SWIMMING

JUNIORS stole the show during Alice Springs Swimming Club's first outdoor meet of the season at Purkiss Reserve.

They were led by Chelsea Rose Pommaret, 10, who recorded four personal best times, including big improvements of more than four seconds in the 100m freestyle and 50m breaststroke.

The young swimmer on the day, Sophie Reid, 8, had three personal best times with improvements of more than six seconds in the 50m breaststroke and 25m backstroke. Other swimmers with three personal best times were Thor O'Brien, 12, Seth O'Brien, 13, and Kiara Black, 15.

In one of the best swims of the day, Thor O'Brien swam a PB by more than five seconds in his 50m butterfly.

Black swam an impressive 10.9sec PB and Seth O'Brien beat his previous best by 5.2sec in the 100m freestyle. Other swimmers to shine were sisters Imani, 9, and Uma O'Brien, 10.

More than 1000m was covered in improving by more than nine seconds in the 50m breaststroke and seven seconds in the 50m freestyle.

Also excelling with great PBs were Isaac Blanzo, 9, and Angus Reid, 10, in the 50m freestyle and Flynn Tiller, 9, in the 50m breaststroke.

Another of the outstanding performances on the day came from 15-year-old McKealy Tiller, who produced a 54.4sec improvement in the 100m freestyle. Officials also said it was great to see swimmers trying new events, with Toril Munn, 9, and Aiden Munn, 11, having a go in the 50m freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke.

Swimmers are continuing to train hard during the week and on weekends. There is another meet tonight, giving swimmers invaluable competition practice before senior club members head to the Pacific Games.

SPORTING FACILITY

THE $4.55 million upgrade of Tennant Creek’s regional sporting facilities were officially opened on Monday.

The Federal Government provided $3.6 million, the NT Government contributed $679,350, the Barkly Regional Council $250,000 and local businesses invested $20,000.

Residents gathered to celebrate the official opening with a community-style barbecue and old-fashioned pool party.

Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack said it was another example of the Federal Government’s commitment to work with local government to build productive infrastructure for communities right across Australia.

NT Senator Scott Scullion said that the community was eager to try out the new regional aquatic centre and modernisation at Purkiss Reserve.

“These new facilities will support youth and family activities and assist council in encouraging healthy and active lifestyles within the community,” Mr Scullion said.

“Projects just like this highlight the importance of governments and local businesses working together to deliver grassroots community infrastructure.”

Children enjoy a pool party after the launch of the upgraded Tennant Creek sporting facility.

Barkly Regional Council president Barb Shaw speaks at the launch.

NT Minister for Infrastructure Peter Chandler said works at the aquatic centre included a major upgrade of the main swimming pool.

“New ‘Learn to Swim’ and toddler’s pools with shade structures were constructed allowing our younger residents to enjoy swimming in age-appropriate environments,” Mr Chandler said.

Barkly Regional Council president Barb Shaw said the Purkiss Reserve change rooms were completely refurbished, and now included a first-aid area and office and changing spaces.

“The addition of a canteen with servery, storage refrigeration and food preparation equipment will make a huge difference to the services we can offer the community who use the sporting facilities at Purkiss Reserve,” Mr Shaw said.

“Twenty-five new jobs were created during the construction with another five ongoing jobs created as a result of the project bringing a welcome boost to the region’s economy.”

Families lap up the fun as pool opens after a $4.55m upgrade

Revived Devils seek to protect perfect record in clash with battling Eagles

Anthony Geppe
RUGBY UNION

FEDERAL Devils will be looking to make it three wins from as many games when they take on the winless Eagles tomorrow night in round three of the Central Australian Rugby Union season.

The side sits on top of the ladder as the only undefeated side through two rounds after they beat Kiwi Warriors last weekend to maintain their perfect record.

Devils did it the hard way as they came from behind late to snatch the victory and mark themselves as early contenders for premiership.

It is a stark contrast to the side’s fortunes of last season as they went through 2014-15 without registering a win, and club President Jimmy Niland believes a large turnover of the membership has been key.

“It is a stark contrast to the pain from last year,” Niland said.

“The winless Eagles have started the year, especially the guys that went through the pain from last year.

“Last year, we had quality players, we struggled for consistent numbers.

“This year we are getting consistent numbers down to training and games, and it shows.”

While Devils are looking to stay undefeated, their opponents will be looking to register their first win of the season tomorrow evening.

Eagles are fresh off an eighth point loss to the Cubs a game in which the side conceded a mammoth 53 points.

The winless Eagles have conceded 106 points through the first two rounds, and will be looking to improve their defensive when they are any chance of beating the in-form Devils.

Niland says that even though they have started the season slowly, Eagles are certainly a team to be wary of.

“They generally tend to start the season slowly, and pick things up around Christmas time,” Niland said.

“They’re an extremely dangerous side, and they have shown they are more than competitive even when they are playing with only 11 players so anything can happen.

“The two sides will do battle in the late game tomorrow night, with kick-off scheduled for 7pm at Anzac Oval.

“The early game tomorrow sees Dingo Cubs come up against Kiwi Warriors, with both clubs sharing a record of one win and one loss.

“Eagles are off fresh of their first win this season, scraping over the line against the Eagles in an extremely high scoring affair and will turn to their strong forward pack to help get them over the line for their second win.

“The Cubs’ defence was leaky on Saturday, however, letting in 45 points and will need to improve this area of their game if they are a chance of winning this weekend.

“Wingers are coming into the game after a tense finish against Devils in which the club was overrun late to hand them their first loss of the season.

“The side has been impressive in their first two outings this season, and will be confident of securing a much-needed win.

“Cubs and Warriors do battle in the early game tomorrow night, beginning at 5.30pm at Anzac Oval.

“Wingers – Federal Devils 10, Cubs 7, Kiwi Warriors 6, Eagles 2.”