interested in representing the University? Click through to learn about UniSport Events, Intercollege Sport, Macquarie University Sport Clubs and Sport Scholarships at Macquarie University.