



MEDIA RELEASE

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MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY CLAIM OVERALL WINNERS AT THE 2005 AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES

The University of Melbourne (MELB) have successfully defended their 2004 title, claiming the overall winners trophy at the 2005 Australian University Games today.

In a hard fought contest throughout the entire competition, the overall winner title came down to the wire with last minute results determining the outright champions.

Victorious in seven gold medal match ups, MELB nudged out The University of Sydney (USYD) and The University of Queensland (UQ) who came second and third respectively.

On the athlete's performance, MELB team manager Mr Rod Warnecke, was ecstatic at backing up from last year and even surprised at some of the results.

"It is fantastic to win a second time in a row. It's been a long week and we've had some surprising results, particularly in winning the men's and women's squash competitions,"

"The University of Sydney are the benchmark in university sport so it's good to win our second University Games against them and see some of the other uni's also doing well," said Mr Warnecke.

New South Wales' Macquarie University (MQU) took out the Doug Ellis Trophy, awarded based on a percentage of the university population versus the points scored at the Games.

While not expected, MQU Chief Executive Officer Deidre Anderson said that the team has been focusing on improving their performance at each Games.



"Two years ago we made a very strong public statement to improve our performance at the Games,"

"At that time we came 12th at the AUG, last year we came fourth and this year we came fifth so we are starting to develop a culture of strong performances by our participants," said Ms Anderson.

In the final award for the Games, home town representatives Queensland University of Technology (QUT) took out the Spirit of the Games, demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship and spirit throughout the six days of competition.

QUT team manager, Ms Karen Bucholz was delighted at the unexpected award and praised the home town support in getting the team across the line in a number of sports.

"The award was definitely not expected but it has been a great result for us and the home town support has been tremendous, it's definitely helped being in our home town," said Ms Bucholz.

With a closing ceremony held at Griffith University's Campus Club, Brisbane drew the curtain on an action packed week of ups, downs, winners and losers.

Andrew Fraser MP addressed the gathering passing on his congratulations from the Premier Peter Beattie and declared the Games a success for Brisbane.

For a comprehensive list of results please go to www.unigames.com.au.

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