

Tigers pair desperate to impress in Bathurst's NRL trial

RUGBY LEAGUE

While the majority of the first grade experience on display at tonight's NRL trial match between the Panthers and Tigers at Carrington Park will be on the Panthers side of the half-way line, local league enthusiasts will be given a prime position to watch the start of an intriguing Tigers sub-plot when the two teams face off.

The majority of the Panthers players named for the trial have

made their NRL debut at the very least, although there are few aside from Clint Newton, Nathan Smith and Geoff Daniela who fall into the 'experienced' category.

One of the only Tigers who has tasted first grade is rising full-back James Tedesco, who made his debut last season against Cronulla only to rupture a cruciate ligament half an hour into the contest.

The fullback position has been an area of difficulty for the Tigers in recent seasons with star Tim Moltzen the man who has spent

the most time in the custodian's jersey, though he missed virtually the entire 2010 season himself with a serious knee injury.

With a brilliant fullback in Mick Potter now coaching the Tigers, both Tedesco and Moltzen will be desperate to impress in the pre-season and it is Tedesco who gets first crack for the new coach this Friday.

It will be the 20-year-old who will play his first game since the injury and admits he excited and slightly nervous, and effectively admitted that Moltzen has a mortgage on

the position for the time being.

"It's exciting to be playing, but there is a bit of nerves there as well," Tedesco admitted.

"I had a bit of setback and needed another arthroscopy on the knee so I didn't get back to pre-season until December.

"Obviously I want to play first grade, but at the moment I'll be happy to get some games in NSW Cup and then build from there."

Moltzen's versatility has seen him play at centre, five-eighth and halfback since his debut in 2008 but it's the No.1 jersey he's target-

ing in 2013.

"I've worked really hard this season fixing up a few things at fullback as that's ideally where I want to play," Moltzen said on Tuesday.

"Mick put it in my hands and asked me where I saw my best position and I've said fullback is where I feel best suited.

"He's brought in plenty of things that will help my game and pointed out things I need to work on in positional play and where to be at certain times, it's been really good."



CHAMPIONS: Western area senior champions Thomas Smith and Macy Morley.

Records tumble thanks to Mudgee Indoor club

SWIMMING

The Western Area Championships were held in Dubbo last weekend along with the Western Area Speedo and Brophy team selection trials in a two-day meet.

Mudgee Indoor Swimming Club came away with their head held high with two of the club's swimmers, Macy Morley and Thomas Smith, winning the senior girls and boys championships for the western area.

Every swimmer that tried out for the Speedo or Brophy teams were selected, in total there were seven swimmers and Mudgee Indoor swimmers broke nine western area records.

Morley and Smith not only won their respective titles but both broke records.

Morley came away with five long standing records in the butterfly, individual medley, freestyle and backstroke events, and Smith in the 200m freestyle.

Other record breakers on the day were Georgi York who smashed three records, one of which in the 200m freestyle she took off 13 seconds.

Alysha Beckingham also broke the 100m breaststroke record setting her national time entry even lower with a one minute and 17.70 seconds, which took over four seconds off the previous record.

These records have been kept since the 1960s, having nine records broken is a huge achievement for this small squad of swimmers.

Speedo selection trials, who are for eight to 13 years, saw four of the club's swimmers selected who tried out.

These were Morley, Nic Hawtin-Hirst, Bronte Clifford and Lachlan Roberts.

The Brophy selection also went well and selected in the team were York, James Newall, Smith, Morley and little seven-year-old Charlotte Roberts who is in the eight and under events.

Also gaining points for the club on the

two-day event were an amazing two butterfly races that saw Charlie Hayes winning her 50m butterfly and coming second in her first attempt at the 100m butterfly race that shocked everyone when she smashed her estimated time by 20 seconds.

Jed Hayes also gained points by winning his nine years 50m backstroke.

Livi Hirst also fought her way through a huge group of swimmers to gain a third place in her 50m freestyle event.

Other junior swimmers Bonte Clifford, Zach Clifford, Kasey Hayes, Curtis Pirie, Eliza Pirie, Charlotte and Lachlan Roberts all added to the club's points total with a lot of them having to swim 50m instead of their usual 25.

The club's senior swimmers of York, Beckingham, Newall, Smith, Luke Beckingham and Hawtin-Hirst bagged a huge 28 gold medals, 20 silver and seven bronze medals in total making the senior squad one of the most successful in the western area.



IN THE CLEAR: Mudgee boy Simon Lang in action for Australia in the under 20s at the Super Trans-Tasman Touch Football Series in Auckland.

PHOTO: TOUCH FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

Lang sweeps Kiwis to give Aussies victory

TOUCH FOOTBALL

By BEN HARRIS

Former Mudgee boy Simon Lang played an integral role in Australia's 3-0 whitewash of New Zealand in the under 20s boys division of the Super Trans-Tasman Touch Football Series in Auckland.

Lang, who is the nephew of Elwyn Lang, plays touch football for Manly.

He represented NSW in the under 20s at last year's State of Origin series in Port Macquarie, earning the Player of the Series award.

Simon Lang picked up the Troy Malcolm award for the Australian under 20s, which enjoyed three big wins over their Kiwi rivals.

In game one Australia won 10-2, game two the Aussies recorded a 12-8 victory and in the final match yesterday, the green and golds took it out 10-6.

It was a successful campaign for the Australians in the youth arm of the Trans-Tasman series.

All of Australia's four teams – under 18s boys and girls, and under 20s boys and girls – won their series.

Australia and New Zealand are playing each other in youth, opens and senior divisions.

The youth matches concluded yesterday, the seniors tomorrow and the opens this weekend.

It is the first time Australia and New Zealand have played each other in any division since the opens Trans-Tasman series in Mudgee last April.

Australia won the series 3-0 with victories in the mixed, women's and men's open divisions.