

Champs triumph

NETBALL

Steve Menzies

THE OLSH netball team had its most successful event at the 2012 Australian Marist Netball Carnival in Burnie, Tasmania, last month.

The girls began preparing for the carnival three months before with 6am "before-school" training sessions and scratch matches against St Philip's year 12s and Federal A-grade.

Coach Lauren Maksimovic said: "This carnival is renowned for being of exceptionally high quality, with the OLSH girls playing against some of the strongest netballers in the country." "The girls played off for third place in division two in a field of nine other teams.

"Furthermore the OLSH team won the highly-coveted 'Marist Spirit Award' which is chosen by the carnival officials and umpires for the team showing the most sportsmanship qualities throughout the carnival.

"The OLSH girls have much to be proud of and were an absolute pleasure to coach and to take away to Tasmania."

Bowling bonanza

LAWN BOWLS

IT will be a big fortnight for lawn bowls in October.

Qualifying events to represent the NT in the Australian Open triples, pairs and singles will be held at the Memorial Bowling Club from October 3-5.

The event is to complement the Alice Springs Open Fours, from October 6-8, which will lead into the Masters Games from October 13.

It is expected there will be a prize pool of \$10,000 for the fours. The fours can be four men, four women or any combination.

Each team will play two games of 21 ends each day in sectional play before the finals.

Single entries are also welcome.

Season on the line

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IT is D-day for Lasseters Seasons and Neata Glass Giants A-grade teams as the McDonald's Alice Springs Netball Association resumes at the Pat Gallagher Netball Centre tomorrow.

For Seasons it will be a game to defend their right to play in the finals while it will determine whether Giants can still challenge for a place in the top four.

With six games remaining Seasons are in fourth place, four wins and a massive percentage ahead of Giants.

A couple of late-season recruits have given Giants hope that, with a settled side, they can play a role in September.

But Giants will be without Miss Reliable Amy Shaw for only the second time this season and unsung defender Melissa Parsons, while Kym Taylor-McInnes has left town to go to university.

Coach David Yeaman is hoping one of the new recruits will be able to fill the hole the absences have created in the team's defensive line.

A key factor in this game, to be played at 4.30pm, will be how the teams settle after the four-week break between games.

This six-game period leading into the finals will be like a mini-season for the players as they have to get back into the routine of playing every week.

Seasons, with a slightly older average player age, could be better suited to being a bit more steady early in the game, but a win by the revitalised Giants would not be a surprise.

"We are likely to be rotating the attack with Sandy (Warner) and me in the circle," coach Bec Ford said.

"Ari (Whakaruru) could play on the wing as we have been training to make all players more versatile."

Defenders Mai Segi and Ra Schwalger will be absent but Ford is confident they can be replaced with the return of Codi Ford, although out of the game for a fair while, and Raewyn Beale.

A week ago Jordann Hickey, Jess Ah Chee (Federal Trusty Glass), Jess Johannsen and Caitlin Andresen (West's Gilen Club) were teammates. To-



Giants' Amy Shaw will be missing for Giants in tomorrow's match

Picture: CHARLIE LOWSON

morrow they will be foes as the two teams clash from 3pm.

Another teammate, Joy Woods, will not be available as she will be in Darwin at the ANL training camp with Crystal Dixon.

But the depth of Federal is such that their absence will be covered with players like Tegan Hatzimihail and Jess Bonanni.

Dixon said that the side would be OK without her and Woods.

"I don't think that my being away will hurt Federal," Dixon said.

"It takes seven players to win a game and not an individ-

ual."

West's have been the only side to defeat Federal this season — a four-goal victory the previous time the sides met.

But this is ancient history and the only thing that will matter is how the players perform on the court tomorrow.

West's hopes lie largely in how well Jess Johannsen's teammates can move the ball into her hands.

Cutting this supply to help Pauline Hickey on the last line of defence will be high on Federal's game planning and, if Federal can do it, they will be

a long way to gaining victory. With the plethora of talented players Federal coach Deb Grey has to choose from, this should be achievable.

Only a complete loss of form by the Memo Rovers Scope players will enable Sundowners Gapview to get close in the game from 1.30pm.

Rovers have won the two clashes between the two sides by an average of 49 goals.

Sundowners are showing pluck in playing out the season and will need plenty of it to get through this game.

While Rovers may be rusty tomorrow, they will have to be untinged to lose this game.

Selection trials for Alice Springs teams for the NT Link Championships will be held on Sunday from 4pm to 6pm (15-and-under), Monday 5.30pm to 7.30pm (17-and-under) and Tuesday 6pm to 8pm (open and 19/21-and-under).

Nomination forms are available at the McDonald's Alice Springs Netball Association clubrooms at the Pat Gallagher Centre.

The championships will be played at the new Palmerston netball centre on September 21-23.

Dixon, Woods make Storm squad

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THERE are two Alice Springs players and one former Centralian junior in the 14-player Territory Storm for the 2012 Australian National League.

Federal Trusty Glass duo Crystal Dixon and Joy Woods, and former Alice Springs junior Jamie Collins, now in Darwin, are in the mix to play in the highest open competition available to Territory players.

And another Centralian, Ronelle Van Dongen, is an assistant coach.

Dixon, who played for North Otago in New Zealand almost 10 years ago and Mid-West in the WA state league in 2008 before returning to Alice Springs, said she was thrilled to have another chance at playing at a higher level.

"I wanted to give it another shot as I really enjoy playing tough competition," she said.

"Learning new skills from different coaches and players is always a good experience.

"I have always represented Alice



Federal's Crystal Dixon has been chosen in the Territory Storm ANL squad

Picture: JUSTIN BRIERTY

Spring and played for the NT 17-and-unders before going away.

"A am really looking forward to this

opportunity and have my fingers crossed that I will get into the travelling team."

Dixon has been training as a goal attack and wing attack and while she has mainly played in the circle, at either end, for Federal this season, she began the NT Link Championship final at centre for Alice Springs last year.

She is not worried about where she plays as all she is aiming to do is play.

Woods also represented Alice Springs in the open side last year and was an over-age invitee player in the NT 21-and-under side that played in the national championships in Perth last week.

Collins also played in that team and was captain of the NT 19-and-under side at the national titles for the past two years.

There are two Victorian imports in the team.

Coach Di Brown is pleased and impressed with the depth and calibre of the Territory talent.

"There is squad strength across the

court with a variety of combinations/ styles in the shooting end," she said.

"We have a speedy and agile mid court and dynamic mobile defenders.

"All athletes displayed strong technical and tactical skills, and all played with strong physical determination.

"This made it very difficult for selectors, to cut the final squad."

The Territory Storm squad is: Lauren Close (Victoria), Collins, Dixon, Megan Fitzpatrick (Victoria), she is returning to the team after playing in 2010 and 2011), Chrissy Greve (Darwin), Amelia Hills (former NT junior now in Victoria), Abbey Holmes (Darwin), Casey Jess (Darwin), Sue Nalder (Darwin), Lauren O'Shea (Darwin), Fiona Themann (Victoria), Tina Way (Darwin, played in the 2009 and 2010 teams), Peta Whelan (Darwin) and Woods.

The ANL season begins on Friday, August 3 with the grand final on Saturday, September 15.

Territory Storm's first game is in Adelaide on Saturday, August 11. There are four games, two featuring Territory Storm at Marrara Stadium in Darwin on Saturday, August 25 and Sunday, August 26.