

SPORT

# Saints skipper gives Souths early warning

SAINTS captain Adam Catalano says Souths will face a wiser opponent when the teams clash in Cairns Hockey Association men's Classic League competition tonight.

Souths triumphed 4-3 when the teams last met three weeks ago and Catalano put the loss down to the defending champions' inability to stick to its game plan.

"Souths caught us unaware when I think we were still on a roll from last year and the good start to this season," he said.

"We played into their hands and played their style of game which obviously suited them."

Catalano said Saints had lifted since then and was confident his side could secure its third successive victory despite expecting another strong challenge from Souths.

He said Saints also would have to fire without the strikepower of his brother Kyle Catalano, who will miss the game for personal reasons.

Catalano said his attacking combination with Kyle and Kaine Overlack had worked well for Saints this season but he would instead drop back to the midfield for tonight's game to provide stability to the side.

He said youngsters Ryan Coffey and Jeremy Wienert

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would get their chance alongside Scott Andersen against the most experienced backline in the competition.

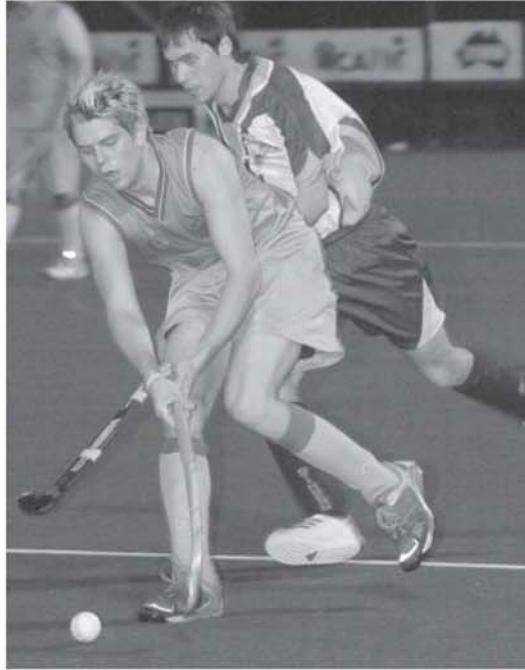
"Souths will be tough to beat because they're very experienced and their players like Marshall Pettersen-White, Dennis Pendrigh, Gary Tippet, Rodney Whipp and Garry Whipp have been around a long time," he said. Souths go into the clash seeking a victory after fighting out successive drawn matches against Brothers and Trinity Stingers.

Saints top the premiership ladder on 12 points after Stingers had three points deducted from its total for fielding an ineligible player in its 3-2 loss to Saints a fortnight ago.

In the other Classic League men's encounter, Brothers will search for its first victory of the season against Stingers.

In Classic League women's competition, previous round winners Trinity Stingers face an in-form Brothers and Souths meet a Saints side backing up from its first loss of the season against Brothers last weekend.

Tonight's draw:  
Men: 5pm Trinity Stingers v Brothers; 7:30pm Saints v Souths.  
Women: 6:15pm Trinity Stingers v Brothers; 8:45pm Saints v Souths.



Out of action: Saints will have to make crucial positional changes to cover for Kyle Catalano (front).

## Karters rev up for Far North titles

A SMALL contingent of Cairns Kart Club competitors will gear up for next weekend's Far North Queensland titles by taking to the Mackay track today.

Cairns drivers will use the two-day Sugar City Titles event to fine-tune their preparations for the FNQ titles to be at Edmonton on the weekend of May 3-4.

Host club competitors will be out in force at the FNQ titles although one frontrunner, Lydon Dodge, will not contest the event.

Dodge will attend an Australian Motor Sport Foundation fitness camp, endorsed by Australian Formula One driver Mark Webber, at Coolangatta on the same weekend.

The camp will cover a range of topics including fitness testing, reaction testing, cardio and strength training, recovery and injury prevention and diet and hydration issues.

The aim of the camp is to help talented young drivers in various motor sports gain the edge.

Despite his absence, a strong field will gather for the FNQ titles which will commence at 3pm on May 3 and 9.30am on May 4.

Entry is free.

## World champ heads field

CAIRNS Speedway Riders competitors will belatedly begin their season at Edmonton tonight.

A contingent of host club bikers will meet the challenge of state and national champions in solo, sidecar, stock bike and quad bike classes at the Cairns International Motor Speedway.

CSR spokesman Peter Valmadre said world sidecar champion Scott Christopher, and his Australian champion counterpart Gary Moon, who are both Townsville-based, would head a classy field.

Home track riders Luke Page and Jamie Miano are expected to figure strongly in the sidecars competition along with fellow Cairns rider and former professional motocross competitor Wes Jenkins in the solos.

The club had been set to launch its season on March 8 before wet weather forced the event to be cancelled.

Full fields will contest each class of competition with racing to start at 6.30pm. Gates open at 4pm.

## Coach urges Sally to row on with London Games in mind

SALLY Robbins has been urged to row on and fulfil her potential, possibly at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Leading coach Nick Garratt believes the controversy-plagued Robbins still has her best ahead of her and she could return to the international arena.

After this week missing the Australian team and a shot at Olympic redemption in Beijing, a disap-

pointed Robbins is considering her future and is expected to announce her plans next week.

The 26-year-old is taking advice from family, friends and coaches and sculling mentor Garratt is one who wants to see her continue.

"It's interesting because technically she's very, very sound both with the sweep-oar and her scull," the Australian women's sculling coach said.

"She had a good crack this year and made progress and unless she is completely disillusioned, and I don't think she would be, I think it would be a good thing if she kept going."

NSW-based Garratt coached Robbins from the age of 14 during a nine-year stint in Western Australia, helping her to an Olympic debut as a teenager in the quad sculls at the 2000 Sydney Games.

Although Robbins failed to make

the seven-women heavyweight sculls squad for Beijing, Garratt felt a third Olympics was not out of reach for the athlete remembered for laying down in Athens in 2004 in the final of the women's eight.

But he advised the Perth rower to change states, feeling she suffered from not training with and competing against enough top-line scullers in WA.

-AAP, Brisbane



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\*Conditions of entry - No food or unsealed drink bottles will be allowed into the venue. Barlow Park is a non-smoking venue