

■ basketball

Supercoach boosts locals

Surprise Pacific Slam win

By JULIAN KENNEDY

IN just five days elite American basketball trainer Jason Wright taught a team of Carina juniors to stifle their more fancied opponents and win a national tournament.

The radical turnaround started shortly after Wright, who trains NBA draftees, landed in Brisbane at 3am on January 14.

Wright took the Southern Districts Basketball Under 17 team though a training session before they left for their first game in the Pacific Slam tournament at Port Macquarie the next day.

The team was to be coached by NBL great Leroy Loggins, who received a last minute call to train a women's basketball team in China. Loggins invited Wright to fill his spot.

Once in Port Macquarie



DEMANDS AND REWARD: Jason Wright and aspiring youngsters at the Spartans Basket Ball Court.

JC184752

the Los Angeles-based trainer squeezed in an extra two-hour training session starting at 6am each day, the only time a court was

available, to bring the team up to speed.

Wright said the players were initially shocked by his tough demands for 100

per cent effort but by day three attitudes had changed.

"The scoreboard didn't mean anything to me. At the

end of the five days I wanted to see them grow as individuals from a basketball perspective and a personal perspective," he said.

"I don't think our style of playing was any better. I just asked them to challenge themselves."

Wright said he emphasised defence and asked them to slow play down to frustrate the opposition. They won the final 57-48 against New South Wales.

Southern Districts general manager Allan Ladewig said the team had some talented juniors but no one gave what was the equivalent of a club team a chance at beating state sides with older players. He said Wright's training was the difference.

"Listen to the silence here," Ladewig said as Wright coached clinics last week for the sixth straight hour. "He just demands respect."

Wright's own NBA career with the Seattle SuperSonics was just a pre-season old when he ruptured an achilles tendon. He said he coached to varying degrees 10 of the top 13 draft picks from the last NBA draft.

He hopes to return to Australia later in the year for more coaching sessions with the Southern Districts Basketball Association at Carina.

■ rugby union

Kingi ready to paint the town Red in 2010

ROOKIE Wallaby Richard Kingi has been promoted to the senior QR Reds squad.

The 20-year-old former scaffolder and talented scrumhalf said what he thought would be a quiet year would now involve performing as part of the main squad on the "big paddock".

Kingi said he was chosen from the QAS Reds Academy and

Sevens Rugby ranks in 2009 to play two games for the Reds when their scrumhalf stocks were depleted by injury.

He said he grabbed the opportunity with both hands and had learnt a lot training with the Wallabies.

He said he was buoyed by the encouragement given to him by Wallabies coach Robbie Deans. Reds head coach Ewen

McKenzie said Kingi showed his potential last year for the Reds and in appearances for Australia in the Sevens and at the Under-20 World Championship.

"He didn't get that much time on the field for the Wallabies so we look forward to getting a better handle on how he is developing as a player during the upcoming trial matches," he said.

■ motorsport

A long way away

THE State Government's plan to build a trail-bike facility at Wyaralong, 25km west of Beaudesert, has met with a mixed reaction from the Fort Lytton Motocross Club.

Club manager Ken Herson said while he was pleased the Government was investing in the sport, the facility would not cater for Brisbane riders and he doubted it would bring a halt to illegal riding.

The plan to establish southeast Queensland's first dedicated trail bike facility is a joint venture

between the State Government and the SEQ Council of Mayors.

About 745ha of land valued at \$1.5 million is to be set aside at Wyaralong for the facility and \$1 million provided to get it off the ground.

Mr Herson said about 90 per cent of the sport's riders came from Brisbane and needed a facility closer than two hours' drive away.

Deputy Premier Paul Lucas said the Government would continue to seek a Brisbane site.

REMEMBER IT'S ALL ABOUT ALL THE KIDS!

VULTURES SIGN-UP DAY

ALL JUNIORS & YOUTHS UNDER 7/8 ~ 16 & AUSKICK
10am TO 2pm SATURDAY 6th & SUNDAY 7th FEBRUARY

DITTMER PARK
Cnr Klumpp & Logan Rds, U/Mt Gravatt
Ph: GREG 0418 312 895
www.mtgravattjuniors.aflq.com.au

2052116-32

Cannon Hill Stars Netball Club

SIGN-ON
Saturday, 6th February
10am - 12pm
Clubhouse:
Bill Cash Memorial Park
Wynnum Rd, Cannon Hill

No experience necessary
Bring a friend — Ages from 8 - 18yrs

COACHES & UMPIRES NEEDED FOR THE SEASON

Contact:
Lisa 0433 446 510

2037394-32

HOLLAND PARK HAWKS FOOTBALL CLUB
www.hphawksfc.com.au

2ND SIGN ON DAY
9am-1pm - Sat 6th Feb
AT HAWKS' CLUBHOUSE - WHITES HILL RESERVE,
BOUNDARY RD, CAMP HILL, MAP 181 B/8

AGES: U6 to Senior Men, Senior Women & Over-35
(Minimum age: Must have turned 5 at time of registration)

"SQUIRTS" Program for ages 3-5
planned for Saturday mornings
~ All Skill Levels Welcome! ~

- ✓ Registration fees to be paid on the day - see web site for 2010 fees
- ✓ Training program under our Football Director & club shirt provided for all volunteer coaches.
- ✓ New players to show proof of DOB.

Enquiries: Cath Ware: warefam@gmail.com

2006368-32

\$10 TRADE-IN ON YOUR OLD BOOTS.

Support from the ground up

BLUE HEELER BOOTS
343A MONTAGUE ROAD, WEST END
PHONE: 3846 7101
www.blueheelerboots.com.au