Gary Higgins
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Junior rugby league alive and well in the Top End

26 March 2015

A record number of Top End primary and middle schools will descend on Warren Park tomorrow to contest the U15 NT rugby league selection tournament.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation Gary Higgins said it was encouraging to see so many schools eager to participate and show off their sporting talent.

“With more than 210 up-and-coming league players from 15 schools trying to secure a spot in the 20-man representative squad to play in Sydney in June, it’s bound to be a good day’s sport,” he said.

“The increased awareness in taking part in the selection tournament is due to the work of NRLNT Development Officers and the NT Government’s four-year partnership with the Parramatta Eels.

“Game development and skills clinics coupled with the establishment of a talent academy to identify future NRL players across the Territory are the centrepiece of our agreement with the Eels.

“We already had young Will Nugraha from the Palmerston Raiders sign a three-year contract with the Eels earlier this year.

“He is being supported through an NT Institute of Sport scholarship and has a bright future ahead of him.

“The NTIS head coach of rugby league Duncan MacGilivray will be part of the selection team for the Under 15 rep squad travelling to Sydney so it would be fantastic if he was able to discover another junior of Will’s calibre to fly the NT flag at a national level.”

Mr Higgins said each team in tomorrow’s competition would play three games with a for-and-against point system determining the winning team at the end of the day.

Initially a squad of 30 will be chosen before being cut down to 20 over the coming weeks.

“It’ll be a hard day for these young lads so I wish them all good luck for selection to represent the NT,” Mr Higgins said.

Media Contact:

Lorelei Fong Lim, 0400 165 743