

Tana Umaga joins Legend ranks

NICHOLAS BOYACK

Former All Black captain and Hurricanes legend Tana Umaga is being recognised as a Wellington Sports Legend.

A product of Wainuiomata, he played club rugby for Petone before becoming a Wellington Lion and fan favourite with the Hurricanes.

In 2004, he was named as All Black captain by coach Graham Henry.

He was the first New Zealand born captain with Samoan heritage.

Umaga represented the All Blacks from 1997-2005, playing 74 tests.

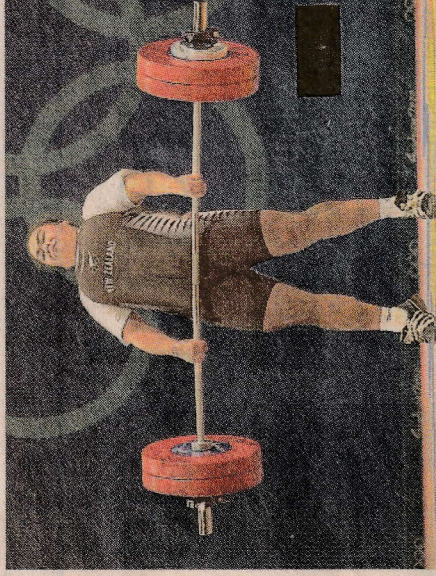
He is currently assistant coach of the Auckland Blues.

The other inductees are Lynette Brooky, Duane Kale and Olivia Baker, who along with Umaga, will be inducted on Wednesday, June 23, at The Dominion Post Sport and Recreation Awards.

Each year since 2003, the Legends Academy of Judges has inducted up to four Sport Legends of Wellington, supported by Nuku Ora (formerly Sport Wellington).

The inductees must be an athlete with a close allegiance to the Wellington area, be retired at least 10 years from top competition, and be acknowledged icons who have made an indelible impact on our community through their accomplishments.

"It is a privilege to organise



Top left, All Black great Tana Umaga was the first captain of Samoan heritage. Top right, Olivia Baker (pictured in 2001) is New Zealand's best ever female weight lifter. Left, golfer Lynette Brooky. Until the rise of Lydia Ko, Brooky was New Zealand's most successful female golfer. Right, Duane Kale.

STUFF, NZPA, PARALYMPICS NEW ZEALAND

the induction of Tana, Lynette, Duane and Olivia into the Sports Legends of Wellington," says Nuku Ora event director John Grieve.

"They join an illustrious group of Wellingtonians who have all reached the pinnacle of their chosen sports."

Until the rise of Lydia Ko, Brooky was New Zealand's most successful female golfer.

After turning professional in

1994, she spent most of her career playing in Europe, where she won back to back French Open titles.

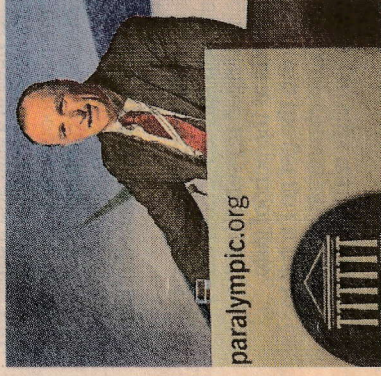
She also had four tournament wins in Australia and represented New Zealand in the 2005, 2006 and 2007 Women's World Cup of Golf.

Clubs she has been associated with include Titahi Bay, Hutt Golf Club and Manor Park. After retiring she has coached

around the world, including South Africa, Greece and in Wellington.

Kale was a New Zealand Paralympic swimmer who won four golds, along with a silver and bronze at the 1996 Summer Paralympics.

He was also the Chef de Mission for the New Zealand Paralympic Team at the 2008 and 2012 Summer Paralympics. In 1997 Kale was appointed an



Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to swimming.

New Zealand's highest performing female weightlifter at Commonwealth and Olympic level, Baker finished eighth in the 75+ kilograms combined category at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

In 2002, she won a silver medal in the 75+ kilograms snatch and two bronze medals for the 75+ kilograms clean and jerk and the 75+ kilograms combined at the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

"The accomplishments of these four iconic athletes will undoubtedly inspire future generations to reach their goals," Grieve says.

"I'm glad there is an opportunity to recognise the legacy their achievements have created in communities throughout the Wellington region, and beyond."

The new Legends will unveil their plaques on Tuesday, June 22, at the ASB Sports Centre, joining the 56 previous inductees in the Sports Legends of Wellington programme.

They will then be formally celebrated at The Dominion Post Sport and Recreation Awards on Wednesday, June 23.

Limited tickets are still available to join the Legends, as well as the other 59 other finalists across all 14 categories, at the Awards Gala Dinner. Go to wellingtonsportsawards.co.nz to find out more.