HOTTEST 7'S 
DAy 1 DRAW – TOMORROW
U18's Boys Women men

Luis Narvaez

WIDE open spaces, unpredictable weather and exhausted players – welcome to Darwin’s unique rugby sevens tournament – Hotspotz in the World.

Anything can happen in any given game and NT Mosquitoes coach Tim Atkinson hopes his side’s fitness and local knowledge can propel them to uncharted water.

In their road are international players with international experience but Atkinson said his Mosquitoes would be fit enough to remain in the contest.

“Sevens is all about running and that’s what we’ve been leading into (the tournament),” Atkinson told NT News.

“The most important thing in sevens, you’ve got to be a bloody good runner. We’re like Aussie rules, the best guys are elite runners.”

Atkinson has been coming to the tournament since the late 1990s, but has not tasted the highest success.

“We aren’t too result-oriented – it’s about the process for us and building combinations.”

The NT representative side, which has never won the tournament, has the services of in-vitation player and SevensLifecycleOnline.com.au columnist Julian Huxley.

Thirty-six-year-old Huxley was a backline utility in the 15-man game.

Sevens stalwart Cassidy Holland will help out, while also coaching women’s competition fancy Tribe 7s.

The squad was split, with Sand Flies entered in the second-tier competition.

“The Sand Flies are predominantly the younger blokes,” Atkinson said.

“I wanted them in our competition (Tier 3), but it hasn’t worked out that way.

“They have done the hard work with the squad, so they are well-placed.”

The humidity and heat will provide unique challenges to visitors and locals alike, but also create a distinct man-management challenge for coaches.

“Recovery in between games is crucial, with at least five games over the weekend,” Atkinson said.

“It is the second day where the fitness kicks in and you’re sore.

“You won’t ever be as fresh as you are in the first game but you just deal with the bumps and bruises.”

It will mean ice baths, sports drinks and massages for the teams chasing the top Gold Coast beer will have to wait until late Sunday.

In Tier 1, the Mosquitoes will take on some of the world’s top players, featuring in-vitation players in both sevens and the 15-man code.

“It’s a great opportunity to test yourself,” Atkinson said.

“Remember, you are just a young bloke you loved playing against some of the world’s best.

“We’ll rip in, enjoy it and have a good game.”

Atkinson said the Mosquitoes would “do it again” with better performance in the 2014 Mosquitoes 7s and the 2015 tournament.

In Tier 1, NT Mosquitoes will take on NT Goannas, forming the elite eight-team Croc Competition.

The crocs will be in the tournament and Anzac Day clash.

Atkinson had a squad of 22 for the tournament.

“We are just managing this time, if we can’t win we can’t be happy with a good effort again – it really win at all costs,” Atkinson said.

The Tigers will welcome experienced footballers Charles Le Fau and Ben Hallam to the matchday squad.

Le Fau is a WAF premiership winner with Subiaco, while Clifton is a renowned country Victorian footballer.

“Le (Fau) will probably start off half-back, but run through the midfield,” Hale said of the inclusions.