



NEWS

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Please feel free to forward this complimentary Newsletter to colleagues, friends and family!

NORTHER SUBURBS BOYS ARE U/14 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS - NSW DOMINATES FINALS

Congratulations to the Northern Suburbs Bears Under 14 Boys basketball team that has just made history by becoming the first NSW team since Newcastle in 1990 to win the gold medal at an Under 14 National Club Championship title. In a great showing for NSW, the Illawarra Hawks Under 14 Boys basketball team took out second place to win the silver medal. Sutherland Sharks finished in tenth place, gamely losing to Nunawading in a tough positional play-off game.

The final clash between the two teams from NSW began with a deafening array of noise from an enthusiastic crowd. The bigs took hold in the first term with Kondakis and Taylor for Illawarra and Chircu for Norths doing battle inside the paint. Then the emphasis shifted a little more to the perimeter in the second quarter, with the Hawks going to the main break up 24 - 20.

After a half-time talk from the coach, Norths came out ready to fire. Two open lay-ups to Lynch drew the scores level and the game started to heat up. Taylor and Kondakis then started to work some duo moves under the basket to keep the Hawks in front. Norths hit the lead for the first time late in the third 32 - 30, but as the teams took to the bench for the last time the scores were even.

Scoring proved difficult for both teams early in the fourth quarter as nerves came into play. A sleek reverse lay-up from Lynch put the Bears up by the smallest of margins. Norths powered on from there and took the lead out to eight, with two minutes to play. The Bears lead was too much and the Hawks ran out of time. Norths finished strongly, eventually taking Gold and the Ken Watson Trophy 52 - 39.

Basketball NSW CEO Daniel Martinez could not hide his excitement with the NSW teams' results. He said, "Norths Bears boys produced a fantastic performance and are to be congratulated for their outstanding effort. Similarly, the Illawarra boys effort was also terrific. Well done to all the NSW boys teams and congratulations to their home associations - this really is another historic result in what is turning out to be a stellar year on the national championships scene for NSW juniors."

Congratulations to all NSW boys' teams, the players, the team staffs and to their associations. With our three teams all placing in the top ten, and with the gold and silver medals coming back to NSW, the state has every right to be very proud of all their representatives at this championship.

METRO DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE TRIALS
SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER
more information:

www.nswbasketball.net.au

AUSTRALIAN OPALS ARE WORLD CHAMPIONS!

Wow! The Opals are world champions! What a day for Australian basketball! What a day for women's sport! What a day for Australia!

Basketball is one of a few truly world games, played right though North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania. Setting out to win a world championship in any sport is a difficult enough task at any time, but in a truly world game, it is an incredible challenge. The Australian women had a track record that clearly said that, for the past ten years or so, they were the real deal. They had always been thereabouts, frequently winning medals in the big events, but not able to snare that elusive gold medal.

You have to have terrific heart, toughness, determination and talent just to take on this task of challenging and defeating the rest of the world. A group of young Australian women, with their coaches, managers and support staff and Basketball Australia right behind them, have displayed all those attributes and more and achieved their dream.

Make no mistake, this is a stellar performance on the world stage by an exceptional group of women athletes. Just look at what has been achieved:

- World Champions, not just defeating Russia in the final, but winning convincingly, 91 - 74.
- Penny Taylor - MVP of World Championship
- Lauren Jackson - runner up to MVP of World Championship
- Opals undefeated throughout World Championship

Basketball NSW would like to offer their heartfelt congratulations to the Opals and all those who have worked so hard to make the program such a success. Similarly, to Basketball Australia, congratulations on this wonderful program and what it has achieved.

Basketball NSW would also like to make mention of the two NSW members of the Opals team, Lauren Jackson and Jennifer Screen, who represented NSW as juniors over many years and who now so proudly represent their country. Thanks girls, for everything you have put into the game.



Photo: SAO PAULO, Brazil Sept 23 2006 - Australia finally stands alone at the summit of women's basketball after the Opals crushed Russia 91-74 in the final of the world championship in Brazil.

NSW NATIONAL INTENSIVE TRAINING CENTRE PROGRAM (NITCP) SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Basketball NSW has announced the NITCP squad for 2007. This year's squad consists of 56 athletes from both the Country and Metropolitan areas of NSW.

The squad will have their first camp (induction camp) on 13-15th October at Penrith Sports Stadium.

Those athletes selected as Full scholarship holders were:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Jackson Aldridge | Norths | Aloisa Aguilan | Hills |
| Josh Black | Gosford City | Maddison Allen | Newcastle |
| Anel Bucuk | Bankstown | Kristen Barnes | City of Sydney |
| Brodie Calvert | Inverell | Hayley Cassell | Coffs Harbour |
| Krenz Carlos | Hills | Georgia Eastburn | Manly |
| Gregory Chaplin | Hills | Kate Gaze | Sutherland |
| Philip Chircu | Norths | Ellie Gleeson | Albury |
| Daniel Cinelli | Norths | Nicole Heffer | Hills |
| Simon Cross | Coffs Harbour | Nicole How | Hills |
| Matthew Dick | Newcastle | Michelle Joy | Sutherland |
| Indiana Faithfull | City of Sydney | Ashleigh Karaitiana | City of Sydney |
| Andrew Fuller | Sutherland | Sophie Kleeman | Newcastle |
| Ben Harris | The Entrance | Haylee Lepaio | Bathurst |
| Daniel Hill | Sutherland | Megan Lower | Hills |
| Spencer Llewellyn | City of Sydney | Emma Mahady | Albury |
| Stephen Mackay | Gosford City | Cassandra Mangos | Illawarra |
| Sam Marler | The Entrance | Amelia Marinovic | Manly |
| Lachlan Mason | Newcastle | Paige Melville | Gosford City |
| Jimbo McAnulty | Newcastle | Kelsey Moss | Newcastle |
| Stuart McEwen | Hornsby | Razz Muir | Shoalhaven |
| Blake McGrath | Liverpool | Lauren Nicholson | Sutherland |
| Sean Mullan | Illawarra | Kate Oliver | Hills |
| Will Ozolins | Shoalhaven | Bree Parsons | Gosford City |
| Sam Rowley | Norths | Jessica Perkins | Hornsby |
| Bradley Simpson | Queanbeyan | Olivia Simmons | Newcastle |
| Brad Smith | Illawarra | Kiara Svilicich | City of Sydney |
| Luc Vernerey | Norths | Ashlee Thomas | Illawarra |
| Sussanah Walmsley | Newcastle | Darcy Wilson | Norths |

Basketball NSW would like to congratulate all athletes on their selections. Basketball NSW will continue to identify athletes throughout the State through our Development Programs and competitions.

For more information on the NITCP, contact Basketball NSW on 02 97462969.

RAZORBACKS AND KINGS OFFER BNSW MEMBERS DISCOUNT TICKETS

The West Sydney Razorbacks and Sydney Kings are offering Basketball NSW members the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets for all of their home games for season 2006/07. For more information on tickets prices and conditions click on the link below:

www.nswbasketball.net.au/MemberBenefits.htm

BRETT COXSEGE - FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

As NSW NITCP Head Coach Brett Coxsedge's move to the USA is now upon us, Basketball NSW would like to take the opportunity to officially express their heartfelt thanks for, and appreciation of, the great work done by Brett over the seven plus years he has filled this role at BNSW.

BNSW Participation, Development and Coaching Manager, Bob Sim, has worked closely with Brett for the past seven years. He said, "Brett's contribution at Basketball NSW has been

outstanding. His hard work and commitment to basketball in this state has never faltered. Personally, I found it a pleasure working with him on a day to day basis. His input, expertise and support was exceptional. I guess I was also lucky enough to see a bit more than most others of his lighter, more relaxed side as well. He will be greatly missed in the Coaching Department."

Basketball NSW would like to share with you this moving tribute written by Brendan Parnell, NSW NITCP Network Coach and NSW State Team Head Coach. Thank you Brendan, we are sure that everyone who knows Brett shares your feelings.

A long ride from Gilgandra by Brendan Parnell

Most times, it's not till we see someone retreating from view that we get an opportunity to weigh up fully the impact of their presence.

Thankfully, I got an opportunity over the last half dozen years or so to work with, against and alongside a remarkably modest member of an extraordinary family from the Western NSW town of Gilgandra. During that time I've seen him grow and evolve to the point that leads me to feel certain that Wichita State University are exceedingly fortunate and that Basketball in New South Wales has some very big shoes to fill.

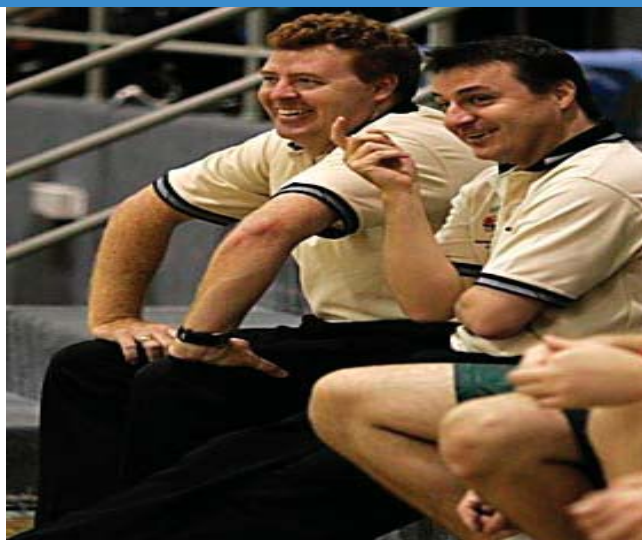
As Head Coach of the NSW National Intensive Training Centre Program (NITCP), Brett Coxsedge has had to answer to, assuage, represent, coordinate, cajole, encourage, teach and foster an impossibly diverse and large number of parents, coaches, National administrators, State administrators and most importantly, athletes.

Just how you measure his success and contribution is probably a matter of opinion.

From a State with less than 50,000 registered players, the results of AIS basketball scholarships offered to NSW players, National Championships performances of NSW Under 20, Under 18 and Under 16 State teams and athletes, have been nothing short of phenomenal and continue to rise.

In 2006 alone, a third of the AIS girls squad and almost half the boys squad are graduates of the NSW NITCP run by Coxsedge. The National Championship returns of Gold (Under 20 Men and Under 18 Country Men and Women), Silver (Under 16 Metro Men and Women), Bronze (Under 20 Women, Under 16 Country Women and Under 18 Metro Men) and fourth placing (Under 18 Metro Women), mark NSW as a force to be reckoned with on the national basketball scene.

But it's more than the numbers that define a coach and his impact on the kids who pass through his program.



A few years back I was fortunate enough to assist Brett with the NSW Men on their NITCP tour to North America. His generosity with coaching input, and the active role he encouraged me to take with the group, made that experience one of the most formative of my coaching career.

For those who haven't got to know Brett very well, all I can offer is a snapshot. He's almost as dry as the area of NSW he hails from. Stern and demanding when he thinks he can help athletes or coaches to push themselves to get better. Has a hopelessly misguided love of the Parramatta Eels. Will never refuse a request from anyone to cut a video tape, attend a session, talk to a kid, offer some advice or pitch in to help, regardless of the problem. It's the last of those qualities that has endeared Brett to those (including me) who got around to getting to know him.

Over the last few years in particular, his personal skills have evolved along with his coaching talents that saw him represent Australia overseas (Australian Universities Head Coach - World University Games 2003 & 2005). The most telling barometer of this occurred at the recent Under 18 National Championships in Adelaide on no other day than Brett's birthday. Having just finished a rather messy round game, the Under 18 Country girls were warming down on court when they saw Brett perched high above in the stands watching proceedings. With barely a murmur, the girls burst into a team rendition of happy birthday that could be heard throughout the stadium. As Cocksedge squirmed in the stands above, it was hard not to view this as just about the best endorsement any coach could get and when they finished with a chorus of "we love ITC", the message was confirmed.

Bon voyage Brett, the Wichita State University Shockers don't know just how lucky they are.

BLUE STAR ALL STAR REFEREE DEVELOPMENT CAMP

Referees positions still available.

BNSW is now subsidising Referees camp cost. Originally \$120, now referees will only pay \$90 with BNSW to subsidise remaining \$30.

Scott Balsar and Michael D'Agostino are now working to improve the integration of the Referee, Scorebench, Coach and Player components of BNSW Development Camps. Please contact Scott or Michael at the BNSW office for more information.

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