Indigenous stars pad up

Scollay aids Melville into grand final

CRICKET
Jordan McARDLE
MORE than 40 Indigenous cricket sides Australia-wide touch down in Alice Springs on Sunday for the 21st Imparja Cup.

The week-long tournament will feature the nation’s brightest Indigenous talent.

Men’s and women’s state and territory teams contest the senior national titles, while Major Centres, Community and Schools teams also compete in separate competitions.

After breaking New South Wales two-year hold on the men’s competition, Queensland will defend its 2013 title, while the New South Wales women will be hoping for a four-peat.

It has been an exciting 12 months for Indigenous cricket, with Victorian Ben Abbatangelo (Melbourne Stars), West Aussie Hayden Collard (Perth Scorchers) and Tasmanian Ryan Lee (Hobart Hurricanes) were all signed as Big Bash League community rookies after their performances in Alice Springs last year.

The trio will return to the Imparja Cup this year for their home states.

Cricket Australia game and market development manager Andrew Ingletson said it was this progression to the elite level that the Imparja Cup fostered.

“‘Australian cricket’s goal is to be Australia’s favourite sport and a sport for all Australians,’’ he said.

“Thriving Indigenous cricket participation is critical to achieving this.”

High-performance opportunities like the Imparja Cup continue the foundation set by our participation in the Schools and Territory Divisions.

The tournament gets underway on Sunday at 6.30pm with a match between the Australian Cricketers’ Association Masters and last year’s Black Caps side at TIO Traeger Park Oval.

For the first time in the tournament’s history, players and coaches from the Men’s Plate and Territory Divisions will receive mentorship from former Australian Test and first-class players.

Kyle Monkerud, Dereece Hanley-Satour and Tom Clements will grab their opportunity to be part of the Community Division of the Imparja Cup.

Batting boost will aid Works

FORMER Gapview Works cricketer Tom Scollay helped WAACA side Melville to victory in the nine-wicket semi-final win over Gosnells at Fletcher Park in Perth.

Scollay chalked up a quickfire 37 not out off 27 balls in the nine-wicket semi-final win over Gosnells at Fletcher Park in Perth.

Melville gave a dominant bowling performance, led by WA Warriors Ryan Duffield (3-30) and Adam Vorga (2-48).

The Storm restricted Gosnells to 44—Centralian Advocate, Friday, February 7, 2014

Melville side go head-to-head at Yirara College starting Tuesday.

NEXT week’s Imparja Cup marks an exciting development in the Indigenous cricket tournament with the Schools Division back for the first time in two decades.

The four-team under-15s division will see three teams from Central Australia—two from Central Australia and one from Yirara College—compete with South Australia and NT Imparja Cup cap.

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A late flurry of wickets in the dice that seek to put Indigenous Australians in the Baggy Green.

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