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NTIS Rugby League Scholar Signs With The Parramatta Eels

Acting Sport Minister Gerry McCarthy today congratulated Darwin Rugby League rookie of the year Bradley Hansen on signing a contract with the Parramatta Eels.

Mr McCarthy said the 17-year-old Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) scholarship holder could become the first Territorian to play with the Eels who were runners up in the 2009 Telstra Premiership season.

“Rugby League is one of the Territory’s most loved sports and it’s great to see another one of our star players signing with a National Rugby League club,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Parramatta is one of the oldest clubs in the national competition and has several star players in its line-up including current Dally M medallist Jarryd Hayne.

“Bradley – who plays in the halves or as hooker - is the latest in a line of NTIS scholarship holders who have followed the NTIS pathway towards a chance at professional sports career.

“This includes Newcastle Knights and New South Wales winger James McManus, who became the first Territorian to play State of Origin earlier this year.

“Bradley will continue to play in the Darwin Rugby League competition next year for Palmerston, participate in the Under 18 Mal Meninga Cup against teams from Queensland and will also trial for the Affiliated States team that will play in the Australian Under 18 Schoolboys Championships in Pool A.

“If not selected in this team he will represent the Territory Under 18s in Pool B, being monitored during these competitions by Parramatta before joining the Eels in 2011 to play in the Toyota Cup Under 20 competition.

“Fellow NTIS rugby league players Jake Watts, Dylan Cartwright and Matt Bennett will join Bradley in a week long camp at the AIS and play trial games against Canberra and St George in mid-January for selection into the AIS Squad for 2010.

“After this Jake Watts, Matt Bennett and Dylan Cartwright will attend an elite Under 18 Camp with the Manly Sea Eagles in late January and play in a trial against West Tigers.”

The NTIS is the Territory Government’s centre for sporting excellence for the identification, development and support for the Territory’s talented athletes.

“Other NTIS scholarship holders who have progressed to the national level include Quinton Pomare-Anderson (North Queensland Cowboys) and Gold Coast Titans duo Sam Irwin and Reece Coleman who could play against each other in Darwin on 27 February next year as part of a pre-season trial match between the two teams,” Mr McCarthy said.

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