

Sports Extra



with Jess Webster
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YOUR VOICE IN THE TERRITORY

Under-21 girls struggle at national titles

THE Territory women's top four aspirations at the National Hockey Championships are all but over after a 0-0 draw against bottom-placed ACT on Sunday in Melbourne.

The Territorians drew 1-1 with South Australia in their opening match, but then suffered losses to Queensland (6-1), Western Australia (3-0) and Victoria (4-1).

NT needed to defeat ACT to stay in the finals hunt, but lacked the finishing touch to bring home the points.

"We definitely played good enough to win," Territory coach Daniel Hayes said.

"We stepped it up but we just didn't finish. We had a

few opportunities early on in the first half and could have quite easily scored two or three goals."

"We're disappointed that we haven't won a game yet, but we are playing some good hockey. It's just unfortunate that our mistakes turn into (opposition) goals."

Elizabeth Duguid was instrumental in goal to continue her impressive tournament, while Heather Langham, Sally Richardson and Caitlin Porter have been at their consistent best.

The Territory play Tasmania tomorrow and NSW on Wednesday before finals commence, and Hayes believes fifth position is there for the taking.

"We'll regroup now and we'll be aiming for that fifth spot, which is the highest position we can finish now. We'll be pushing hard for that."

Queensland currently lead the championship race, followed by Victoria and South Australia.



Nightcliff's Rich Williamson slides into base in a cloud of dust as Tracy Village short-stop Thomas Grills attempts to tag him

Picture: KATRINA BRIDGEFORD

Village traps Tigers

THE match of the Darwin Baseball League round between traditional rivals Tracy Village and Nightcliff on Sunday was a spectators' delight, with the result in the balance until the last play.

Despite the best efforts of Tigers pitcher Daniel Conway-Jones, Tracy Village put early runs on the board

and held on for a 3-1 win.

Conway-Jones opened for the Tigers and pitched an outstanding game with 14 strikeouts, but the Rebels batting line-up still managed to score one run in the second and another two in the third innings.

Tracy Village led by three runs at the bottom of the fourth before Nightcliff got a

run on the board in the fifth.

It was a tense final dig as the Tigers lifted and put three runners on the bases, but a great pickoff move from the mound gave Tracy Village the final out and ended the game.

It was the Rebels' defence and making the right plays at critical points that won them the game, including a timely

double play in the sixth innings and a great catch by Bo Gaynor in the seventh.

Tracy Village's Dwayne McInnes delivered another great performance on the mound with nine strikeouts and three hits.

The win has kept the Rebels at the top of the league ladder again this week.

An act of God — or Power

and Water — ended the Pints v Palmerston game without a result after an hour-long blackout closed play after only two innings.

The match will be rescheduled at a later date.

With three quarters of the regular season gone, the top three teams are all in a position to win the DBL minor premiership.

May kicks nine majors for Grammar

TERRITORY footballer Steven May has continued to impress in AFL circles with a nine-goal, best on ground performance for Melbourne Grammar School against Scotch College in Melbourne recently.

The sides play annually in commemoration of the first ever AFL match played in 1858 between the two schools, with Melbourne Grammar winning by 10 points.



Both May, 18 (pictured), and fellow Territorian Shaun Edwards, 16, attend school at Melbourne Grammar.

May was selected in the All-Australian side for his performances at the recent AFL U18 Championships, while Edwards is contracted to new AFL franchise Greater Western Sydney.

University women topple Bunnies

NOT even the presence of Australian representative Caroline Vakalahi could prevent University notching a win against South Darwin in the NTRU women's rugby competition.

Wallaroos prop Vakalahi scored a try for the Bunnies but it wasn't enough as Uni won 19-17 at Austar Park.

Lara Vodo, Lisa Rioli and Ulamila Sanoko crossed for the University

side, while Michelle Lyons landed two conversions.

Mollie Gay scored twice for the Bunnies, converting one of her tries.

But she couldn't prevent a debut win by University in Round 2.

Uni rebounded from a 62-5 belting by Barbarians in the first round.

South Darwin will host Barbarians at Warren Park from 1.30pm on Saturday in Round 3.

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