

MEDIA RELEASE
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BURTON CLAIMS MCINERNEY FORD GOLD MEDAL ON COUNTBACK

Balcatta's English import Steven Burton has claimed the 2011 McInerney Ford nine-carat Gold Medal and a brand new Ford Fiesta from McInerney Ford after a dramatic finish, counted live at last night's inaugural WA Football Awards.

In front of a crowd of almost 700 people at Burswood Entertainment Complex's Grand Ballroom, Burton polled three votes in the final game of the season to tie the count at 25 votes with Western Knights striker Johny Mirco.

Those votes came in the Western Knights v Balcatta Round 26 match, with Mirco polling two votes to take the lead before Burton tied things up after his man-of-the-match performance.

As per competition rules, the sole winner would be decided by a countback determined by the number of time each player scored the maximum three votes throughout the season.

Mirco had four best on ground performances, with Burton having eight, to make him the sole winner of the 2011 McInerney Ford Gold Medal and a brand new Ford Fiesta from McInerney Ford.

"I just can't express how I feel, I mean the whole night I was so blasé about it because I really didn't think I would win it because I turned up four games late," said Burton.

"I tried my best, but I never expected it and going into the last round, Johny Mirco was there and he scored two goals as well as myself, so it was a massive shock with the result.

"In terms of the A-League, I gave my all to Perth Glory when I trialed for them, but that's life I guess.

"I've got a few options in Melbourne, but it would take a lot for me to leave Balcatta - I love that club."

Other key awards on the night saw Mathew Cheeseman again named the State's best referee with the Bankwest Golden Whistle for the second consecutive year, while Spearwood Dalmatinac's Stuart Connell was named the Gold Medal winner from the MySolar Sunday Premier League and Queens Park midfielder Stacey Learmont took out the Women's Premier League Gold Medal.

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