

Cricket young guns belt way to national Twenty20 title



Del Borello in full flight

THE grey clouds over WA cricket have lifted with Wanneroo District Cricket Club crowned National Twenty20 Club Champions.

Wanneroo won the inaugural Under-18 Twenty20 Cup in Canberra this week, the win coming less than one week after WA's School Sport team won the National Under-15 Championships.

The Roos triumphed in Wednesday's grand final, defeating Queensland's Sandgate-Redcliffe by 48 runs.

Skipper Anthony Del Borello, who represented WA at this season's National Under-19 Championships in Newcastle, was the tournament's stand-out performer with 326 runs, including 105 in the final.

Luke Symonds was another to star, scoring more than 200 runs with an unbeaten 106 in the final.

Wanneroo coach Geoff Coultas said the team exceeded his, and the club's, expectations.

"We deliberately focused on youth in our team – we had two under-16s, seven under-17s and just two under-18s throughout the competition as we viewed it as an outstanding development opportunity," Coultas said.

"The team was well-balanced, well-rounded, and they fully deserved their win. Being the first time this tournament has been held, it is especially exciting for the boys."

Coultas said his players were determined to replicate their success next year.

"And we stand a good chance of doing that given nine of the 12 players we took to Canberra will be in the system again," he said.

"Longer term, the boys do speak about representing Australia and the Indian Premier League, but they also realise that a lot of hard work has to happen before they ever reach those points."

WACA chief executive Graeme Wood paid tribute to Wanneroo's success.

"It is another boost to junior cricket in Western Australia, after our win in the National Under-15 Championships last week and finishing second in the Male under-17 and under-19 Champs," he said.

MATCH 1

Wanneroo 4-160 (Del Borello 76, Millar 52) v Shore School (NSW) 9-143

MATCH 2

Wanneroo 1-180 (Del Borello 113*, Millar 47*, Symonds 22) v Cricket ACT Under 18s 6-176

MATCH 3

Wanneroo 1-130 (Symonds 75, Del Borello 32) v CUSA Cats (SA) 8-126

GRAND FINAL

Wanneroo 3-245 (Symonds 106*, Del Borello 105) v Sandgate-Redcliffe 197 (Fowler 4-17)