

sports extra

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Hear it from the best

NETBALL >> Former Australian and world championship netball coach Jill McIntosh will share her experience with a number of the region's brightest netballers at South Pine Sports Complex, Brendale next Thursday. McIntosh will provide hands-on coaching to the Brisbane North and Brisbane East region's most promising talent in her role as mentor for the Ergon Energy Netball Academies. Brisbane North Ergon Energy Netball Academy coach Darren Connolly said: "Jill worked with our academy last year and the girls found her method of delivery very informative."

Croquet Shield attracts top players

CROQUET >> Some of the country's top players will head to Bribie Island Croquet Club on September 1-5 for the state teams Golf Croquet Shield. Wayne Strong and Lynda Davis, from the Bribie club, are in the Queensland team. Bribie also has two of the reserves in Heinz Breustedt and Carol Sutton. Play is from 8am-4.30pm each day. The Sunshine Coast region will also be hosting the Australian Golf Croquet Men's and Women's Singles Championships this year, as well as the gold medal event.

Former champion to hit the greens

BOWLS >> Former world singles champion Steve Glasson and world No.9 Anthony Kiepe will be part of a star-studded line-up that will play a series of singles, pairs and triples matches on the new covered greens at Club Pine Rivers on Sunday. Taking on the top names will be the likes of Pine Rivers' Alex Murtagh (pictured), Aaron Hewson and James Templeton. Play starts on Sunday at 10.30am and 1.30pm. The greens will be officially opened tomorrow.

Banking on the Power to win

SOCCER >> The drive by Peninsula Power's team in the Brisbane Women's Premier League to make the finals will go down to the wire. With four games remaining, the Power girls are one win outside the top four, but face ladder leaders The Gap this weekend. They then play battlers Toowoomba and Souths before a final-round showdown with fellow finals contender Mount Gravatt. Women's Premier League points: The Gap 38, Redlands United 37, Eastern Suburbs 35, Mount Gravatt 34, Peninsula Power 31, Souths United 9, Ipswich Knights 7, Toowoomba Raiders 6.

Moreton Bay takes the cake

SOCCER >> Here is a little something for

local lovers of the round ball game to boast about. The teams currently leading Football Brisbane's Under-15 Division 1 North competition all hail from the Moreton Bay region. Topping the table is Albany Creek, followed by North Pine, Peninsula Power and Pine Rivers United. Sitting just outside the top four are Samford, Kenmore and Grange Thistle, while Brisbane City is holding up the table. There are three rounds to go in this competition, and Albany Creek is well and truly in the box seat, with a seven-point buffer over North Pine.

Puma talent

RUGBY UNION >> Pine Rivers Pumas' record of producing talented rugby players continues, with the recent announcement of the Under-16 Junior Reds train-on squad. David Alo-Emile, the younger Australian and Reds



brother of Under-20 academy player Paul, is in the squad. As is Josh L'Hota, a promising centre with the Pumas last year. Caboolture Rugby Union is represented by young gun Conor Mitchell.

Junior Reds selectors have named a 127-player squad which will vie for selection in the two Queensland teams that will contest the national under-16 championships, to be held at St Ignatius Riverview in Sydney between September 26 and October 1.

Bandits to kick off sport's renewal

BASEBALL >> The Australian Baseball League (ABL) has unveiled the new website for the Brisbane Bandits - www.brisbanebandits.com.au - Queensland's team in the new national competition. It is exciting times for baseball in Australia, with the ABL being partly funded by Major League Baseball in the US. The competition is expected to attract not just Australia's best players, but also professionals from the US and other baseball strongholds such as Japan and Cuba.

The first game in Brisbane will be played on November 11 against the Canberra Cavalry. The venue and times are yet to be announced.

Walk-on chance for juniors

RUGBY LEAGUE >> Queensland Rugby League is offering 1500 junior players a chance to walk on to Suncorp Stadium before the Intrust Super Cup (Queensland Cup) grand final on Sunday, September 19. It is one of many

attractions the QRL is bringing to this year's event - the first Sunday grand final since the inception of the Queensland Cup competition in 1996. To take part, a club needs to register its interest and lodge the names of the junior players and volunteers with the QRL via email to m.gri@qrl.com.au.

Kookas the best

HOCKEY >> Former Redcliffe Leagues player Matthew Swann has helped Australia reconfirm their status as the best hockey team in the world after defeating England 4-0 in the final of the Champions Trophy in Germany on Sunday. Despite having the most inexperienced team at the tournament, the Kookaburras raced out to a 3-0 lead after 13 minutes. The Kookaburras have now won every major tournament since coach Ric Charlesworth took over in January 2009. Swann, who played for Redcliffe for three seasons before moving to the Australian Institute of Sport in Perth, was part of the Kookaburras team that won last year's Champions Trophy and this year's World Cup.

Pirates have one hand on the treasure

CRICKET >> The Caboolture-based Pirates cricket side has made the Warehouse B1N grand final. They wrapped up a spot in the grand final after an outright win on Saturday. After fine weather all week, Pirates captain Jacob Grams tells us the pitch was a "belter" compared with the previous week. "We struggled for wickets early on. Norths resumed at 3-32 but were soon bundled out for 97 thanks to a brilliant 15-over spell from spinner Todd Bruckner (6-38)," Grams said. "We got the 52 runs required for the win with two wickets down. John Flew deserves a notable mention for match figures of 6-28 from 22.5 overs." Everton or Pine Rivers will do battle over the next two weekends for the other B1N grand final spot. The final is on August 28 and 29 at Marchant Park, Chermerside.

Big week for Albany Creek

SOCCER >> Albany Creek had its Canale Cup semi-final against Premier League powerhouse Rochdale on Tuesday washed out. The match has been rescheduled for August 17.

The winner will advance to the final to meet either Capalaba or Redlands, whose match was also called off and is yet to be rescheduled.

This Saturday, Albany Creek travel to Park Ridge for their Division 2 match. Currently lying third, a win would move Ace a step closer to a top-two promotion position. Meanwhile, in Division 1, Mitchelton blew a 2-0 lead against Rocklea to finish 2-2.

Quartet honoured for centuries

RUGBY LEAGUE >> Caboolture A Grade quartet Dave Roche, Matt Morris, Ben Wust and Nik Taylor will be honoured by the club this weekend. All four have will have reached 100 games for the Snakes this season, with Wust to mark his century in tomorrow night's match against Maroochydore. It will be Caboolture's final home match of the 2010 season. Caboolture radio station 101.5FM will be broadcasting from the Snake Pit from 2pm, with score updates during the day and a live call of the A Grade match from 6.30pm.

Burpengary sign-on days

CRICKET >> Burpengary Cricket Association has announced sign-on days at Findlay Street Oval for the next month. Queensland Bulls players are expected at the first sign-on session, from 8.30am-10.30am on August 29. There will also be registration days on September 4 (8am-2pm), September 9 (4pm-7pm) and September 11 (8am-2pm). Senior training starts on September 16.

ANATOMY OF A CHAMPION

NAME: Jake Hicks

Sport: Rugby league

Team: Bribie Island Warrigals under-13; Sunshine Coast; Wide Bay; Queensland

Suburb: Bribie Island

What is your game-day routine?

A good breakfast, pack gear, start thinking about the game.

How do you prepare for the game?

Get dressed, lots of stretching, warm

up with the team, go over what I've got to do in my head.

What is your favourite part of the game?

I love tackling.

What is the best sporting advice you have been given?

Don't be lazy.

What are your sporting goals?

To have a career in the NRL and win

a premiership with Bribie Island this year.

What is your first memory from playing?

Getting the Man of the Match award in my first game.

When did you start playing and why?

I first started playing at under-8 level.

I started playing just for something to do on weekends.

What has been the biggest highlight of your career so far?

This year's representative season. I captained Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay, and made the Queensland under-13 team.

Do you know a young sporting champion from our region? Have them fill out these questions and email their response to sport@northerntimes.com.au.

