

Keith Wood and Sam Lynch join Texaco honours list

Sat Dec 22nd
2001

KEITH Wood and Sam Lynch have joined the select few Limerickmen to have been honoured with Texaco Sports Awards.

It has been an extraordinary year for both sportsmen, winning recognition for themselves, club and country.

NCRd born Sam Lynch confirmed his status as the best lightweight single sculler in the world.

Basing himself in Spain for most of the year, he won the World Cup events in Seville and Munich and

recorded two crucial victories over Michael Babrousek, the Czech who beat him to gold in the World Championship in Zagreb in 2000.

But this year the biggest championship would not escape the Irish medical student on an August weekend when Ireland won a further two gold medals at Lucerne.

Lynch's progress to gold was majestic. He won his heat and semi-final convincingly and with remarkable coolness, took command in the final which directly followed Sinead Jennings' breakthrough win in the

women's lightweight

sculls. Lynch's devotion to the sport will surely bring further rewards in the years ahead.

Rugby colossus Keith Wood is richly deserving of his Texaco award.

By any yardstick 2001 was a year to remember for Irish rugby and it's captain.

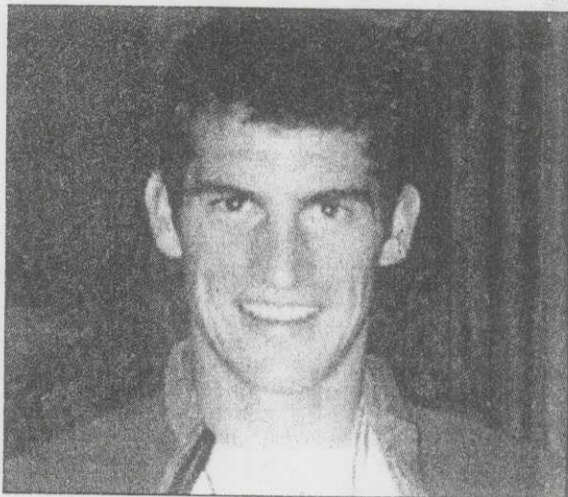
The season may have been disrupted by foot-and-mouth disease but the former Garryowen ace managed to overcome any difficulties with displays for Ireland and the Lions in Australia that were as effective as they

were inspirational.

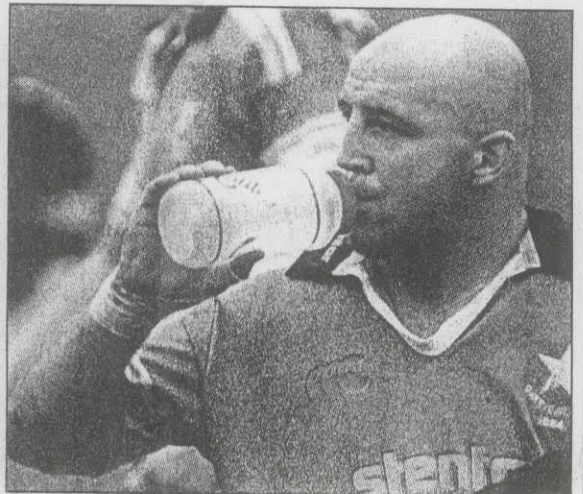
Building on the promise of the previous year, Wood led Ireland to the best possible start in the Six Nations championship with wins over Italy and France before foot-and-mouth intervened and the rest of the campaign was postponed until the autumn.

Ireland dipped in form when losing heavily to Scotland in Edinburgh, but Wood went on to lead them to famous wins over Wales and England.

He had a pivotal role with the Lions and went on to take the World Player of the Year award.



Award: Sam Lynch



Award: Keith Wood