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Touch Shorts

The Official Newsletter of Touch Football South Australia



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Australia's premier touch football tournament—the Xblades National Touch League was recently held on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

Whilst the sun made way for mud & rain during the event, South Australia's two sides still gained a lot out of the event.

TFSA spoke to both coaches to gain their thoughts...

A word from Women's Open coach Mark Jones...

In trying conditions for the first time in over a decade the South Australian Women's Open team participated in the National Touch League.

We can take many positives from the tournament including bleeding 3 players still eligible for under 18s and under 20s. It was extremely heartening to see us be competitive in every match. Despite some of the score lines against the eventual finalists, we pushed teams, holding them out for long periods of time. We went in with the attitude to try win every game and push our more experienced opponents. We definitely achieved this.

Throughout the tournament we progressed and improved. After the first day we juggled around players positions and roles, this really seemed to help us utilize our strengths. It is a credit to the girls and their

attitude that they were able to react to this in such a positive manner. This malleability illustrates the teamwork we had built in the months prior to the tournament.

You can look at statistics in many ways, however given we won two games, were definitely within striking distance of our last two games and lost by the same margin to Suns (semi-finalist) by the same margin as the Eagles who finished third in the other Women's Open pool, we can definitely say we are not as far off the mark as perhaps some of our eastern state counterparts think.

Our most memorable moments were our victory against ACT, which saw an awesome second half defensive effort in sludge. Our captain, Nicole Mitchell set the tone of the game with her dive to save a score in the first five minutes. It was one of those games that was always close, however I always felt we had control of the match.

Personally my most memorable moment was our first half against Southern Suns. Suns are always making the semis so I knew this game would be extremely tough. We learnt our most valuable lesson of the tournament in this half, ball control, completing your sets of six and getting the ball out of your own half at all costs. I would estimate our percentage of completed sets of six was 80 %, which is why with a mammoth

defensive effort the score line was only 2-0 at half time. This 80 % figure of completed sets of six tends to be the benchmark for the best NTL teams. It was a truly inspirational half and proved SA can match it with the best.

There is still a lot of work to be done, for us to be consistently competitive against the top half NTL sides. We showed we can compete in patches, however keeping the intensity and consistency for the full 40 minutes required is a big thing separating us from the all of the finalists

I am extremely positive towards South Australia's future prospects in Women's Open touch. I look at our competitions and there are some fantastically talented prospects coming through (continued pg 2)



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NTL “ WASHUP” (cont from page 1)

...our ranks at all ages. We have debuted 4 very young players, who I see as being the backbone of our side for years to come.

As I said to our team, it is the journey which is most important and it was a hell of a journey for all of us. We created a spirited, hard working and encouraging team, all aspects I like to see as a coach. I was extremely proud with how they performed.

I would like to thank Mick Gray, Adam Johnson and the entire team for the journey over the last 5 months. This is the start of a journey for SA into Opens NTL and I look forward to seeing where that journey takes us in the future

Women's Opens Awards

Players Player: Abbey Freer

Coaches Award: Tara Naige

Most Valuable Player: Alyse Palmer

Leading Try Scorer: Abbey Freer



Men's 30s Wrap, Provided by Coach Mick Gray...

The South Australian Men's 30s team competing at 2010 NTL this year finished in win/loss 7th out of 14th nationally. The final team position slid to 9th spot on percentage but most notably 50% of the round games were won this year in comparison only one round win last NTL. This is a significant improve-

ment particularly as many of the teams consisted of former Australian Opens players entering the M30 division for the first time which made the competition much stronger than last year.

The reflective mood in the M30 team fluctuates between satisfaction and disappointment. Satisfied with the team improvement but disappointed from the knowledge that the team had the ability but not the experience that some other teams had. It has certainly left a bitter sweet taste in the playing group who will be all the more hungrier next time to make the semi-finals and beyond.

The final result also doesn't reflect though is the hard work that every player undertook. Training twice a week from October to December and then three sessions a week from January to NTL on top of playing in Stateleague, Colley Reserve, and both City and AUTC competitions - these guys were very fit and played very hard.

The wet, muddy conditions of the 'Sunshine Coast' were not something that you can train for and those team that had prior experience in playing in these conditions got off to early defendable leads. In the dry the team was highly competitive and in all conditions showed great resolve to continue fighting to the wire. The coaching, leadership and playing group have all returned much wiser for the experience and already are discussing strategies and areas for improvement next time which is a very encouraging sign.

Thank you to all the partners of our players for their support and allowing the athletes to attend training and the tournament. Whilst the team might do things differently next time each of the athletes could not have performed better, many players being asked to changes roles and positions from game to game and during, in this regard everyone exceeded expectations. Thank you also to Paul Smith for his expert management of the team.

Special mention needs to go to Pete (utility) Hawcroft, Steve (Pete) Robertson, Ash (Grommet) Summers and Matt (Red Light) Jacques who competed in their first NTL and gave outstanding debut performances. Thanks also to Steele Tallon and Luke Thornton for the distances they travelled to remain part of the team.

The individual team awards were highly contested with Darren Jones named second in two team categories and the MVP winning by one single point from three players on equal second. The team awards went to:

Men's 30s Awards

Top Try Scorer – Christian

O'Dwyer

Coaches Award – Darren Jones

Player's Player – Ninh Duong

MVP – Gino Geracitano

Overall the tournament was a success despite the trying weather. In a fantastic Women's Open Final the Sydney Mets led by Australian Captain Louise Winchester, defeated the young & exciting Brisbane City Cobras in a drop off.

Whilst in the Men's Open Final the underdogs prevailed with the rebuilt Sydney Scorpions comfortably defeating the highly fancied South Queensland Sharks.

TFSA would like to congratulate all our athletes and referees who represented South Australia in such a positive manner.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to Mark Jones & Mick Gray, our two coaches and their management staff Paul Smith & Adam Johnson for all their efforts.

Referee's perform well at NTL

The players weren't the only South Aussies to represent their state at this year's NTL. Seven referees also attended this year's championships with some great results to come out of the mud.

SA Referees that attended this year's NTL were;

- Anton Van Rensburg
- Jon Hall
- Indra Garner
- Damien Carlson
- Ken Gilbert
- Chris Denison Smith
- Simon Millcock

Anton Van Rensburg continues his steady rise up the referee ranks, being awarded an upgrade to Level 5, which is a fantastic effort.

Three of our referees were also allocated finals which is a credit to the skills that our local referees have.

Ken Gilbert oversaw the Men's 40s GF, while Damien Carlson took charge of the Women's 35s GF. Young talent Chris Denison Smith was awarded with the Women's 20s GF making him our highest ranked referee nationally at number 16.

Although the days were long wet & tiresome a good time was

by all and some great results were achieved.

Well done to all our referees



SA's Three GF Referees; Right to Left, Ken Gilbert, Damien Carlson & Chris Denison Smith

2010 South Australian Masters Games

The 2010 South Australian Masters Games are occurring in Port Pirie on April 17th & 18th.

Touch Football is a proud participant in these games and nominations are now open to all teams and individuals.

To be eligible to enter you need to be 30+ years old at the time of the tournament.

One division (Masters Mixed) is on offer and it will operate on a handicap system ensuring fairness.

There has been strong interest from all over the state so far with a number of teams already entered.

To enter a team in what promises to be a great fun

Filled weekend away please visit

www.portpiriemastersgames.com.au

or speak to your local affiliate which should have copies of the nomination booklet on hand.

Please Note: There is a typing error in the nomination booklet which incorrectly states the competition is 7 – a–side.

This should read 6-a-side.

For those who are interested in participating or who have already nominated accommodation is filling fast so make sure you act quickly.

If you would like to assist this event by refereeing

Please contact TFSA.

Nominations Close: Monday April 12th @ 5pm



Run Riot Claim Colley Reserve Champs

The 2010 Colley Reserve 5-a-side championships have been run & won for another year with local outfit Run Riot claiming the major prize of \$1000 cash.

The local team had to beat an impressive line up of entries to claim the major prize in what was one of the strongest fields in memory. And they had their work cut out for them with Mallee Magic putting up an enthralling effort in the final to come from behind to level the scores at 2-2 deep in the match. The riot crew however made one last offensive play with 2 minutes remaining on the clock to clinch the lead 3-2. The troops from Mildura did not give up and with 30 seconds to play and with 6 touches in hand Mallee Magic found themselves five meters out from their score line however time wasn't on their side and Run Riot held on to claim the division one title.

In the second division it was also a case of metro vs regional affiliate teams with the Top Gun inspired That Yellow

Team battling it out with the Step Brothers from Mildura. In another close match it was the impressive Step Brothers outfit who had the need for speed when it mattered running out eventual winners 2-1 and claiming \$650 for their efforts.

Finally in the third division Linebreakers broke through for their first victory after being runners up in the previous 3 years over a gallant hornets outfit 2-0.

TFSA was thrilled with the event and at the standard of competition on offer. All teams played within the spirit of the event but also played a great standard of touch.


Teams also went to a great deal of trouble with their outfits in an attempt to win 10 tickets to the International Rugby Sevens Adelaide.

With many tireless home made uniforms, top gun themed, netball uniformed and kings & queens complete with bagpipe playing solo's it cer-

-tainly was a hard job picking a winner for the best dressed overall team. In the end that title went to the Royal Botanical Allstars with the extravagant outfits & bagpipes. The dress certainly added to the fun carnival feel of the day.

Another highlight was the Kooga Run, Scoop & Score Race. For the second consecutive year local talent Abbey Freer was involved in a photo finish although this year was edged out by young emerging speed star Natalie Gibbs by the closest of margins. Jack Macklin put in a solid performance to claim the Men's race. Both Jack & Natalie received Kooga Stratus Jackets valued over \$70 for their troubles.

The event was a resounding success and TFSA would like to thank all participants & referees for their efforts on the day. A big thank you to Mike Gaskin for assisting staff on the day and to our event sponsors for making the day possible.



Check Out The Colley Photos on our website

Around the Grounds...

Goodbye Summer

One of the biggest summer's of touch in SA has just about drawn to a close. A total of 18 affiliated competitions and 4 events took place this summer season, 30% more than 2008/09.

Affiliates and competition coordinators are to be commended for an excellent summer, with no major incidents reported and some great touch played.

It has been extremely pleasing to see the growth of the sport into area's such as Northern & Port Adelaide, Port Pirie, Waikerie & Berri. At the same time it is also pleasing to see traditional affiliates continuing

To offer excellent competitions in friendly environments.

And although the window is closing on summer 09/10 those affiliates that run winter competitions are now entering the planning stage in preparation for Winter '10. If you are running a winter season make sure to contact TFSA with your season details so that we can publish them on the website.

To those summer only affiliates see you when the weather warms up and remember State Cup is occurring on October 29-31st 2010. So get your teams ready!!!

Congratulations & thank you to all of our affiliates & competitions.

Quinn Witika joins the SA Team

TFSA has recently welcomed Quinn Witika to the team in the office. Quinn has assumed the role of Sport Operations Officer and will be working in the area's of junior development and high performance.

Quinn hails from Sydney and is a keen touch player, having played for NSWTA affiliate Parramatta, under some of

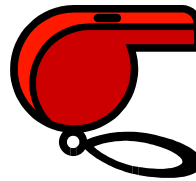
Australia's leading coaches.

Quinn is settling in well and looking forward to applying his many talents to TFSA.

Referee Courses Planned

TFSA together with our Referee Panel have planned the majority of L1, L2 & L3 referee courses for 2010. The exception to these courses are regional courses which will need to be organized individually with TFSA and affiliates.

Please visit the technical page on the TFSA website to view all upcoming referee courses for 2010.



TFSA is also planning to place a qualified presenter in each of our regional locations by the end of the year, through our referee recruitment and retention program.

This will allow affiliates to run L1 courses at their discretion in the future.

This course is scheduled to occur in September.—Stay Tuned!

Sports Grants Open: Active Club Program

The Office for Recreation & Sport (ORS) Active Club Program opens for applications on Saturday 6th February 2010 & closes on the 10th May 2010.

The Active Club Program offers funding in three main areas;

- Programs & Equipment
- Facilities
- And Youth at Risk Programs

All TFSA incorporated affiliates are eligible to apply for this funding. For more information please visit the ORS website:

<http://www.recsport.sa.gov.au>

Or contact TFSA.

TFSA can also assist you prepare and submit your funding application.





Touch Football Referees Wanted!



Touch Football South Australia requires referees for the following events:

Secondary School Sport SA Knockout Open Girls & Boys Days

Thursday 29th April – Tenison Woods College, Mount Gambier.

Friday 7th May – Clare High School

Friday 7th May – City Touch Grounds, Greenhill Road

Monday 10th May – Modbury High School

Wednesday 12th May – Reynella East High School

FINALS: Thursday 27th May – City Touch Grounds, Greenhill Road



Secondary School Sport SA Knockout Yr 8/9 Girls & Boys Days

Thursday 29th April – Tenison Woods College, Mount Gambier.

Thursday 6th May – City Touch Grounds, Greenhill Road

Tuesday 11th May – Reynella East High School

Wednesday 19th May – Modbury High School

FINALS: Wednesday 26th May – City Touch Grounds, Greenhill Road



Referees will be paid \$75.00 for the day!

You will have allocated time off and a lunch break.

You will be required from approximately 8.30am – 2.30pm.

Please express your interest to Renee Bryant! ☺

Alternatively, contact Quinn Witika 8402 4184 - email qwitika@touchsa.com.au

POSITIONS VACANT

Touch Football South Australia invites suitably qualified applicants to apply for the following vacant voluntary positions;

- State 18s Girls Coach
- State 18s Girls Manager
- State 18s Boys Coach
- State 18s Boys Manager

For all positions please visit the TFSA website (state teams & league tab) and follow the prompts to download an application form, or contact the office for more information.



Upcoming Events & Important Dates

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME & VENUE</u>
28th March 2010	CMI Toyota State League R1	Adelaide Shores (4pm)
11th April 2010	CMI Toyota State League R12	Adelaide Shores (4pm)
12th April 2010	Masters Games Nominations Close	5pm
17th & 18th April 2010	SA Masters Games	Port Pirie SA (TBC)
26th April 2010	Touch Wine 2009/10 (SL R3)	City Touch (From 9.30am)
2nd May 2010	CMI Toyota State League R4	City Touch (4pm)
9th May 2010	CMI Toyota State League R5	Adelaide Shores (4pm)
16th May 2010	CMI Toyota State League Carnival Day	Adelaide Shores (9am–5pm)
23rd May 2010	CMI Toyota State League Grand Finals	Adelaide Shores (4pm)
2nd/3rd June 2010	SAPSASA Championships 2010	City Touch (8am–3pm)
5th/6th June 2010	U12/U15/U18 Jnr State Team Trials	City Touch (9am-12noon)
12th June 2010	Level 1 Referee Course	City Touch (9.30am–4.30pm)

For a comprehensive list of all upcoming events please visit the events calendar on the TFSA website

Top Tips for Affiliates & Competitions

Do you frequently get questions regarding Insurance, Judiciary & other policy matters?

Get on the front foot at your competition, and download a copy of our policies which are all available on our website under the our sport tab—rules policies & insurance section.

www.touchsa.com.au



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