Eyes on role at Redtails

FOOTBALL

Dale Fletcher

PER MUR Tiwi Bombers coach Karl Gundersen has urged local footballers to become more involved with the Central Australian Redtails.

Gundersen, who led the Bombers to a NTFL grand final appearance in 2010/11, said the concept was great for Territory football.

‘‘If there is a position available at the Redtails I would be more than happy to put my hand up,’’ he said.

Besides his stint at the Bombers, Gundersen has been an assistant coach at St Marys and with NT Thunder.

‘‘I’d love to be involved in any way I could,’’ he said.

Gundersen said a potential Redtails side would push for glory.

‘‘With everyone on the paddock that could push for the premiership,’’ he said.

‘‘Everyone from Darwin to Alice Springs would be salivating at the prospect of a Tiwi Bombers against the Redtails grand final. Whether that is in two years’ time or five years’ time I can see that as a real possibility.’’

The West Football Club star said the Redtails eight-game trial this season will be a make or break.

‘‘This will be another indication of the future of the club,’’ he said.

Gundersen said the Redtails should base their identity on the NT Thunder.

‘‘It’s not a Souths team, it’s not a Westies team, it’s our team,’’ he said.

FOOTBALL

Dale Fletcher

LYTENTYE Apurte will be aiming for three consecutive TIO CALFL Premier League wins when they tackle premiership favourites Pioneer at Traeger Park tomorrow night.

The Saints are coming off confidence-boosting wins against South and West and have troubled the Eagles in past encounters.

Pioneer were less than convincing in their last outing, but remained undefeated in 2013.

Former Minaham Medallist Paul Campbell returned to the Eagles midfield in a welcome boost.

FOOTBALL

Dale Fletcher

CENTRAL Australia got eight-game trial

‘‘The Redtails may well become an integral part of the overall Central Australian football structure, which will enhance the NT Thunder presence and align with AFLNT development programs in the region,’’ Prawsky said.

Clarke said it was now time to start the club rolling, including building membership and developing ongoing support of the concept.

‘‘We will get a website up immediately,’’ Clarke said.

‘‘If a local company wants to get involved and support the concept with that would be fantastic.’’

Prawsky agreed the eight-game trial will be key to the Central Australian club’s long-term future in the competition.

‘‘We see the Redtails as a very meritorious concept however without federal government funding underpinning both a strong AFLNT development presence and a continuation of the NT Thunder program in Central Australia, we will not have the necessary structures or resources in Alice Springs to support the admission of the Redtails on a sustainable basis,’’ he said.

‘‘The Redtails are aware of our tireless efforts to secure ongoing funding for the AFLNT and NT Thunder programs in Central Australia and we will continue to work with the Redtails administration to map out a feasible future direction for the club.’’

Clarke said if it wasn’t for the Redtails’ funding sponsors and ongoing support, their inclusion in the NTFL would not have become a reality.

‘‘I just want to thank all the people who have supported this concept from the beginning and throughout this process,’’ he said.

‘‘It’s now our time to shine.’’

Prawsky said federal funding via the Australian Sports Commission had allowed AFLNT and NT Thunder deliver a myriad of positive outcomes for Central Australians in the past five years.

‘‘The Central Australian Football League has evolved into a well run, financial and competitive league enjoyed by players and spectators alike and it is critical that the progress made continues for the next five years and beyond,’’ Prawsky said.

‘‘We are particularly focused on ensuring that the AFLNT continues to thrive.’’

The Redtails will not receive any direct federal funding, but the playing group will be exclusively based from the CALFL competition.

Pioneer must dig deep

The Eagles will need to find more avenues to goal, with boom off-season recruit Thomas Govey to play for NT Thunder for a second consecutive week.

Ryan Mallard continues to struggle with a niggling knee problem.

West need to bounce back from a disappointing second half last round, but have the tough task against defending premiers Rovers at Traeger Park from 4pm on Sunday.

Rovers are keen off a 40-goal win over the Bulldogs in its first win for 2013.

The Bloods will give the Double Blues a lot tougher test around the midfield, but West need to cover the Tall Rovers forward line.

West will need a more solid effort from more players if they are to give Rovers any worries.

Western Aranda have looked to their pre-season form last round and will prove a difficult opponent for Federal when the pair clash at Traeger Park from 2pm on Sunday.

The Demons were disappointing against South on Sunday and will need to improve to get over the Bulldogs.

Key positional players are the Achilles heel for the Demons and they need to be able to kick a winning score or Western Aranda will record their first win for 2013.

The Bulldogs pushed Federal right to the final siren in their first meeting this season, this match should be the closest of the round.

South rebounded well after the Finke break to finally beat a town side last week and should continue their form against Anmatjere from 2pm tomorrow.

The Kangaroos will miss the Dickson duo, who will play for the Sydney Swans, but should be too strong all over the ground for the Cowboys.

More commitment key to success, Gundersen says

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