



QUEENSLAND SPORT AWARDS



THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2017

**JEFF HORN TAKES OUT TOP HONOUR AT
QUEENSLAND SPORT AWARDS; JASON DUNSTALL
NAMED 17TH LEGEND OF QUEENSLAND SPORT**

Boxing's WBO world welterweight title holder Jeff Horn is The Courier-Mail Channel 7 Queensland Sport Star of the Year Award winner for 2017, announced at tonight's 23rd Annual Queensland Sport Awards / Hall of Fame Presentation in Brisbane.

The black tie audience of 670 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre heard the announcement of Horn's win at the end of a night which saw 11 Awards presented for Queensland's top on and off field sporting performances in the period October, 2016 to September, 2017 plus three further Service to Sport Awards presented for outstanding service.

In the now familiar Queensland Sport Hall of Fame segment of the event, AFL champion goal kicker of the 1980's and 1990's in Hawthorn great Jason Dunstall was elevated to Legend status while Olympians in rower Duncan Free, swimmer Jessicah Schipper and triathlete Miles Stewart, along with world water ski champion Emma Sheers, were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Former school teacher Horn was accompanied at the Awards Presentation by his wife Jo, who is expecting the couple's first child early next year, and his trainer and manager Glenn Rushton and edged out the likes of one of the greats of rugby league in Queensland and Australian captain Cameron Smith and world champions in sailor Mat Belcher, hurdler Sally Pearson and backstroke swimmer Emily Seebohm in a field of eleven of the State's best performed athletes in 2017.

Horn was the talk of the town, city, State and country and the world of international boxing when after only 17 professional fights, against the odds, he defeated boxing

legend Manny Pacquiao who had a record of 67 professional bouts, 11 times world champion over eight weight divisions.

In a very close, brutal contest, "The Hornet" showed great courage and willpower to comeback from the brink of defeat in the ninth round to win round ten and press on over the remaining two rounds to cause one of the great upsets in boxing history.

The fight, staged on 2 July in front of over 51,000 at Suncorp Stadium, was promoted as "The Battle of Brisbane" and took out the Queensland Sport Event of the Year Award sponsored by the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The XXXX sponsored Queensland Sport Team of the Year Award went to the Queensland Origin Maroons for their come from behind eclipse of New South Wales in one of the great series wins in the story that is Origin.

Other award winners were Brisbane Bandits back to back ABL Championship coach Dave Nilsson who took out the Coca Cola Amatil sponsored Queensland Sport Coach of the Year, Little Athletics CEO Simon Cook as the Arthur J Gallagher sponsored Queensland Sport Administrator of the Year, 2017 FINA World Swimming Championships race starter Erin Collis as the Konica Minolta sponsored Queensland Sport Officiator of the Year, and Gold Coast and Queensland softball officer Lexie Pearce the Queensland Sport Volunteer of the Year sponsored by Brisbane City Council.

The McDonald's sponsored Queensland Sport Athlete with a Disability award went to Proserpine cyclist David Nicholas for his trio of medals from the World Track Cycling Championships while the awards for juniors were won by Sunshine Coast backstroke swimmer Kaylee McKeown whose performances at the FINA World Championships in Hungary saw her named The Courier-Mail Channel Seven Queensland Junior Sport Star of the Year while the Queensland Government sponsored Junior Team of the Year Award went to the State Under 18 Boys Table Tennis team for their back to back national title win over Victoria.

The QAS Peter Lacey Award for Sporting Excellence went to canoeist Alyce Burnett for her maiden K1 1000 metres at the World Canoe Sprint Championships in the Czech Republic earlier this year.

The Queensland Government sponsored Service to Sport Awards were awarded to hockey's Jan Hadfield, netball's Gail Lyne and judo's Jim Stackpoole for their decades of contribution to sport

The Courier-Mail's People's Choice Sporting Moment of the Year – a new award in this year's program – was adjudged to be Johnathan Thurston's last gasp sideline conversation to give the Queensland Origin team a series saving 18-16 win in Game 2 of this year's battle for interstate rugby league supremacy.

The Queensland Sport Awards are conducted each year by QSport as the industry peak body of sport in Queensland which also coordinates the Queensland Sport Hall of Fame.

QSport's principal financial supporter is the Queensland Government while Channel 7 and The Courier-Mail also are major sponsors of the Awards and the Hall of Fame, with support from the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre as the venue for this promotion and recognition of Queensland sport and its top achievers since the Awards Presentations' inception in 1995 .

For further information, contact QSport CEO Peter Cummiskey on 3369 8955 / 0418 185 008 / admin@qsport.org.au or go to www.qsport.org.au

ENDS