

17<sup>th</sup> July 2006

## **NSW COUNTRY SECURE HISTORIC BASKETBALL DOUBLE**

### **- Under 18 Men and Women Win National Championship -**

NSW Country U18 Men and Women are the Australian National Champions having won Gold in both the Men and Women at the recently completed Under 18 National Championships in Wayville, South Australia. The double victory is the first time that the Under 18 Men's and Women's title have been secured by NSW in the same year.

The title is the first time that NSW Country Men have ever won the title, since the introduction of NSW Metropolitan and Country teams at the National Championships. And the first NSW Men's victory since Metro took the title in 1977. Country overcame the loss of Talor Goodall for the tournament in the second game, at which stage he was leading the tournament in scoring. Tipsters immediately re-evaluated Country's chances of making the top four. However the coaching staff made some adjustments to cover for the loss, the players rose to the occasion and despite a hiccup against Tasmania, they fought their way through to the final. In the Championship game NSW traded blows with WA Metro in the first half and went into the break trailing by 3 points. Country upped the ante in the second half and held the lead going into the final quarter. The game went right down to the wire with NSW surviving a WA buzzer beater to secure victory.

NSW Country Women were able to defend their title by defeating the previously unbeaten Queensland South in the final. After waiting thirty one years to secure a title, NSW weren't going to let it go without a fight. NSW shot to a 10 point lead at quarter time. Queensland rallied to close the gap to 7 points but NSW shut them down in the third quarter restricting them to just 7 points to open up a 14 point lead going into the final quarter. Queensland fought back but NSW cruised to their second straight National title.

## **NSW UNDER 18 COUNTRY MEN:**

Joshua Black, Dane Hillmann, Dominique Cooks, Thomas Chiumento, James Quinn, Sean Mullan, Alex Gynes, Brad Simpson, Talor Goodall, Luke Carter.

Jim Noud (Coach), Shawn McEachin (Assistant Coach), Stuart Hancock (Assistant Coach), Dean Harker (Apprentice Coach), Bill Dowson (Manager)

## **NSW UNDER 18 COUNTRY WOMEN:**

Sophie Kleeman, Katie-Rae Ebzery, Molly Lewis, Tegan Burke, Deanne Tonkin, Alice Honnery, Fiona Sparks, Razz Muir, Charlotte Bull, Sarah Short.

Eric Kivi (Coach), Richard Banks (Assistant Coach), Karen Irwin (Assistant Coach), Agnes Dorricott (Manager)

<b>Final Placings Men</b>		<b>Final Placings Women</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Gold</b>	<b>NSW Country</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Gold</b>	<b>NSW Country</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Silver</b>	<b>WA Metro</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Silver</b>	<b>QLD South</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Bronze</b>	<b>NSW Metro</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Bronze</b>	<b>SA Metro</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NSW Metro</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>QLD South</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>VIC Country</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>VIC Metro</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>QLD North</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>VIC Country</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>SA Country</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>VIC Metro</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>SA Metro</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>WA Metro</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>WA Country</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tasmania</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>QLD North</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ACT</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>New Zealand</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>SA Country</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NT</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>WA Country</b>

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