



MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA'S OLYMPIANS SUPPORT UNIVERSITY ATHLETES

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Sport, the Honourable Terry Mackenroth, has been joined by 26 of Australia's sporting greats in lending their support for Australia's largest annual multi-sport event to be held in Brisbane in 2005.

Selected to raise awareness for the 2005 Australian University Games (AUG) and provide influential role models for participants, the Sports Ambassadors include Olympic medallists Natalie Cook (beach volleyball), Paul Gonzalez (baseball), Duncan Free (rowing) and Lisbeth Lenton (swimming).

Australian University Sport Chief Executive Officer, Mr Daniel Marsden, an Olympian himself, insisted that the contribution of the Ambassadors was critical to the spirit of the 2005 Games.

"The involvement of elite sports men and women helps to reinforce not only the highly competitive nature of the Games, but also the spirit of friendship and the rewards of participation.

"Australian University Sport is honoured that elite sportspeople of such a high calibre are so committed to encouraging participation for university students and exposure of the games," he said.

2004 Athens Olympic baseball silver medallist, Paul Gonzalez hopes the inclusion of the Ambassadors also provides the opportunity to expose the public to the highly competitive nature of university sport.

"If the involvement of high profile elite athletes helps to encourage young people to stay active and participate in the Games while at university, then our involvement is justified," Mr Gonzalez said.



The 2005 Australian University Games will commence with an opening ceremony on Sunday 25 September and conclude at the closing ceremony on the evening of Friday 30 September.

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For further information please contact Toni Bush, Australian University Sport on (07) 3832 9874 or 0403 182 089.

