

COUGARS KEEPER EARNS TOP PLAYER

Friday, 26 September 2008



The battles on the park have been long settled, but the personal rewards were not known until last night.

The first awards night for the Minniecon & Burke Capricorn Cougars was held on 25 September at the Heritage Village with four major trophies up for grabs.

Player of the Year went to Cougars' agile keeper Gerard Kelly.

Few will be too surprised at Kelly's success in this section as he played in all but one game during the Cougars QSL program and impressed many supporters with his shot-stopping technique.

It was not just local fans who marvelled at Kelly's ability, but also visitors taking note of his record.

Kelly finished the season as the seventh-highest placed on the Hyundai QSL Most Valuable Player list, one of two Cougars players, the other being Michael Cay, named in the league's top 30 players on the list.

Rookie of the Year went to teenage defender Alex Trovato who hit form in latter stages of the season when he played at centre back.

Trovato's late run will have displaced fellow youngsters like Johnathon Sauer who also had an impressive year.

Most Consistent Player went to the team's "elder statesman", Roy Bob, whose displays in the middle of the park assisted in the development of the youngsters who played around him.

Team Manager Frank Murray said throughout the year all team members voted on a 3-2-1 system for their choice of the team's Most Valuable Player.

"The winner was Clayton Rowland and it's a top award as it's voted on by those who played around him and can see his value," Murray said.

Rowland collected most of his votes at the start of the year.

"He set the bar, and I believe the other players then raised their games to his level."

Cougars chairman Bevan Dingley said the club management were satisfied with progress during the year, and the team's final placing of seventh in the 10-team competition.

"Last season we were run on an amateur basis, but next year we need to push to a more professional level," he said.

Dingley is also very aware that the Cougars have a responsibility to the rest of the footballing community

to operate in a professional manner and assist them to also reach a higher level.

Alan Kennedy