



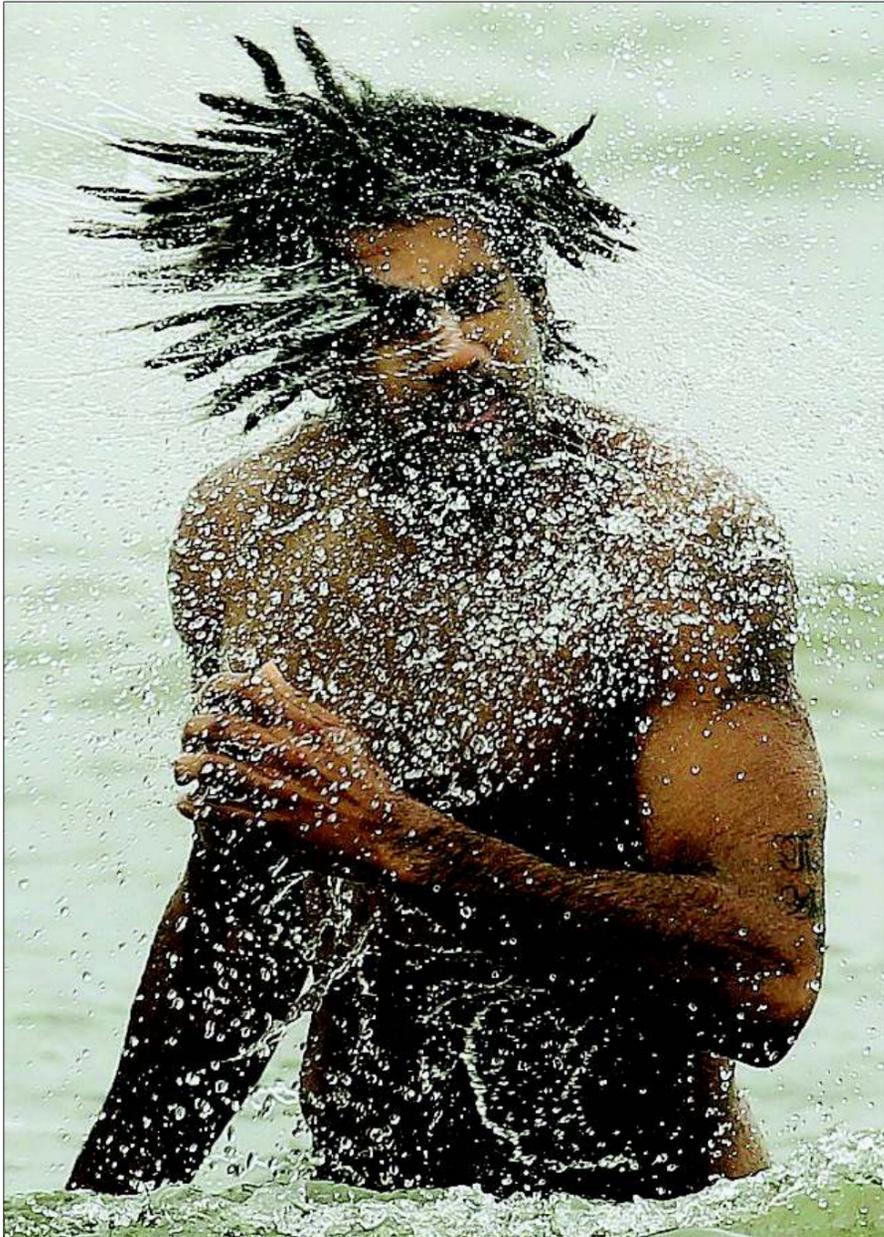
PETRICK JOINS ELITE GROUP AFTER CUP WIN

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Collingwood defender Harry O'Brien, who will more than likely line up on Mathew Stokes on Saturday night, at a recovery session at St Kilda beach yesterday. Picture: MICHAEL KLEIN

Red hot Pies not so cool for Cats

FOOTBALL
By GREY MORRIS

DARWIN Cat Mathew Stokes has branded Saturday night's AFL grand final preview against Collingwood "just another game". Geelong's 2007 premiership forward has been there before in big games against



Mathew Stokes

the Magpies. Included in the list is the iconic 2007 preliminary final when he booted three crucial goals in the five-point win that got them into the grand final.

This time more than 80,000 fans are expected to pack the

MCG for what many pundits feel is a preview for the last Saturday in September.

"The supporters, the media and just about everyone else will create a big build-up for the game," Stokes said.

"But for the players of both sides I'm not sure it will be that big, except for the chance

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Hall of fame for NT's 'Magic Johnson'

BASKETBALL
By GREY MORRIS

IT has been confirmed that Darwin and Australian basketball great Michael AhMat will be inducted into Basketball Australia's Hall Of Fame later this month.

The August 18 induction dinner in Melbourne follows a two-year battle by his close friend and former South Adelaide team-mate Joe Clarke

to get AhMat's playing record officially recognised.

"He was Australia's Magic Johnson. He was probably 20 or 30 years ahead of his time," Clarke told the *Northern Territory News* last night.

"And he was my brother, my soul brother, who was the best basketballer I have ever seen."

Clarke, 60, grew up with AhMat through the 1950s in Darwin and joined him at the

South Adelaide club in 1962 as a 14-year-old. The first Aborigine to represent Australia at the Olympics (1964 in Tokyo), AhMat backed up in Mexico in 1968 and also represented Australia in Tests against New Zealand.

He represented the NT only once at a national championship, wearing the SA colours on 10 occasions.

Clarke played with AhMat at South Adelaide and in SA

rep sides. "The saying coast-to-coast (taking the ball from defence to offence) came about when Magic Johnson was doing it in the 1990s," Clarke said.

"Michael was doing that in the 1960s when he was grabbing rebounds and taking the ball past five opposition players and either scoring or setting up a basket.

"He'd create a fast break and his passing was phenom-

enal. If he felt like shooting he'd fire one in, it was great to watch him."

"He was certainly the best player in the Australian team in the 1960s and played nearly 600 games (588) for South Adelaide."

AhMat died in 1983 aged just 40, but he will always be remembered as a groundbreaker for Territory basketballers in international and national competition.



The late Michael AhMat

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