

Raiders rattle the Sabres

Basketball

THE KNOX Raiders kept their perfect season alive with a win over the Sandringham Sabres in their top-of-the-table clash last week.

The Raiders entered the contest with a 4-0 record, tied for top spot in the East, while the Sabres were the only undefeated team remaining in the South.

In a high-scoring opening quarter, the visiting Raiders hit their straps early on the offensive end, scoring 35 points, but the Sabres poured in 24 of their own.

Turnovers started to creep in to the game in the second quarter and the scoring rate slowed but the Raiders still managed to win the period 19 points to 14.

During the second half, coach Graham Longstaff inserted a number of his bench players and got good production from a part of his team that will need to continue to improve throughout the season for the team to contend for a championship.

The Raiders ultimately ran out winners 108-86 with seven players scoring in double figures for the Raiders in a solid team effort. Mick Hill top scored with 20 points, 5 rebounds and 3 assists. C. J. Massingale had 16 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists in limited minutes, while fellow import Lester Strong posted 13 points, 8 rebounds and 3 blocks.

With the win, the Raiders move to 5-0 for the season and share top spot on the East Conference ladder with last year's conference champions Bendigo, who are at 4-0. The Raiders will return to Knox Basketball Stadium for a clash with the Canberra Gunners on 30 April. Tip-off is at 7pm.



Sean Carroll was named as a guard on the bench of the men's 30 year anniversary team.

Player call goes out



SASSAFRAS-Ferny Creek's under-11 netballers, like Sidonie (pictured), are urgently calling for more players to join their club. To play, kids must be 11 years old or younger at the end of 2011.

Anyone interested in joining up should call Leonie Taylor on 9755 1490. 63530

Picture: Donna Oates

Having a (fair trade) ball

By Russell Bennett

FERNTREE GULLY-based fair trade company Etiko has launched a new brand of sports balls, Jinta Sport, to support programs helping young indigenous Australians.

Five per cent from each direct sale goes to the Mt Theo program, which helps disadvantaged young people improve their lives with the support of mentors and elders in central Australia's Warlpiri region.

Sports balls are often made in developing countries under poor working conditions but these fair trade balls guarantee that workers have good labour conditions, no child labour has been used, and money is put back into local communities.

A fair trade accredited manufacturer in Pakistan makes all the sports balls and buying them helps pay for preschool programs for kids, health care for families and micro-credit programs to help people in the community set up their own enterprises.

"We thought this would be a good way to not only help kids in developing countries, but help kids in Australia," Nick Savaidis from Etiko said.

Mr Savaidis worked in the Warlpiri region - north-west of Alice Springs - for four years. He said he wanted to give something back to the indigenous communities he worked in during the early '90s.

The name "Jinta" is a Warlpiri word meaning "one" and is used colloquially to mean winner.

The word is also used in the Warlpiri phrase "Jinta-kumarrarni", which means coming together as in a game of football or basketball.

The balls carry the Jinta Sport brand and the fair trade certifica-



Above: Warlpiri girl Sebastiana Nangali Watson with her new Jinta Sport soccer ball.

Below: Warlpiri's Sebastian Lingkili Jampijinpa Watson with his two daughters Sebastiana and Shimena.

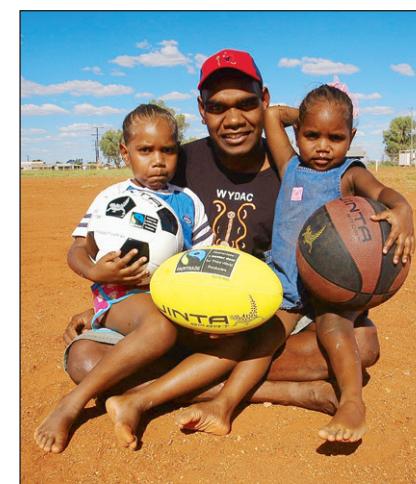
tion logo along with an icon of the thorny devil, a lizard found in central Australia.

There are four types of Jinta balls - soccer, Australian rules, basketball and netball - with more balls and other products on the drawing board.

The money raised from the sales of the balls will be used to help pay for sports programs for school-age Warlpiri children, including sports equipment, uniforms and a regular sports carnival.

Warlpiri local Lingkili Jampijinpa Watson said: "Jinta Sport is a good way to say no to child labour."

"When they make this equipment overseas, we don't want to see children having to work."



Precinct progress

By Russell Bennett

THE Eastern Recreation Precinct, which is set to give local soccer and basketball a huge boost, will soon be open for competition.

The \$65 million Wantirna South facility will be fully up and running by early 2012 but the first stage, a state-of-the-art soccer hub, will be finished by mid this year.

Knox City Council built the soccer facility in partnership with Football Federation Victoria (FFV) from both federal and state government funding.

FFV chief executive Mark Rendell said he was "thrilled" the soccer centre would be opening soon.

"The facilities will be a win for local players and their teams," he said. "This is a first-class facility, boasting superior synthetic surfaces and match-quality lighting."

The soccer precinct will include a full-sized pitch and nine five-a-side pitches as well as a central pavilion with change rooms, a first aid room, social area, office and cafe.

The full-sized pitch can also be divided into thirds and will be available for hire by local clubs.

Construction has also started on a six court indoor basketball stadium, to be known as the State Basketball Centre.

"It's a facility that, when complete, will serve local, regional and elite level players," said Knox mayor Sue McMillan. "It will be an exciting drawcard for Knox, helping to put our city on the map for basketball and netball enthusiasts."

The development will also include administration bases for Basketball Victoria and Knox Basketball.

Knox names its best team

Basketball

THE KNOX Raiders have unveiled anniversary all-star teams to coincide with their 30-year gala Club late last month.

All-star teams from the '80s, '90s, and 2000s were announced for both the men and women, as well as two sides from the past 30 years combined.

The gala attracted over 300 guests, with many making the trip from interstate to attend.

Former junior and senior Raiders player, and decorated NBL legend, Andrew Parkinson was the MC for the evening, which included a guest speech from another former Raider, David Stiff,

who is the high performance general manager at the Collingwood Football Club.

Knox Basketball life-member and 20-year juniors coach, John Michell, received a standing ovation as he walked on stage.

For a player or coach to make a 30-year anniversary team, they must have played or coached for the Raiders for a minimum of two seasons.

Selection was based on accomplishments as a member of the club. Five starters, five reserves and a coach were named to each team.



Above: Kellie Smith was named as a starting forward in the Raiders women's team of the '80s.