



# Young stars win Don Oliver scholarships

Twelve young west Aucklanders have each received a cash boost to help them achieve their sporting goals.

The Don Oliver Youth Sport Foundation will present the scholarships at its annual awards and fundraising dinner on August 23 at Trusts Stadium in Henderson.

The foundation has been recognising young sporting talent in the Waitakere region for 11 years and raising money to help support them.

This year's recipients represent a wide range of disciplines and are some of the most promising athletes in the

country.

Five have been awarded \$3000 while the others will be given \$2000 or \$1000 training grants.

Don Oliver was a prominent west Auckland weightlifter and community figure who competed in the Olympics and was a Com-

monwealth Games gold medalist.

The foundation was set up to honour him after his death in 1996.

Tickets to the dinner are still available.

For information, phone 845-5540 or visit [www.doysfdinner.co.nz](http://www.doysfdinner.co.nz).



**James Glucina – basketball:**  
Power forward James already stands at over 1.9 metres but has hopes to grow as tall as idol Michael Jordan, who measures up at a towering 1.98m. His sights are set just as high in terms of his career. The Oratia resident had his first taste of international action last year as a member of the Junior Tall Blacks team that competed in the Australian under-16 national champs and is eyeing up a career as a professional basketballer. His achievements so far have suggested he has the talent to get there. The St Peter's College student was a key member of the Waitakere City under-17 side that won the intercity champs this year and came runners-up at the regional event.



**Nadia Pearl – football:**  
This year will go down as one of the most exciting in Nadia Pearl's young life. The 15-year-old is part of the New Zealand women's under-17 soccer team that will compete at the world cup in October and November. The event is being hosted by New Zealand and offers the chance for Nadia to match her skills against the best young players in the world. And she is not just in the side to make up the numbers. The Avondale College student is an important part of coach Paul Temple's plans and was vice-captain of the side when they travelled to Australia in April. Nadia and the rest of the Young Football Ferns made history on that tour by beating their Australian counterparts twice. The Titirangi resident is also a member of the extended New Zealand under-20 squad and won the national title with the Auckland under-16 team last year.



**Phillip Ryan – swimming:**  
The Ryan family name is well known in west Auckland swimming circles. Phillip's mother Gwen coaches at the Waterhole Swimming Centre in Glen Eden while older brother Daniel is also a top-ranked long distance swimmer. But rather than grow up in the shadow of his talented elder sibling, Phillip has used his brother's success to inspire him and carve out an impressive career of his own. The Kelston Boys High student has consistently achieved high placings at national and international events over the past couple of years, including fourth in both the 5km and 10km 17-18 years races at the Oceania open water champs. Phillip came third in the 1500m freestyle at the age group nationals and second in the New Zealand Open 5km event.



**Clayton Mbofana – athletics:**  
Clayton was born in Zimbabwe and spent his childhood in the troubled African nation before coming to New Zealand three years ago. He has made quite a mark since touching down on these shores. He is the New Zealand 200m champion for his age-group and dominated the Auckland champs this year, picking up first placings in both the 100m and 200m events. He also competed at the Australian under-20 nationals where he finished 6th in the 100m and fourth in the 200m. His splendid efforts were recognised by his club when he was named Waitakere City Athletics best male sprinter of 2008. The former Avondale College student is following through on the promise he showed at last year's national secondary school champs, where he took out the 200m and came second in the 100m.

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**Luke Charlesworth – Badminton:**  
Massey resident Luke comes from a badminton family and was introduced to the sport by his parents. He has gone on to show immense promise and is one of the country's best young players. The Massey High student is the Australasian under-17 mixed doubles champion and also came runner-up in the singles and doubles events. In 2007, he won the New Zealand under-21 men's singles title despite being only 15, as well as taking out the under-16 singles, doubles and mixed categories. Those results meant he qualified for the junior world champs held at Trusts Stadium in Henderson. Last year also saw Luke wear the Silver Fern at the Junior Olympics in Sydney, where he won gold in the B team event.



champs: Three golds, one silver, one bronze  
National champs: Open silver, open bronze, two age group golds  
Auckland age group champs: Four golds, one silver  
Auckland age group winter champs: Six golds, two silver

**Starn Simpson – Swimming:**

2008:  
Auckland Open champs: Silver, bronze  
NZ Open: Silver, bronze, bronze 4 x 100 relay  
National age group champs: Five individual and four relay golds  
2007:  
Trans-Tasman series: Six gold, one silver  
Australian Youth Olympic festival: Finalled in two individual events and swam in two relay finals  
Auckland Open summer short course champs: Finalled in six open events, silver 100m, 200m brst, breaking NZ and Auckland age group records  
National age group



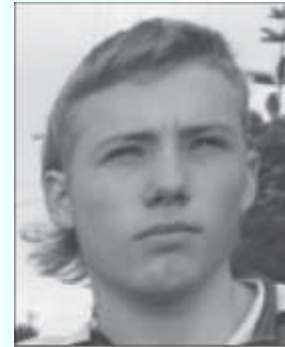
**Latham Croft – cycling:**

2008:  
Represented NZ in under-19 tour of Abitibi in Canada and world cup  
2007:  
2nd under-19 road race champs  
2nd Auckland half distance  
2nd King of the Mountains  
2nd Tour of Te Awamutu  
3rd Seabird Classic



**Natasha Simpson – swimming:**

2008:  
Auckland Open: Two golds  
NZ Open: Silver 4 x 200m freestyle relay  
Oceania champs: Silver 4 x 100m free relay, 4th 800m free  
National age group champs, 17-18 years: Two silver, two bronze  
2007:  
Auckland Open summer short course champs: Silver 4 x 100m medley relay  
Auckland age group champs: Three golds, two silver, three bronze  
Auckland winter age group champs: Two silver, two bronze  
Sovereign Ocean Swim: 1st female non-wet suit, bronze age group



**Oliver Harding-Sheath – cycling:**

2008:  
Represented NZ in under-19 tour of Abitibi in Canada and world cup  
Auckland track cycling champs: 3rd 8000m scratch race, 4th 1000m time trial, 4th match sprints  
NZ track cycling champs: 3rd team sprints, 4th match sprints, 6th 1000m time trial, 5th 10,000m scratch race final, 7th points race  
10th under-19 Rotorua tour  
6th Te Awamutu junior tour  
2007:  
1st NZ under-19 road race champs  
3rd Auckland 1000m  
Selected in Auck-



land team for Oceania  
champs  
Most promising senior  
rider for Waitakere  
BMX club



**Mathew Madsen –  
weightlifting:**  
2008:  
2nd Junior Oceania  
champs  
4th Senior Oceania  
champs  
1st North Island  
champs  
3rd Auckland champs  
Member of the NZ team  
that won the senior  
men's team title at the  
Oceania champs  
2007:  
Under-16 under-51kg  
NZ record holder  
Under-18 under-51kg  
NZ record holder  
1st Australian age  
group champs  
1st northern regional  
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secondary school  
champs, best under-16  
lifter  
1st national secondary  
school champs, best  
under-16 lifter  
3rd NZ champs  
3rd North Island  
champs



**Danielle Jones –  
Hockey:**  
2008:  
NZ under-21 Junior  
Black Sticks squad  
Auckland national  
league squad  
Auckland under-21  
team  
Auckland under-21  
player of the tourna-  
ment  
Auckland under-18  
team  
Western Districts pre-  
mier team  
Mt Albert Grammar first  
11 captain  
2007:

NZ under-16 Tiger Turf  
team  
Waitakere Hockey  
sportsperson of the  
year  
Western Districts sen-  
ior sportswoman of  
the year  
Mt Albert Grammar  
hockey senior girls  
sportsperson of the  
year



**Zsuzsanna Kercso-  
Magos – inline and  
ice speed skating:**  
2008:  
1st NZ nationals  
NZ record holder in the  
200m, 300m, 800m  
and 1000m  
2007:  
Won gold at both the  
Australian and New  
Zealand national  
champs and broke the  
junior ladies ice-speed  
record