

## Snowsill makes no race of top award

Kate Jacka

17Feb07

CHAMPION triathlete Emma Snowsill beat out a class field to claim the 2006 Gold Coast Sportstar of the Year award last night.

Snowsill collected the night's highest honour as well as the Gold Coast Sportswoman of the Year at the gala presentation held at the Southport Sharks.

The 25-year-old enjoyed a stunning year, snaring gold at the Commonwealth Games in March and going on to win the New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles triathlons

In September, she became the first woman to win a third ITU Olympic Distance World Triathlon Championship.

Gold Coast Sporting Hall of Fame committee member and Titans operations and media manager Ian Buchanan, one of three judges, said Snowsill had been a clear winner.

"Not to put down the other finalists at all but what she did last year made our job a little bit easier," he said.

"What she achieved was incredible and she's just an incredible athlete."

The group of 10 finalists was whittled to just two after Snowsill and cyclist Robbie McEwen collected the Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year awards earlier in the evening.

McEwen was honoured for a year which included more than 20 wins, a third Tour de France green jersey and a fifth place at the world championships in Austria.

The finalists to miss out were Sharon Anyos, Sophie Edington, Amy Yang, Samantha Stosur, Shannon Eckstein, Mick Fanning, Duncan Free and Andrew Symonds.

For his efforts at the helm of the Kingscliff Swimming Club, Greg Salter was named 2006 Gold Coast Coach of the Year.

Salter coached Edington to a haul of three gold medals including a world record at the Commonwealth Games in March.

Gold Coast Titans managing director Michael Searle was also recognised, picking up the Administrator of the Year award.

In 2006, Searle helped secure a number of crucial signatures for the club including those of marquee halfback Scott Prince, dual international Mat Rogers and renowned trainer Billy Johnstone.

The evening also highlighted the achievements of two of the region's younger stars with Ashleigh Boura and Gregory Mirek picking up the Gold Coast Sporting Hall of Fame and Southport Sharks Youth Sports Development Fund awards.

At just 15, Boura was named 16-18 years age champion at last year's state diving championships after taking out three of three events.

Boura, who trains with the Paradise Diving Club at the Southport Olympic Pool, is on track to break into the country's diving elite.

Mirek, of Southport Gymnastics Club, was second overall at last year's national titles and at the Trans-Tasman Championships in New Zealand, Mirek had the highest overall score and was named Level 8 Champion.

Both attend Keebra Park High School.