

# The University of Sydney

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## From Amateurism to Professionalism – the history of sport at the University of Sydney

With less than two months to go to the Beijing 2008 Olympics Games, the release of a book celebrating the achievements of sport at the University of Sydney couldn't be timelier. Nine Sydney University athletes are already confirmed as Australian team members, and the number likely to grow to 20, continuing a strong sporting tradition going back to Nigel Barker, the University's first Olympian.

"Sport and sporting competitions have been an intrinsic part of the university experience from the early days of the University of Sydney," according to Geoffrey Sherington, the co-author with Steve Georgakis of a new book from Sydney University Press, *Sydney University Sport 1852–2007: more than a club*.

And the influence of the sporting clubs and associations went far beyond the University, Georgakis says. "Having the oldest rugby football club and some of the oldest cricket, boating, tennis and athletic clubs, the University played a decisive, pioneering and previously undocumented role in the development of these and other sports in Australia.

"Over the years, the University provided many of the elite players and administrators of sport in Sydney, NSW and Australia such as Tom Garrett, Herbert Moran and John Treloar amongst many others."

Sherington says sport at the University has changed over the years. "From the ideals of amateurism and athleticism entrenched in the Victorian age, sport at the University has evolved to become professional and business-like. But at all stages the University of Sydney was making a key contribution to the development of sport within the wider Australian community."

*Sydney University Sport 1852–2007: more than a club* is recommended reading for anyone involved in sport and education – from sport administrators and coaches, to historians, researchers and policy-makers, says publisher Susan Murray-Smith. "It will provide valuable understanding of the place and meaning of sport in the context of Australian universities," she says.

*Sydney University Sport 1852-2007: more than a club* will be launched this evening by **Professor Gavin Brown**, Vice-Chancellor & Principal, the University of Sydney.

**What:** Launch of *Sydney University Sport 1852-2007: more than a club*

**Where:** The Grandstand Bar and Restaurant

**When:** Thursday June 12, 2008, 6.30 PM

**About the authors:** Geoffrey Sherington is Professor in the History of Education and formerly Dean of the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney. Steve Georgakis is program director of the Human Movement and Health Education program in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney.

**For interviews contact:** Susan Murray-Smith, 02 9036 6442

**Sydney University Press:** [www.sup.usyd.edu.au](http://www.sup.usyd.edu.au)