

Game On

YOUR VOICE IN THE TERRITORY



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Storm brewing



Storm netball captain Kat Hollis will tonight lead the Territory into the first leg of an Australian Netball League triple-header at Marrara Stadium

Picture: STUART WALMSLEY

NETBALL By JESS WEBSTER

A STORM is brewing at Marrara Indoor Stadium as the Territory prepares to tackle Queensland Fusion in an ANL blockbuster tonight.

The match kicks off a triple-header this weekend with games against defending premiers Victorian Fury tomorrow and AIS on Sunday.

While the draw looks

tough on paper, Storm captain Kat Hollis in confident of whipping her opponents into shape.

"We aren't intimidated at all, I think we have a lot of experience in our team," she said.

"Without a doubt we always play well at home, we've had some really close matches with all of these teams over the past two years and it's not out of our

reach by any stretch of the imagination.

"We're certainly chasing a win there is no doubt about that, and it's putting into practice the three things we've been working and progressing towards the whole time.

"This is the last chance we have to successfully achieve all that in a match, and there is no reason why we can't do it."

The Territory has brought in a local gun for the final three matches of their season, with Pints goal-attack Peta Whelan starting on the bench to replace the injured Kellie Adamson.

Whelan will provide much needed stability in the goal-circle alongside Pints teammate Megan Fitzpatrick.

"She's bringing to our team an already cemented relationship with the shooters

and that's something pleasing.

"It's something we've had to develop over the previous three weeks and we don't have to focus on that," Territory coach Dianne Brown said.

"She is also a totally different style of shooter to the one we have so it's brings some diversity there."

The big match begins at 7.30 tonight.

NT coach guiding hockey fortunes

THE Australian boys' hockey side faces its biggest test of the Youth Olympics in Singapore today as it prepares to face a rampaging Belgium outfit at Sengkang Hockey Stadium.

The young Aussies got off to a flyer this week with a thumping 8-1 win over hosts Singapore and backed it up with another dominating 8-0 triumph over Ghana on Wednesday.

But Belgium, alongside Pakistan, pose Australia's biggest threats to winning the gold medal.

Australia's 5-2 win against Belgium in a pre-tournament practise match counts for nothing according to the Territory's NTIS and Australia's assistant Melissa Hall.



Melissa Hall

"We can't take too much out of when we beat them 5-2 in the last game and think that's going to happen again, they're certainly getting better as the tournament is going on," she said.

"They've improved out of sight since then so they will be a real good test for us, a bit of a yardstick to see how much they've improved and whether or not we're actually getting any better ourselves."

"(Today) is a big test and I think it will really let us know where we're at, and what our possibilities are."

Territorian Jeremy Hayward couldn't have asked for a better introduction to the Olympic stage.

The 17-year-old defender has played a key role in limiting the opposition's attacking power, but will have his work cut out for him against one of the worlds strongest hockey sides.

"Jeremy is playing well, he's playing some consistent hockey," Hall said. "He's been playing through the back group and making some good penetrating passes and tackling."

"But (Belgium) will have a lot of pressure so it's really important the guys at the back pull together and limit their chances."

- JESS WEBSTER

Lajamanu holding upper hand

WITH only two rounds remaining in the AFL Big Rivers competition teams will be playing for valuable momentum heading into the finals series.

Lajamanu is on top in that area after thumping Kalano by 125 points last week, and face off against bottom-placed Jilkminggan for another expected percentage boost.

The hapless Kannons have a mighty task tomorrow as they come up against a Beswick outfit seeking revenge for a 16-point loss to the Crows last weekend.

The win put the Crows within four points of the ladder leaders, and they will face off with Kalano tonight while Ngukurr have a bye.

- GREY MORRIS

Pints, Tigers make a pitch for grand final

BASEBALL By JESS WEBSTER

IT'S DO or die for Pints and Nightcliff on Sunday as they battle it out for a chance to play Tracy Village in the Darwin Baseball League grand final next week.

Veteran hurler Ray Dixon has had a great season on the mound and a tight defence as



Ray Dixon

Jones has proved not only to be a champion on the mound but handy with the bat, mak-

ing this an intriguing battle.

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Coach Glasson confident Pioneer can keep finals ball rolling

FOOTBALL By GREY MORRIS

PIONEER coach John Glasson is confident his Eagles can continue their charge towards a 31st CAFL flag at Traeger Park tomorrow.

Pioneer meets Rovers in the second semi-final a week



John Glasson

after thrashing minor premier Federals by 61 points in the qualifying final.

A grand final berth is the prize for both sides, a point not lost on Glas-

son. "Finals football is very important for this proud club and the players are in the right frame of mind again," he said.

"I coached Rovers the last time these two teams played in a grand final (2001) and know how important a game like this is to them as well.

"But I'm an Eagles man now and it's my job to make sure we don't get ahead of ourselves."

Glasson has marked spring-heeled ruckman Greg Pedersen, midfielder Paul Campbell and goalsneak Eric Williams as keys to beating Rovers tomorrow.

The Blues got maximum value from five-goal forward Kenny Morton in the elimination final win over Wests and will look for more of the same from the Thunder player.

Pioneer will hold its best and fairest count immediately after tomorrow's CAFL

major semi-final.

Federals should get back on the winners' list at the expense of Ltyentye Apurte in the knockout semi-final.

The Demons will want to forget their disastrous third quarter in the qualifying final when Pioneer booted 9.1 to a single point.