



MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTDOWN COMMENCES TO START OF AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST ANNUAL MULTI-SPORT EVENT

Australia's largest annual multi-sport event will hit Brisbane in two days time with over 6,700 participants from around Australia ready to hit South East Queensland from the 25 – 30th September.

With a record number of participants and four extra sports on offer than in previous years, a high level of interest has been expressed in the majority of disciplines.

Ultimate Frisbee has received a record number of entries with the competition being expanded to a 19 team event while hockey, basketball and soccer have also been opened to extra competitors.

Of the four new sports included in the AUG, cross country has seen a higher number of entries than in a championship format while rock climbing, beach volleyball and rowing have all attracted encouraging numbers.

Australian University Games Sport Manager, Mr Jake Wilkins said the number and quality of participants is encouraging for the Games and that Brisbane has the opportunity to witness six days of intense competition as universities vie for the prestigious Overall Sporting Champion, Doug Ellis (per capita) and Spirit of the Games awards.

"We are very excited about the number of registrations we have received this year. The response has been outstanding and exceeded all expectations,

"It's a tribute to the quality and level of competition that so many people are going to come to Brisbane to compete at the Games and we are looking forward to the first event kicking off on Monday morning," said Mr Wilkins.

A new era dawned in 2004 when The University of Melbourne clinched the overall title from The University of Sydney who have dominated the Games taking overall honours for seven out of 13 years.



In 2005 the challenge will be on for a home town university to climb the winner's podium with Griffith University (GU), Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and The University of Queensland (UQ) all relying on familiar territory to get them to the top.

UQ will rely on home soil advantage as the campus hosts athletics, soccer, tennis and volleyball. With a traditionally strong athletics team, UQ will be a force on the track.

At Mt Gravatt and Nathan, the two GU campuses will welcome over 390 athletes competing in cross country, judo, kendo, rugby union, taekwondo and ultimate Frisbee.

The 2005 AUG will showcase a record 26 sports including: athletics, australian football, badminton, baseball, basketball, beach volleyball, cross country, cycling, diving, hockey, judo, kendo, netball, rockclimbing, rowing, rugby union 7's, soccer, softball, squash, swimming, taekwondo, tennis, touch, ultimate frisbee, volleyball and water polo.

In conjunction with the Games, the biggest ever concert for university students will take place at the RNA Showground at the Social Program featuring Grinspoon, Frenzal Rhomb, The Tenants, Tambalane, Diana Ah Naid and The Red Paintings.

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