

# Sadow in a dizzy rise

By Josh Massoud | September 10, 2008 12:00am



What a year ... Rabbitohs young gun Chris Sandow was named Rookie of the Year at the Dally M awards. Photograph: Gregg Porteous / The Daily Telegraph

GETTING Chris Sandow into his playing gear, let alone a tuxedo, was a tough ask not so long ago.

But less than 12 months after being axed by the Gold Coast, Sandow was dressed to the nines as he collected the Dally M Rookie of the Year Award.

Despite being a late starter in more ways than one, the Rabbitohs half comfortably overcame Manly winger David Williams and Melbourne prop Sika Manu.

"I was looking forward to playing first grade but I was not expecting it," Sandow said. "I just grabbed it with both hands."

After the Titans punted him for repeatedly missing games and training sessions, Sandow did not arrive at Redfern for pre-season training until January. The 20-year-old then waited until round 13 to make his NRL debut.

From there, however, Sandow became one of the season's brightest success stories as he led bottom-placed Souths on a five-match winning streak.

Marsden SHS have achieved the highest accolades in rugby league by having three Dally M winners in 2008. I doubt that any other school has ever had 3 Dally M winners in one year well done boys keep up the hard work. Go Marsden Makos

Hooker: Cameron Smith (Storm)

Centre: Israel Folau (Storm)

rookie of Year: Chris Sandow (Souths)