

**SPORT**

**IN BRIEF...**

**Baynes hits back**

DENVER: Former Cairns Marlin Aron Baynes bounced back from poor showings in his past two starts to help his Washington State University Cougars through the opening round of the NCAA national basketball tournament yesterday. Baynes, a 208cm centre, had 19 points and eight rebounds as the Cougars roared in the second half, beating Winthrop 71-40 after the teams were tied 29-29 at halftime.

**Dodge battles on**

LAUNCESTON: Cairns driver Lydon Dodge overcame a slow start to finish the first day of the National Sprint Kart Championships in strong fashion yesterday. Dodge's kart failed him on the first lap of his opening clubman light class qualifying race but he recovered to finish 13th of 38 drivers in his second qualifier. Dodge then finished sixth of 19 competitors in his third heat to have him well placed for today's remaining heats.

**Top volleyballers**

CAIRNS: Players from throughout Queensland were in action last night when the Barrier Reef Beach Volleyball tournament got under way on the Cairns Esplanade courts. Men's and women's pairs and fours teams will return to the Esplanade courts today at 8am before moving to the Cairns Indoor Sports Centre on Mayers St, Marunda, in the afternoon.

**Easter challenge**

GERALDTON: Cairns tennis teenager Elizabeth Pambou will line up in today's Geraldton Easter Open, the fourth tournament on the Australian Money Tour. Pambou found the going tough at the third AMT event on Monday, going down 6-0 6-1 to No. 4 seed Marisa Gianotti in Crawley, WA.

**Ranking chase**

KUALA LUMPUR: Tully product Lisa Camilleri will look to further improve her career-high world No. 51 ranking when she opens her NSC Tour 12 No. 1 tournament campaign in Malaysia tomorrow.



All clear: West Coast Eagles star Daniel Kerr (right) talks to a member of the club's training staff ahead of today's clash against the Brisbane Lions in Perth.

**Brisbane's spy mission not in James Bond class**

AS spying missions go, it was hardly James Bond. Half a dozen Brisbane Lions officials, including coach Leigh Matthews, rolling up to Subiaco Oval in a white panel van to take in the West Coast's final Australian Football League training session. Behind a goal in club colours, Matthews and his team were neither subtle nor secretive in getting some last-minute information about how the self-proclaimed "new breed" of Eagles might line up in their AFL opener today. And having watched the home side's gentle Good Friday run through, Matthews said there were a couple of things which did catch

his eye. "A couple of them looked a little bit uncertain but I guess you will never know until 40 minutes before the game whether their 22 is as selected," Matthews said. "If it is not then we will know then." The Lions' brazen intelligence mission came after last week's AFL Coaches Association meeting where the issue of whether to spy or not to spy was vigorously debated. Association chief executive Neale Daniher announced that after a "competitive" discussion, the gloves were off after coaches agreed not to agree to institute a formal "spying" policy. And so after taking his place in the Subiaco stands yesterday,

Matthews said he was doing nothing untoward. "No (we didn't ask permission) - we just turned up," Matthews said. What Matthews would have seen was Daniel Kerr taking part in training - but at nowhere near full pace - after being named to play his first game since tearing a hamstring six weeks ago. Matthews said he was not sure whether the Eagles new number one midfielder was 100 per cent. "Sometimes you look at people train and think are they normal, are they physically and mentally normal," Matthews said. "I am not positive whether he looked in that manner." But assistant Eagles coach Tony Micalc, speaking before his side's

session, said he had no doubts. "He definitely is (100 per cent) ... we are really confident he is fine and we will get through," Micalc said. "There is no intention to do anything different with him at this stage. Daniel is a very resilient player and he has got a big heart so we will weigh it up as the game progresses." With West Coast returning the favour to the Lions, sending a posse of their coaches to watch Lions training, they would have seen key forward Jonathan Brown leave the track early. Micalc admitted Brown had to be a priority, with new Eagles skipper Darren Glass his likely opponent. - AAP, Perth

**Dew's diligence boost for Hawks**

FORMER Port Adelaide premiership player Stuart Dew has surprised Hawthorn with the rate of his Australian Football League comeback. Dew will play his first official game for the Hawks tomorrow against Melbourne at the MCG, along with AFL newcomers Cyril Rioli and Cameron Stokes. Hawthorn will be without key players Luke Hodge, Shane Crawford, Campbell Brown and Jordan Lewis, all through suspension. Dew, 28, retired at the end of 2006 but the Hawks picked him up last November in the national draft. The first and most obvious challenge has been some serious fitness work over the summer for Dew who was never renowned for an athletic build at Port and then lost conditioning during his year off from football. But coach Alastair Clarkson

was among several members of Hawthorn's football department who had worked with Dew at Port and knew he would put a lot of effort into his comeback. "We knew it was going to be a tough road but we also knew given that Andrew Russell, myself, Damien Hardwick, Geoff Morris and Chris Polchen had all worked with Dew before, we knew he had the character and attitude to be able to cope with the challenge," Clarkson said. "We knew it was going to be a significant one but him getting himself up and playing in round one was always the goal that we had in mind. In actual fact, he's a little bit ahead of that because he's played a couple of NAB Cup games ... we didn't perhaps forecast that when we set the path in motion last November." Dew, a booming left-foot kicker, said he went into his comeback

with eyes wide open, well aware of the risks involved and the scepticism that he could regain AFL fitness. One of the main factors that helped him was coming into a strong club, with plenty of expectations about success. "That was always going to happen, it's happened over the time, whether I've been as fit as I've ever been in my life," Dew said of the media focus on his weight. "Once it's an issue once, it's always there, no matter what - if I was going to be worried about it, I wouldn't have put myself out there for that criticism. "That's where the support of players, (the) club - that's all that really matters, that's how I would measure myself. I've been around footy clubs enough to know that's where you should get your feedback from, not from outside." - AAP, Melbourne

**Harvey plumps for experience**



Harvey: Youth waiting game.

EXPERIENCE is a quality Fremantle coach Mark Harvey wants to both use and gain when his Dockers take on Collingwood in front of a big crowd at the MCG today. Harvey opted to overlook the strong claims of the likes of youngsters Garrick Ibbotson, Robert Warnock and new recruit Rhys Palmer in picking his side for what he expects will be an intense clash. "In round one under these sort of circumstances, you tend to go with a fair bit of experience and that's what I've done, so time will tell whether that's the right formula," the former three-time Essendon premiership player said. He said Palmer in particular, a 19-year-old midfielder whose pre-season form earned rave reviews, might have been in the team if not for his youth. "Sometimes you've got to pace kids and not throw them to the wolves first up, so there's a little bit of that," he said. "But Rhys is unlucky not to be in the side and that puts pressure on these guys (in the side)."

**Saints primed**

FANCIED St Kilda will swap the froth and bubble of their pre-season triumph for the serious stuff today when they start their AFL campaign against a confident Sydney side. While the Saints have been installed as second favourites for the flag behind Geelong by most betting institutions, the Swans are among the middle-rankers.

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