

AFL

Well done to 2007 NTIS Scholarship holder Cameron Stokes in playing his first senior match with Hawthorn and by all regards playing very well.

Joshua Johnny from the AFL located in Alice Springs was also selected in the 2008 National Indigenous Cricket Development Squad but due to an injury was not able to attend a camp in Brisbane at the Cricket Australia Centre of Excellence.

Athletics

Marathon runner Eliza Mayger has found out she is ranked 15th seed for the Boston Marathon, in which she competes on the 21st April.

Elite athlete Crystal Attenborough has been selected in the Australian relay squad to go to Osaka, Japan in early May. She will be attending a training camp in April before departing for Osaka.

At the recent Australian Championships Crystal finished 7th in the final of the 100m in a time of 11.99seconds. In the 200m open finals Crystal finished 9th in a time of 24.57.

Crystal was also a finalist in the Qantas NT Sportsperson of the Year Award 2008.

Cycling

An injury update from MTB cyclist Daniel Johnson who crashed while on his bike about three weeks ago: I've just started doing some work with the physio since my stack. All my stitches are out and I am improving faster than I expected. My injuries from the crash are: an 11cm laceration to my abdomen. As I understand it some of it is missing... It means that I have a hard time straightening my leg out, because the surgeons stitched it back together and it's shorter than it was. My flexibility has already improved a lot in the last 2 weeks which is good. The other injury is a 4" deep puncture in my upper right thigh which is healing well. Physio tells me I should be able to get back on the bike in 2 weeks.

While Matt King was in Darwin recently he offered to help with the Junior Participation Program and a Junior Development program in Darwin. On Wednesday Matt came along to watch the juniors train and then participated in a Q&A session before Matt found out he had to have 4 wisdom teeth removed the same afternoon.

Matt's credit he turned up and not only gave 45 minutes of his time in a Q&A session showing the juniors his medals, but gave them each a Water Bottle-Fantastic. On Thursday at a coaching clinic on hill climbing Matt turned up again in his full team kit to spend time with the juniors.

Matt King competed in the Mendrisiotto one day event with the SA.com/AIS team in Switzerland. He attended a week-long AIS test camp in Canberra which put him through his paces.

David Johnston finished 11th in the Oceania MTB cross country U19 race in Nelson, New Zealand. David was the 3rd Australian across the line 6.13 minutes behind the leader.

Hockey

The NT Men's AHL team, the Territory Stingers finished in 8th place at the recent championships. NTIS players Des Abbott, Joel Carroll, Adrian Lockley, Leon Hayward, and Nathan Edwards were represented. Robert Duguid was video and "Gamebreaker" technician.

Congratulations to NTIS/AIS Elite Scholarship holder Des Abbott who was named in the 2008 Olympic Squad of 24 players announced after the Australian Hockey League. The Olympic team of 16 will be chosen in July.

Congratulations to Joel Carroll who was selected in the 2008 National Development Squad. This squad will be targeted towards the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Tour planned for October. The selection of the AIS Team will be finalised and announced by the end of July.

Carbine Club Development scholarship holder Leon Hayward has been invited to a National goalkeeping camp in May.

The NT U18 men's team has been selected with the following NTIS athletes: Brendan O'Connor, Bryce Luck, Dylan Hill, Tarrant Haami, Steven Tonkiss and Carbine Club Development scholarship holder Robert Duguid.

Judo

Tamara Betts attended an Elite camp at the AIS prior to the Oceania Judo Junior Championships. 15 year old Tamara won equal Bronze in the U19 division against New Zealand, New Caledonian and Australian competitors.

Tamara and coach Sue Gardiner have been selected to attend the national talent identification camp in Canberra 14 to 19 April 2008. This camp is part of the selection process for the 08/09 NTID judo Squad. Final selection will take place after the National Titles in June.

Netball

At the U17 National championships the NT has lost both games on the opening day. NT lost to Queensland 19-39 and to Tasmania 9-39.

Rugby League

The NTIS team travelled to Alice Springs to compete against a Darwin, Alice Springs, Mt Isa, and Adelaide team. The boys won the competition and proved themselves in front of the selectors for inclusion into the NT U18 team to compete in the National Championships.

Rugby Union

Sunday 6th April the NT Schoolboys containing 13 NTIS Rugby players defeated Toowoomba's Downlands College 36 - 15.

NTIS athletes Kyle Davies, Josh Hall and Elijah Vodo will be attending an ACT Brumbies Under 18 and Schoolboy Camp later this month.

Sailing

At the World Tornado Championships, Carbine Club Development Scholarship holders Rohan Langworthy and Jack Benson won the junior section of the championships to become Junior World Champions. In the senior division the boys finished 35th place and were the third Australian crew.

Damien Ford and Mark Edmonds in the same event finished in 42nd place with a best finish in 28th place. Unfortunately the team did not compete in race 1 due to main sheet troubles at the start line. They finished as the 4th Australian crew.

Carbine Club Development Scholarship holder Mark Edmonds achieved 2nd place at the Adelaide International Regatta in the Laser Radial class and was the 1st male across the line.

Swimming

At the 2008 Telstra Australian Swimming Championship in Sydney last week NT's TIO Junior Sportsperson of the Year Kia King finished 30th in the 100m open breaststroke. Kia made the

semi finals of the 200m breastroke in a time of 2:39.12 and achieved personal best time. This result puts her as the top 15 swimmers in Australia. She also competed in the 100m Butterfly coming in 54th place, 29th in the 200m Individual Medley and 32nd place in the 50m breastroke and a personal best time. Kia had relocated to South Australia to train under Glenn Beringen when her Casuarina club coach Mark Davies left the Territory late last year.

Carbine Club Development Scholarship holder Tahnee Afuhaamango at the Queensland 2008 Athletes with a Disability Swimming State Championships claimed five world records. It started with the 50m Butterfly, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Freestyle, and 100m Freestyle in the 17 and Over age category, earning her a first, second, third and fourth respectively and four Down Syndrome International Swimming Organisation (DSISO) Masters World Records.

Tahnee's performance earned her a position in the Australian Down Syndrome Down Under Swimming Organisation Open Women's 4 x 50 metre Freestyle Relay line up; where the team went on to break the DSISO World Record and Tahnee's fifth.

Tahnee will head to Portugal in November to represent Australia at the DSISO World Championships. "

At the NT Open & Age Championships Tahnee broke two new world records in the 50m breastroke and 50m butterfly.

The 2 world records that she broke were already hers that she set at the Arafura Games last year.

She also tied with Andrew Pearce from Tennant Creek for the Judith Green Trophy. This trophy is awarded to the swimmer with a disability gaining most points during the meet in multi- disability events.

NTIS graduate Danni Miatke missed out on the 2008 Olympic team selection.

Tennis

Carbine Club Development Scholarship holder Kassandra Dunser has been selected on European Tour and International camp in May with Optus Team Tennis Australia. Five U14 girls and five U14 boys have been chosen to train and compete in Italy, Slovenia, and France which also includes an Australia vs. France Test Match.

Kassandra Dunser was the number one seed at the 2008 Optus 12s Autumn Nationals in both singles and doubles. On her way to the singles final Kassandra disposed of some high quality players. In the final Kassandra came up against an in-form number 2 seed in Celine Lenertz, but unfortunately went down 6-2 6-1. In the doubles Kassandra and Brooke Rischbieth won in the finals coming from a set down to win 13-11 in the match tiebreaker.

Kassandra also was a finalist for the Junior Sportsperson of the Year at the NT Sports Awards.

Emily Webb had a first round loss in the Girls' 14s, but recovered extremely well for a finals berth in the consolation draw. In the girls doubles Emily teamed with fellow team-mate, Emma Labessa to reach the round of 16.

Kiera Halicek competing in the Optus 12s Nationals, made the quarterfinals of the consolation draw in the Girls' 12 Singles. In the girls doubles Kiera and partner Morgan Brand were victorious in the consolation final 9-8.

Matilda Hurst reached the round of 32 in the Girls' 14 singles. Seeded 3 in the girl's doubles Matilda and partner Georgina Carswell made the semi-finals.

Emma Labessa made the quarterfinals of the Girls' 14 singles consolation. Emma also teamed with Emily Webb to reach the round of 16 in the Girls' 14 Doubles

Kassandra Dunser won the Austin Asche Trophy at the Tennis NT's Awards. The award also recognised sportsmanship and presentation as well. Hrehan (Adil) Hakeem and 2007 NTIS athlete Tarlina Tipungwuti won the male and female senior points circuit award.

Hrehan (Adil) Hakeem's summary of results in March have been: Semi-final Singles ITF Juniors, Christchurch, New Zealand. Semi-final Singles Australian Money Tournament #4, WA. Semi-final Doubles Australian Money Tournament #4, WA. Semi-final Doubles Australian Money Tournament #2, WA. Semi-final Doubles Australian Money Tournament #1, WA. Quarter-Finalist Singles Australian Money Tournament #3. Quarter-Finalist Singles Australian Money Tournament #1. Hrehan's highlight was when he defeated the second highest ranked junior in his age group who is also in the AIS, Dayne Kelly 6/4 7/5.

Tenpin Bowling

At the Vic150 Rebecca Simpson qualified in 4th place along with Natalie Shelley in 3rd place. Rebecca finished 8th and Natalie 10th after the matchplay finals.

Andrew McArthur was 28th place in the Australian Tenpin Open missing the cut by two places to progress to Stage 2.

Touch

Congratulations to Jordan AhSam who was selected in the Barbarians Women's Open team that played in the grand final at the National Touch League in Coffs Harbour. The team, a mix of Western Australian and NT players, also featured NTIS graduate Bo Delacruz.

The team defeated Rebels 4-3, Scorpions 12-2, Cyclones 9-1, Rustlers 3-2, Eagles 9-1, and lost to the Mets 11-5. In the semi finals the Barbarians defeated Sharks 7-4 (Jordan scoring a touch down), but lost in the final to the Mets team from Sydney 6-1.

Jordan has also been selected for the Australian Indigenous Touch Team that will play against the New Zealand under 19s, Under 21s, and Open's Women's teams in Hamilton, Auckland and in Wellington this month. World Cup and ex NTIS athlete Bo De La Cruz will captain the Women's team, and is being coached by Jordan's coach Harry Appo.

Jordan has also been reselected in the Australian 18s girl's team that will play at the Youth World cup in January 2009 in New Zealand.

Triathlon

Ali Fitch won the Qantas NT Sportsperson of the Year Award 2008 at the recent NT Sports Awards. Her award is for the fantastic year she has had. Below is a shortlist of her highlights:

4th Ironman WA - 9 hrs 18 mins (PB)
4th Ironman 70.3 Singapore - 4 hrs 23 mins (PB)
3rd Ironman Switzerland - 9 hrs 31 mins
5th Ironman Australia - 9 hrs 45 mins
2nd Ironman Malaysia - 9 hrs 50 mins
6th Ironman 70.3 Switzerland - 4 hrs 31 mins.

A late report on Ali at Busselton Ironman, Western Australia last December:

Ali came out of the water in a blistering 48mins in 2nd place. This was an outstanding world class time for an Ironman woman, who rarely if ever breaks 50 mins. It was also a significant PB for Ali, whose best time in the past was just over 50 minutes.

Ali passed the race leader on the bike after around 2km. She then proceeded to lead the whole cycle leg completely on her own for the next 178km. Her biggest lead on the bike was up to 4 minutes. Ali's time of just over 5 hours, for a solo time trial, would rank her amongst the best Ironman women riders in the world. The Holy Grail in women's Ironman bike is breaking 5 hours, a target that Ali has firmly in her sight. Ali's bike time was a PB (I think) of around 7 minutes.

Ali led the run for the first 12km, when she was passed by the eventual winner. Two runners passed her on subsequent legs, Ali running a time that was less than 60 seconds slower than her PB, to do an overall PB that was around 14minutes faster than her previous best

and 4th place overall. Ali was delighted with her times, and the result, particularly as she is matching it with the very best girls in the world.

Sophie Hawkins finished in 9th place at the Elite Female Mooloolaba Triathlon - Individuals and Teams event. Sophie was also named as a top 3 finalist in the NT Sports Star of the Year.

Weightlifting

Two members of the NTIS weightlifting Squad, Andrea Mullins, and Melissa Miller attended the AWF Club Championships at the Sydney Olympic Park on March 15. Both girls got personal best lifts. 13 year old Andrea, in her first competition away, finished with 6 out of 6 lifts and PB'd in Snatch (35kg), Clean and Jerk (45kg), and total (80kg) in the 53Kg class. Andrea is now within 7.5 Kg of ex NTIS graduate Maria Tsoukalis' NT Total record and 5Kgs from Maria's NT snatch record (U16, 48Kg class). Andrea is incidentally the same age as was Maria at the time (13).

Melissa completed the competition with 4 out of 6 lifts, missing the last Clean and Jerk and last Snatch lifts. She lifted 52kg in the Snatch and 66kg in the Clean and Jerk for a total 118kg in the 75+kg division.

Wheelchair Basketball

Melanie Hall has been selected for the upcoming Gliders trip to China in April. The team will depart 18th April and return into Australia on 29th April. The Australian team will play 4 friendly games against the China team that are automatic qualifiers for the Beijing Paralympic Games which start on 6th of September.

Anti-Doping

Advice from ASADA regarding colostrum is that it should be treated in the same way athletes treat dietary supplements and as such their advice is that athletes should not take this product.

NTIS Coaches and Staff

Congratulations to Cherry Harvey on her award as Crown Lager Eric Johnston Coach of the Year at the NT Sports Awards and NT Cycling's new Vice President- Alice Springs, Mandy Hargreaves on her TIO Volunteer of the Year award.