

Sports Extra



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YOUR VOICE IN THE TERRITORY

Bowlers face the big guns

BOWLS
By GREY MORRIS

NIGHTCLIFF'S Mark Diamond is refusing to be intimidated ahead of this week's Australian Indoor Championships at Tweed Heads.

Despite being the sole Northern Territory qualifier in the mens' draw, the 41-year-old, who learnt his craft in Papua New Guinea before relocating to Australia and joining the navy, will play against NSW's Ray Pearse in Round 1.

Joining him on the Gold Coast for the coveted \$30,000 grand prix, which will be broadcast nationally on ABC TV and Foxtel, will be Darwin's Arleen Foley, who will be making her third appearance at the Indoors.

"I'm not scared of anybody," Diamond said before jetting out to Tweed Heads on Friday. "I'll just play my own game."

"Everybody has got an equal opportunity so we will just see what happens."

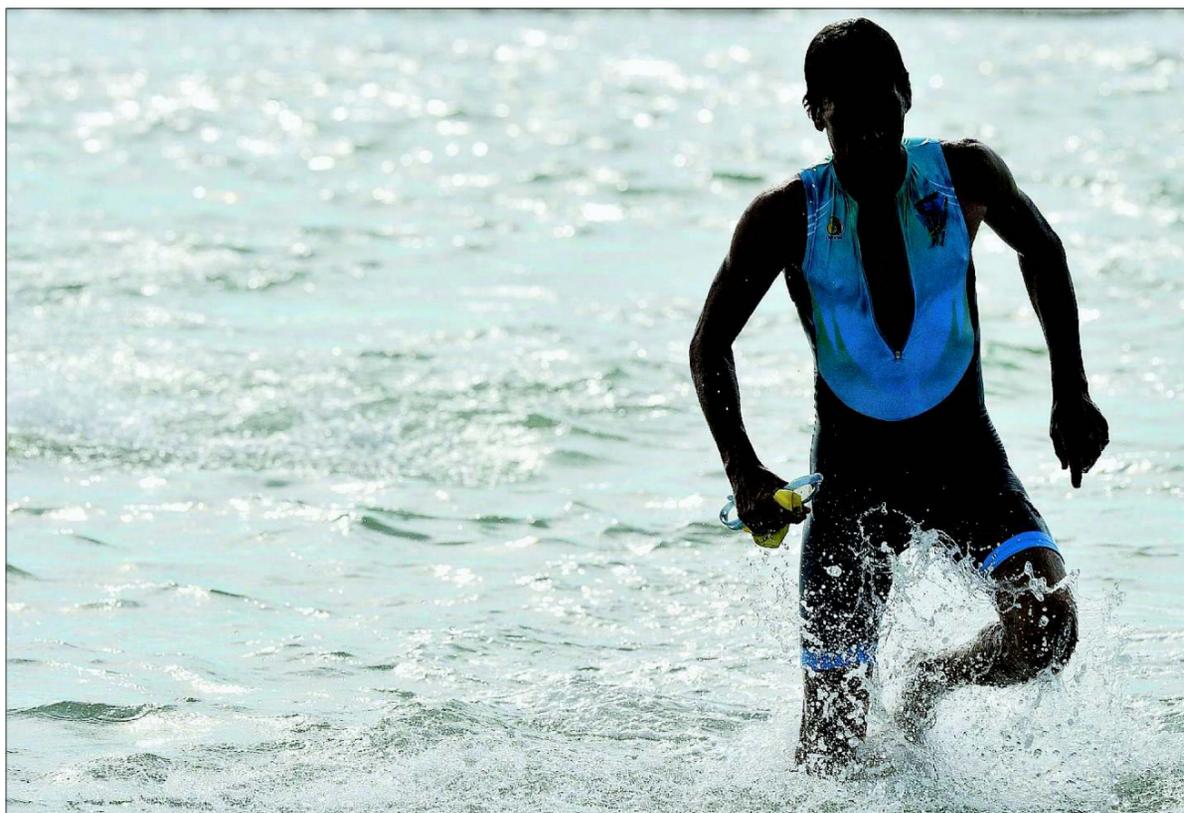
Diamond has dabbled in the game over the years, but after crossing from Palmerston to Nightcliff recently, he will now take part in his maiden grand prix.

For Foley, however, next week's tough draw is not a new experience, with the veteran being bundled out last year by NSW's Marjorie Paterson first up.

Nonetheless, if Foley can beat Sydney young gun Naomi Elliott on Monday, a likely second round match up against three-time defending champion and world No.6 Karen Murphy, who has won 19 of her past 20 matches at the tournament, awaits.

"I am aware of the draw," Foley said with a chuckle. "You just have to go down there and put your best foot forward. It's a good competition but I'll be taking it one bowl at a time."

Staged from August 23 to 26, the \$30,000 Australian Indoor Championships will feature some of the game's best exponents including world No.5 Brett Wilkie, reigning Australian Open champion Aron Sherriff and defending title holder Anthony Kiepe.



Robert Weatherold finishes the 1.5km swim eventually coming second in Sunday's event

Pictures: BRAD FLEET

Preddy ready for Thailand

DARWIN Triathlon Club champion Grant Preddy is off to the Ironman 70.3 Asia Pacific Championships in Thailand after a top-10 finish in the Philippines Ironman 70.3 over the weekend.

The 23-year-old battled intense heat and humidity as he pushed through the 1.9km swim, 90km bike, 21.1km run only a week after contesting the local Finlay's NT Long Course Triathlon.

Preddy was first out of the water for his category in 28 mins and 45 seconds then rode hard during the bike leg to lead the run leg.



Grant Preddy

But Preddy's big week got even bigger when he won his male 18-24 years category in 4:40:38 and snatch overall ninth place. "The race was good but I was cramping up the whole way. It was hot and tough, wasn't at all what I expected," Preddy said.

"Time wise I had a good bike, but didn't seem to get into a rhythm until the 30km mark and was cramping for the last 30km."

Favourite Barnes leads all the way

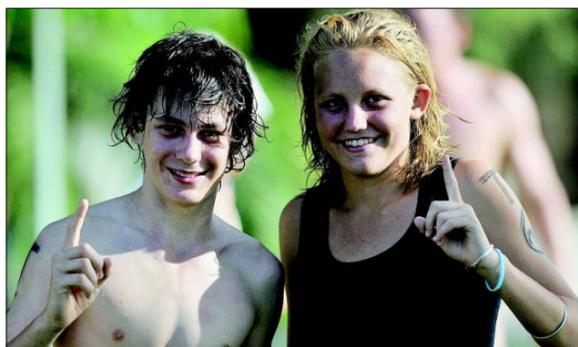
BIATHLON
By IAN BUTTERWORTH

RACE favourite Tobias Barnes was first across the line in the men's section of the Darwin surf life saving club annual Beach2Bridge event yesterday.

The event comprised a 1.5km swim at Casuarina Beach in front of the surf club followed by a 6km run from the club to the Rapid Creek bridge and return.

Barnes, the Darwin surf life saving club captain, beat 19 other men, 13 women and eight teams across the line and won in 47mins 26secs and said that he was happy with the time but the swim leg in particular was tough.

"The swim was shocking, it was choppy and I think I drank half the water in the harbour," Barnes said. "I've



Winning team of Lewis Kilburn, 14, and Tahni Gordon, 13

got a few triathlon comps coming up and I really need to work hard in the water so it was a good hit-out."

Essington School students Tahni Gordon, 13, and Lewis Kilburn, 14, skittled their opponents in the teams section and won in 50:09. Gordon is a

pool and open water swimmer and she undertook the swim leg while Kilburn, a surf lifesaver for eight years, gave his utmost in the run finishing in a mildly distressed state, but quickly recovered.

Belinda Birk was the first

woman across the line in 56:08.

Birk, a Darwin triathlon club member, said: "I am absolutely gob-smacked; I really didn't think I had a chance at first so I'm rapt."

RESULTS

Male: 1 Tobias Barnes (47.26), 2 Robert Weatherold (50.04), 3 Ron Greip (50.43), 4 Joash Barnes (51.49), 5 Stuart Shaw (51.58), 6 Ben Brady (53.08), 7 John Thyne (53.09), 8 James Geddes (53.54), 9 Russell Peacock (54.47), 10 Pete Brady (55.00).

Female: 1 Belinda Birk (56.08), 2 Ryo-ko Jones (58.04), 3 Lisa Svava (1.00.47), 4 Lara Whitehouse (1.01.00), 5 Namiko Kobayashi (1.01.17), 6 Janet Bunclie (1.01.55), 7 Monica Stewart (1.03.01), 8 Jane-Marie Kerslake (1.04.20), 9 Moira Wigley (1.05.35), 10 Sam Hamilton (1.06.02).

Teams (Swimmer-Runner): 1 Tahni Gordon-Lewis Kilburn (50.09), 2 Savannah Rossingh-Frank Lawrence (50.24), 3 Brian Gallagher-John Brown (50.34), 4 Jessica Jones-Jacob Netherway (51.36), 5 Josh Dickman-Zac Harvey (53.47), 6 Greg McNamara-Lena Yali (59.19), 7 Hannah Reedy-Ella Reedy (1.09.44), 8 Charles Kilburn-Clare Labowitch (1.10.25).

Monster hit scores three runs and grand final berth

NIGHTCLIFF will face Tracy Village in the Darwin Baseball League grand final after the Tigers mauled Pints 8-3 on Sunday at Tracy Village.

Starting pitcher Daniel Conway-Jones provided some magic for the Tigers, retiring the first 12 batters in a row to kick start the match. The Tigers batting order



Conway-Jones

was on song early in the game, putting two runs on the board in the first innings with Ray Dixon holding Pints scoreless until the 5th inning.

Both teams put a runner across the plate in the 7th

and Nightcliff added an unanswered run in the 8th.

Going into the 9th and final innings Pints trailed Nightcliff by only two runs (5-3) and a comeback win was still up for grabs.

Tigers big hitter Adam Elliot came in to pinch hit with one out and runners on first and third.

He hit a monster to the fence that scored two runs and got him safely to 3rd, then a throwing error allowed him to score which broke the game open and sealed the grand final berth.

Red-hot pitcher Conway-Jones was the star performer for the day, allowing only two hits and striking out 10

while no one earned runs against him.

It will also be a Tigers and Tracy Village grand final in the B-grade next week, as Nightcliff beat the Palmerston Reds 11-4 to advance.

The Tigers clearly dominated with the bat getting 14 safe hits for the game, including two super home runs.

Future stars show true grit

DARWIN'S surf life saving future is in capable hands if results from the weekend's annual Beach2Bridge event are any indication.

Essington High School students Tahni Gordon, 13, and Lewis Kilburn, 14, trounced their opponents in the teams section and won in the respectable time of 50.09mins. Gordon competed in the 1.5km swim leg in choppy conditions emerging in sixth position setting up an ideal platform for running partner Kilburn.

Year 8 student Gordon, who is also a pool swimmer with the Darwin swimming club, enjoys both the pool and open water.

She started surf life saving in Townsville and has been involved in the sport for the past four years in Darwin.

"Swimming and boarding are my strengths and I want to go more for surf life saving than swimming now," Gordon said.

Kilburn burned around the 6km track in 26.28mins, and they piped the second place team by a mere 15secs.

The run took its toll on the Year 8 student, who vomited near the end of the race.

"I felt better after I got my guts up I guess," he said.

Kilburn has been a surf life saver for eight years but was now focusing on the road leg.

"I am a bit of a swimmer but I have started running too," Kilburn said.

- IAN BUTTERWORTH