Young Socceroos march on

THE Young Socceroos have qualified for the quarter-finals of the AFC under-19s championship after defeating IR Iran 3-0 in Zibo, China. A first half goal to Mustafa Amini and second half goals to Kerem Bulut and Terry Antonis gave the Young Socceroos the valuable three points that has put them into the prime position to qualify for the 2011 FIFA under 20s World Cup.

Tahu locked in race row

NRL STAR Timana Tahu is embroiled in his own race row, with reports saying he's been accused of racially abusing a player at an Aboriginal knockout tournament at the weekend. Tahu has been accused of vilifying 16-year-old Caleb Binge.Tahu has strongly denied the claim. Earlier this year, Tahu took a public stand against Andrew Johns, who used the same racial slur during the NSW State of Origin camp to describe Queensland star Greg Inglis.

Haddin aims for Test spot

FIRST-CHOICE Australian wicketkeeper Brad Haddin will begin his campaign to regain the gloves from Tim Paine by playing for NSW in one and four-day games against South Australia in Adelaide over the next week. Haddin was ruled out of the current Indian tour and their mid-year matches against Pakistan in England because of elbow damage. He made a successful return to action over the past few days, hitting half-centuries in a Sydney grade game.

Close call in hoops

BOTH games were tight in Round 13 of the Darwin Airport Resort league women's basketball competition on Tuesday night.

In the opening game, Ansett led 23-7 in the first quarter. Eagles bounced back but could not match Ansett who won 65-55.

Sam Drescher (25 points) lead all scorers while Christine Cooper (12) was Eagles top scorer.

League leaders Lightning took on Uni Rebels winning 55-48. Lauren Sealy set up Claire O'Bryan for the majority of her 17 points. Jamie-Lee Peris (18 points) was again the dominant Rebels player rebounding at both ends.

Warriors Brice Giles hit 32 points in his League men's 77-63 win over Lightning. The game looked like becoming a blow-out early but Lightning pulled it back with a solid second half.

Colin Matteson (28) and Rashad Chase (18) gave Ansett an easy victory over Razzle, 97-63. Red hot Chase showed off the skills he displayed over the weekend with the Darwin All-stars and Rohan Cropley was best for Razzle with 14 points.

In the battle for top spot, Eagles struggled without starting players Timmy Duggan, Anthony Dennien and the injured Matthew Smith against Uni Rebels. Rebels who ran out comfortable 94-70 winners now sit on top of the ladder thanks to some big scoring from Ethan Kennedy (28) and Chris Baldwin (26). Bobby Guyton was Eagles top scorer with 27 points.



Robyn Stanley, Stu Fitch and Ali Croser will compete in the world ironman championships in Hawaii this weekend

Operation Hawaii

TRIATHLON
By JESS WEBSTER

THREE Territorians are hoping to make their mark on the world stage when they compete in the Ford Ironman World Championships in Hawaii this weekend.

Robyn Stanley, Stu Fitch and Ali Croser are part of the 152-strong Australian team, with Stanley and Fitch having the benefit of experience on the world's most challenging course.

Stanley lines up to represent Australia at the World Championships for the third time in the same category (Female 55-59 years), placing 7th in 2008 and 12th last year.

"The winds could play a big part on race day," she said. "Ali Croser and I are both on the small side, so it's a worry to hear that three athletes were hospitalised on Sunday after being blown off their bikes up near Hawi (the bike turnaround point)."

Fitch is also making his third appearance in Kona having competed in 2007 and 2009, and has been in full-time training for the event since qualifying at Ironman Western Australia last year.

He took out the Kona Mango Man Triathlon in Kona last week by more than four minutes from his nearest competitor, and says he is in the best shape of his life.

"Being nearly 57 years old this was pretty amazing, and I am on cloud nine," he said. "I hammered the race as hard as I could, per instructions from my wife and coach Ali, to give it a solid go."

"I am in the best form of my life, and looking forward to the World Champs.

Hopefully the 'sixth element' is with me this year, three legs, two transitions, plus 'blind luck'."

Croser is competing in Hawaii for the first time this year, having qualified for the female 40-44 years category with a first place at Ironman China earlier this year.

WHAT'S ON

Aust Football

NTFL, Round 1

Tonight at TIO Stadium No.1 — Premier League: Wanderers v Sthn Districts, 7.30pm. **Under-18s:** Wanderers v Sthn Districts, 5.30pm.
TIO Stadium No.2 — Division 1: Southern Districts v Nightcliff, 8pm. **Div 2:** Casino Sharks v Olympic, 6pm.
Tomorrow at TIO Stadium No.1 — Premier League: Palmerston v Darwin, 2.30pm; St Marys v Tiwi Bombers, 5pm; Nightcliff v Waratahs, 7.30pm. **U18s:** Palmerston v Darwin, 12.30pm. **U14 Atkinson:** Nightcliff v Wanderers, 8am. **U14 Lew Fatt:** Southern Districts v Nightcliff, 9.30am. **U14 Gundersen:** Southern Districts v Nightcliff, 11am.
Tomorrow at TIO Stadium No.2 — Division 1: Darwin v St Marys, 8pm; Palmerzston v Wanderers, 6pm. **U18s:** Big River Hawks v St marys, 4pm; Nightcliff v Waratahs, 2pm. **U16s Hickman:** Nightcliff v Southern Districts, noon. **U16 Leverance:** Nightcliff v Southern Districts, 10.30am. **U14 Atkinson:** Southern Districts v Palmerston, 9am.
Tomorrow at Jabiru — Division 2: Jabiru v Southern Districts, 2pm.
Sunday at Gardens Oval — Div 1: Banks v University, 4pm; PINT v Tracy Village, 2pm. **Div 2:** PINT v Tracy Village, noon. **U14 Gundersen:** Darwin v Palmerston, 10.30am. **Tomorrow at Gardens Oval No.2 — Div 2:** Combined Services v Waratahs, 3pm; Banks v University, 1pm. **U16 Hickman:** Darwin v Palmerston, 11.30am. **U16 Leverance:** Darwin v Palmerston, 10am.
Sunday at TIO Stadium No.1 — U16 Hickman: St Marys v Waratahs, 10.30am. **U14 Gundersen:** St Marys v Waratahs, 9am.
Sunday at TIO Stadium No.2 — U16 Leverance: St Marys v Wanderers, 10.30am. **U14 Lew Fatt:** St Marys v Wanderers, 9am.

Boxing

Boxing NT Fight Night

Tomorrow at Portugese-Timorese Social Club, Marrara: 12 bouts are planned from 7pm, includes the big 91kg-plus fighters to the junior brackets in 52kg and 57kg. Admittance $20 for adults, $6 for children and $5

Equestrian

AUSTRALIA finished out of the medals as the German show jumping team struck gold yesterday at the World Equestrian Games.

Australia finished seventh behind Germany, France, Belgium, Brazil, Canada and Sweden.

NTFL Teams — Round 1

Tonight

Wanderers v S'Districts
at TIO Stadium, 7.30pm
Wanderers
B: David Kruse Tyler Dittloff Brenton Bading
HB: Damien Roe John Bonson James McNamee
C: Jared Erlandson Josh Cubillo Paul Grant
HF: Willie Hunter Ryan Prendergast Troy Friend
F: Nook Mansell Thomas Motlop Simon Bates
Foll: Christian Schild Jamie Scrymgour Aaron Motlop
Int: Jeremy Murrungung Michael Sacco Tyrus Zahra
Emer: Alex Erlandson Nathan White

Southern Districts
B: Shane Hodges Patrick Fittock Brett Rice
HB: Roy Dan Troy Parker Shannon Rusca
C: Glenn Randall Ben AhMat Dean Staunton
HF: Cory Singleton Daniel Hickey Antel Reti
F: Aaron Crauford Dane McGennisken Lionel Trewin
Foll: William Farrer Matt Cannard Mark Mclean
Int: Jack O'Shaughnessy Daniel Trease Stewart Carr Matthew Duffy

Tomorrow

Palmerston v Darwin
at TIO Stadium, 2.30pm
Palmerston
B: Marc Mattiazo Liam Carusi Kirsten Hunter
HB: Patrick Heenan Luke Tyrrell Shannon Masters
C: Sam Autio Warren Berto Alex Johnson
HF: Marlon Hampton Mark Tyrrell Brod Church
F: Michael Brown Deon Gordon Russell Davey
Foll: James Park Mark Berts Dallas Cook
Int: Rowan Smith Nathan Roach Kye Haenan Jake Hussie

Darwin
B: Garry Ariuu Richard Russell William Ramsay
HB: Kelvin Williams Aaron Thomas Darryl White
C: Aaron Pollard Liam Phillpott Jordan Wilson
HF: Camden Vigona-Ross Paul Campbell Jarrod Stokes
F: James Puautjimi Francis Vigona-Daniels Joseph Collinson
Foll: Matthew Mitchell Jamie Damaso Matthew O'Brien
Int (from): Peter Stokes Imam Muhklis Josh Talbot Thomas McDowell Josh Blitner

St Marys v Tiwi Bombers
at TIO Stadium, 5pm
St Marys
B: Zelio Casimiro Daniel Hill Benjamin Rioli
HB: Kevin Tandogac Luke Stapleton Iggy Vallejo
C: Rory Hood Health Culpitt Tom Frawley
HF: Kurt Beck Robert Hale Harold Calma
F: Justin Cooper Anthony Vallejo Henry Labastida
Foll: Jonathon Miles Karl Lohde Allan May
Int (from): Tom Cannon Joshua Heath Scott Appleton Jack Long Anthony Hale

Tiwi Bombers
B: Douglas Timaepatua Cannice Tipuamantumirri Roy Farmer
HB: Gerrard Cunningham Simon Munkara Ross Tungatalum
C: Michael Dunn Trevor Wilson Anthony Kerinaiua
HF: Donald Mungatopi Guiseppe Tipiloura Bradley Palipuaminni
F: Roland Cunningham Antonio Tipiloura Dermott Tipungwuti
Foll: Taylor UllungarraShane Tipuamantamirri Nathan Pilakui
Int: Jeffrey Puruntatameri Leigh Crossman Jacob Puautjimi Dylan Tipiloua

Nightcliff v Waratahs
at TIO Stadium, 7.30pm
Nightcliff
B: Tom Mitchell Sean Sheppard Jaycob Miller
HB: Max Tippett Zac Metcalfe Nathan Jones-Cubillo
C: Jacob Browne Jeff Harvey Mark Tippit
HF: Tyson MorrowChris McFarlane Zach Green
F: Greg Althouse Darby Lochard Gavin Andrews
Foll: Clayton Irwin Darren Guelfi Chris Adams
Int: Clement Chulung Robbie Braun Jamie Clee Anthony Gugliotta

Waratahs
B: Michael Smith Joshua Chapman Casey Veentjer
HB: Jacob Schaper James Bury Dave O'Sullivan
C: Braedan McLean Nathan McLean Brad Rayson
HF: Adam Govers Lachlan Michell Brett Kroger
F: Beau Bunnalls Stuart Cooper Dion Munkara
Foll: Jake Highland Justin Murphy James Wray
Int (from): Wade Bleistner Ryan Ayres Mark Dohnt Che Jenkins Jack Hatcher Adam Dustan

Schwarzer bags major soccer awards

GOALKEEPER Mark Schwarzer has again grabbed the glory at Australian football's big awards night, scooping two of the three major titles on offer.

Schwarzer, the 38-year-old Fulham and Socceroo keeper who seems to get better with age, was last night voted player of the year by his peers in Professional Footballers Australia (PFA).

He received 392 votes, just enough to pip last year's inaugural winner, Everton star Tim Cahill, who received 385 votes, with Dutch-based Socceroo Brett Holman third on 196.

Schwarzer also received Football Federation Australia's (FFA) player of the year


Schwarzer

award for the second year running at a gala dinner in Sydney ahead of tomorrow's friendly against Paraguay.

Cahill, the Everton dynamo who has become Australia's most influential outfield player, was the pick of football writers from the Football Media Association (FMA).

Schwarzer, who shows no signs of fatigue in a sparkling 17-year Socceroo career, made 10 more appearances for his country in the 2009-10 season, and has now taken his tally of full A caps to 80, just seven short of Alex Tobin's record.

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