

INTERSTATE COACH'S REPORT - Headings

NAME: Brett Holmes

SPORT: Rugby League Championship

1. SELECTION OF SQUAD / TEAM

The selection of the 2007 School Sport NT Championship Rugby League Team was the culmination of the NT Rugby League Championship which was held at Nhulunbuy on May 3, 4 and 5.

The selection panel for 2007 were John Johnson (2007 Manager), David Chalker (2007 Sports trainer), Daniel Ayoub (Northern Suburbs Cluster Coach) selecting in the capacity as the Rugby League representative and myself (2007 Coach).

At the conclusion of the championship a squad of 30 players were named, with 2 extra players added to the squad list due to a medical exemption, find attached a complete list of the selected squad.

2. PRE-EVENT TRAINING PROGRAM

Each player selected in the squad was given a copy of Players and Parent Information Book (copy will be forwarded on). This booklet contained an Individual Fitness Training Program, with suggested training activities for the players to complete. All players were expected to follow this program or to complete some type of fitness activity other than the team training sessions, players were then asked to submit a weekly training log outlining their fitness related activities each week, these logs were submitted either via e-mail or hand written and handed in at selected training sessions. This fitness program was extra to the team training sessions, which were conducted twice a week for the eight week period prior to the championship in Adelaide.

The team sessions were held twice a week at Archer Oval. I would like to thank both the Palmerston Rugby League Club who allowed us to use both their facility and equipment.

Attendance at the team training sessions was exemplary, with the majority of all squad members attending virtually every session.

Players were asked to also submit a Player Performance review of themselves for each of their club games during the preparation period. (see attached)

The team was reduced from the squad of 32 players down to the travelling team of 20 after the first two week training block. The final selection was quite difficult due to the commitment shown by the majority of the squad particularly those not based in Darwin

The final team announced at the conclusion of the train on was as follows:

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|-----|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Kruise Nichols | Northern Suburbs |
| 2. | Preston Philpott | City |
| 3. | Matthew Bennett | PARCS |
| 4. | Daniel Harrison | Northern Suburbs |
| 5. | Daniel Banks | PARCS |
| 6. | Angus Jacobs | Desert Storm |
| 7. | Sam Irwin | City |
| 8. | Ben Tonkin | Northern Suburbs |
| 9. | Brad Hansen | City |
| 10. | Scott Weestra Van Holthe | Rivers |
| 11. | Reece Coleman | PARCS |
| 12. | Mitchell Jeggo | Northern Suburbs |

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|-----|---------------|------------------|
| 13. | Sam Foster | PARCS |
| 14. | Luke Neave | PARCS |
| 15. | Rhys Petrilli | Northern Suburbs |
| 16. | Steven Hardy | City |
| 17. | David Russell | Northern Suburbs |
| 18. | Dean Staunton | PARCS |
| 19. | Tom Hancock | Arnhem |
| 20. | Mickey Rees | Northern Suburbs |

Prior to travelling away Dene Staunton withdrew from the team due to him gaining selection in the Australian Football Team, his position was taken by Thomas Day, who was one of several squad members who continued training throughout.

3. OUT-OF-DARWIN TEAM MEMBER PREPARATION

The players in the squad from out of Darwin all received copies of the Player and Parent Handbook, which outlined both an individual fitness training program and also the plays, patterns and moves which would be the foundation of our teams play.

To accompany this I remained in regular contact with both the player and family, and a Rugby League contact in their regional area who maintained the players training over the period prior to the Championship.

I would like to thank:

David Chalker & Warren Collits – Alice Springs

Greg Kemp & Steve Kelly - Katherine

Jon Reagan - Nhulunbuy

These people did a magnificent job and ensured that their respective players were fully prepared for an intensive week long Rugby league Carnival.

4. INTENSIVE WEEKEND / CAMP / WEEK

Our pre carnival intensive two day camp was based at Richardson Park. The players completed 4 training sessions over the weekend, based mainly towards getting the boys used to each others style of play. The sessions were short and sharp with the emphasis on team patterns and plays. These sessions were supplemented by recovery pool and stretch sessions.

The activities on the first day were concluded with our Team presentation, where all players received their School Sport NT gear from Peter Hirst, and also their playing strip which was donated by the NTRL, presented by Barry Moore CEO NTRL, the presentation evening concluded with a meal at the Fasta Pasta.

I would like to thank the NTRL for the use of Richardson Oval and its facilities for the two day camp.

Find attached a copy of the program for the intensive weekend training camp prior to the carnival.

5. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Thankfully, this team received a great deal of support for from the community, and without it I believe would not have been as successful as it was.

Listed below are the particular organisations who assisted our team, and who I would like to make a special mention of Thanks to.

NTRL – Provided us with use of their ground and facilities, donated the full playing strip as well as \$6000 towards the cost of the trip

Palmerston Raiders Rugby League – use of their ground and equipment

Northern territory Institute of Sport – use of their ground, equipment and audio visual gear which enabled us to put together a team video

North Queensland Cowboys NRL Team – provided some apparel which was used as incentives for the squad members who did not travel with the final team. The assistance provided to the officials by the supporting parents can not be underestimated and their attitude and support enabled us to get through some very stressful times all the while keeping the players grounded and focussed on their job, I would like to make special mention of the Hansen family (Greg, Cathy and Stacey) who did a great deal of running around for us in Adelaide. Greg also assisted on the sidelines, helping prepare the team and take stats during the games.

6. GAMES REPORT

The team as a group set several goals prior to the championship, these were as follows:

1. To finish in the top 2 in the Affiliated States (Pool B)
2. To have the belief in themselves that they can compete at the same level as the players in Pool A (Qld, NSWCHS, NSWCCC, ACT)
3. To have pride in our own try line, therefore making every team earn every point that they score against us.
4. To come away from the carnival being proud of our efforts and know that we could not possibly have done anything else
5. To come away from the carnival having learnt something and being a better player and/or person from the experience
6. To enjoy the trip!

Our achievements of these goals were as follows:

1. We finished 1st in the POOL B competition, defeating all other affiliated states.
2. Officials from every other team, both Pool A and B, favourably commented on the skill level and play of the NT team throughout the Championship.
3. The NT Teams for and against was the best of any Pool B team who participated in the championship. A record which the players should be extremely proud of.
4. I cannot speak for the players, but I do know that this has been the one of the most rewarding and proudest experiences in my 16 years of coaching at this level.
5. Comments from many of the parents upon their return have been very positive towards these players being more confident both on and off the field.
6. The smiles on the faces throughout the championship cemented that they were enjoying the trip.

I am extremely proud of our results,

Our results are as follows:

Day 1 NT 26 v WA 16
(Tries: Reece Coleman, Sam Irwin, Brad Hansen, Kruike Nichols, Daniel Harrison Goals: Sam Irwin, Tom Hancock, Kruike Nichols)
Player of the match – Sam Foster

Day 2 NT 26 v VIC 6
(tries: Rhys Petrilli 2, Sam Irwin, Kruike Nichols, Brad Hansen Goals: Sam Irwin, Kruike Nichols 2)
Player of the match - Ben Tonkin

Day 3 NT 28 v SA 0
(Tries: Mickey Rees 2, David Russell, Angus Jacobs, Sam Irwin, Luke Neave Goals: Sam Irwin, Brad Hansen
Player of the match – Rhys Petrilli

Day 4 BYE

Day 5 BYE

Day 6 John Allen Trophy
NT 22 v WA 0
(tries: Brad Hansen, Preston Philpott, Kruse Nichols Goals: Kruse Nichols 4, Matt Bennett)

Two players earned significant awards over the championship.
NT Player of the Championship – Sam Foster
POOL B Player of the Championship – Sam Irwin

At the conclusion of the event an Australian Merit team was selected from each pool. A number of NT players were recognised for their achievements and unfortunately there were several others who I believe deserved selection but were denied this honour. Those who gained selection in the 2007 Australian Affiliated States Merit

Team were:
Kruse Nichols
Matt Bennett
Reece Coleman
Sam Irwin
Ben Tonkin
Brad Hansen

This is the highest representation for the NT at this level in the history of our participation.

I would also like to personally thank both David Chalker (Sports trainer) and John Johnson (Manager) for the excellent and professional manner which they went about their job.

I would also like to personally thank Greg and Cathy Hansen who assisted greatly in all aspects of the trip. Greg was a significant asset at training and particularly during the games. His efforts both on and off the field were greatly appreciated.

As mentioned previously I have been doing this for a number of years now and have no hesitation in recommending any of these officials for any future positions.

To conclude, this experience has been one of the highlights of my coaching career to date, it is something that will stay with me for a very long time, and I thank all those who made it such an enjoyable experience for me.