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Sport

Huge pool of talent

By Paul Haigh

SEVEN swimmers coached by Justin Rothwell will participate in the Olympic trials and national swim titles at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre later this month.

Emerging competitors Virginia Ricketts, 16, Zoe Diamond, 14, Alissa Williams, 14, Brooke Dodson, 14, Corey Polkinghorne, 15, Loui Friess, 15, and Daniel Turner, 16, are all competing at the Olympic trials being held between March 22 and 29.

And they will swim under a new banner – ABC Swimming.

Rothwell said the seven swimmers would gain crucial experience of elite level competition at the nationals which, this year, also serve as Olympic trials with the Beijing Games starting on August 8.

“The seven representatives have qualified for the nationals at lead-up events like the state titles,” Rothwell said.



Future stars: Young swim talents Hayden McManus, 10, of Casula and Karla Di Tommaso, 7, of Chipping Norton at the Whitlam Leisure Centre.
Picture: Angelo Velardo

Rothwell and his wife Angela run aquatic education programs at the Whitlam Leisure Centre in Liverpool. They also run ABC Swimming from the Guildford and Ashfield centres.

“The main reason for the name change is ABC is about learning which is paramount in

the swim schools we run,” Rothwell said.

“Teaching and educating swimmers from toddlers, those in the learn-to-swim and the squad programs is what we are about.”

Rothwell said the ABC Swimming program could help swim-

mers achieve whatever level they aspired to.

Young swimmers Hayden McManus and Karla Di Tommaso are members of the junior age squad, working under the ABC Swimming programs.

Details: abcswimming.com.au or contact 0400 513 497.

Team gets consolation win

BETTER late than never as Fairfield Liverpool finished the 2007/08 cricket season with a win over Eastern Suburbs at Waverley Oval on Saturday.

Eastern Suburbs made 8-203 from its 50 overs in the one-day game, with Lions skipper Anthony Clark taking 2-21, Ben Rohrer 2-23 and Dean Treuer taking 2-50.

In reply, the Lions made 7-204 from 47 overs, winning the match by three wickets.

Clark top scored with 59, Shamus Coe made 42 and opener Mark Liddell scored 37.

The victory earned the Lions six first innings points to finish the Sydney Cricket Association first grade premiership in 13th place on 43 points.

Lions’ president Richard Cook said it was good to finish up with a win, following a frustrating season for the side, which won the premiership two years ago and made the final last season.

“We’ve had our ups and downs, it’s been one of those seasons,” Cook said.

“First there was the EI crisis which meant we missed playing several homes games early in the season at Rosedale Oval.

“Then we had a lot of games affected by wet weather and a host of injuries which left players unable to take the field.

“Also, Doug Bollinger and Grant Lambert were playing in the Pura Cup for NSW.”

“But having said that we have unearthed some young talent and it’s been good to see spinner Luke Doran get his opportunity.”

Left-arm fast bowler Bollinger took a staggering 44 wickets for NSW before he broke his foot and missed the Pura Cup final against Victoria at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Bollinger’s untimely injury also ruled him out a possible tourist with the Australian squad to the West Indies in May.



Untimely injury: Fairfield Liverpool and NSW fast bowler Doug Bollinger broke his foot forcing him to miss Pura Cup final.
Picture: Elliott Housego

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