Mottram to run Mile

AUSTRALIA’S fastest miler will be at the start line for the inaugural Mitchell Street Mile later this month.

Four-time Olympian Craig “Buster” Mottram will line up for the 1.6km sprint down Mitchell Street on Sunday, September 21.

“It’s not often you get to race down the main street of a capital city, so that should be exciting, especially with all the people out watching on a Sunday evening,” Mottram said.

“It’s my first time to Darwin since I raced in the Pacific School Games there in 1992. This race concept is great and I’m pleased to support it in the first year and hopefully it will become a feature on the Australian running calendar.”

Mottram will be tough to beat in the elite men’s category, even though the Frankston-born runner specialises in the longer 5000m journey. He won a bronze medal over the longer distance at the World Championships in Helsinki, Finland, in 2005 and followed up with a silver at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

But Mottram, 34, is recognised throughout Australia as one this country’s best middle distance runners. The Australian mile record holder has a personal best of 4min 48.86sec set in Oslo, Norway in 2005, and Mottram’s long strides will be hard to beat on the smooth bitumen of Mitchell Street.

“The Mitchell Street Mile is shaping up to be an iconic event on the Top End calendar and it is fantastic to have Australia’s fastest miler Cruz Mottram sign up to take on the challenge,” Sports Minister Matt Conlan said.

“It will be a great spectacle for locals and visitors to see if Mottram can beat his Australian record right here.”

The Mitchell Street Mile goes under the starter’s gun from 3pm on September 21, when seven race categories will be decided, including elite, masters, defence/services, all-enterprise, primary/secondary school children and a celebrity race. Early bird entries are $20 adults and $10 for primary or secondary students.

Four-time Olympian Craig “Buster” Mottram will line up for the 1.6km sprint down Mitchell Street on Sunday, September 21.

“I’ll listen to the experts (after scans),” said Clarke.

Hamstring ups ante in gamble on Pup health

AUSTRALIAN skipper Michael Clarke is in doubt for next month’s cricket tour against Pakistan after aggravating his hamstring injury, adding to concerns about his durability ahead of next year’s World Cup and Ashes.

Clarke is flying home from Harare for scans and assessment after suffering further damage when he starred with the bat in his injury-delayed return for Australia’s embarrassing ODI tri-series loss to Zimbabwe.

Coach Darren Lehmann admitted later the injury-prone skipper may have to be managed even more carefully in future.

Even if Clarke recovers in time for the one-dayers and Tests against Pakistan, to be played in the United Arab Emirates, his inability to shake what started as a left hamstring twinge 10 days ago is cause for concern.

Clarke is in doubt for next month’s cricket tour against Pakistan after aggravating his hamstring injury.

It illustrates the increased challenges the 33-year-old is facing just to stay on the park after a career battle with chronic back trouble. Clarke was determined to get back on the pitch but his enthusiasm backfired when he pulled up in pain during his unbeaten innings of 68 in the three-wicket upset defeat early yesterday morning (NT time).

Despite the problem, Lehmann indicated selectors had no thoughts of resting their leader and most valuable player through periods of cricket over the next 12 months, provided he’s fit.

“I’ll listen to the experts (after scans),” said Clarke.

Rebels thrive on hard work for ultimate success

By GREY MORRIS

TRACY Village player-coach Brooke Garton has described his club’s 22nd Darwin Baseball League flag as the culmination of a powerful work ethic and strong club culture.

The Rebels swept grand final rivals Pints 2-0 in the best-of-three series, including a 15-0 rout in game one and a dogged 5-2 win in game two.

The red and yellow shirts have dominated Darwin baseball in the same manner St Marys have taken over Australian Football.

Tracy Village’s 13 flags since 2000 mean the rest of the other clubs, both in how we train and the planning that goes into it. ”

“We also place a big emphasis on developing our young players and bringing them through the grades to the senior side. “And it’s something we’re quite happy to share with the other clubs, both in how we train and the planning that goes into it.”

Garton said baseball in Darwin was on the comeback trail after some years.

“We’re slowly coming back and it’s because of the calibre of players and numbers we’ve now got,” he said.

“Three years ago we only had two grades, but with the addition of a C-grade we’ve got more people playing the game and that can only be a plus.

“Baseball is a game where you know it will be over in a couple of hours and contain plenty of action for the players and fans.”

FOOTROT FLATS

AT least it’s familiar territory for Jason Day.

For his third big tournament in a row, Day is right in the mix as he chases victory — and the $10 million FedEx Cup bonus — on the US PGA Tour.

The 26-year-old Australian surrendered his share of the lead yesterday but he’s only two shots behind frontrunner Russell Henley going into the final round of the Deutsche Bank Championship today.

Henley shot six-under 65 at TPC Boston to take a one-shot lead.

But the greatest stumbling block for Day could be world No. 1 Rory McIlroy who had a 64 to tie with the Australian and Chris Kirk.

The 25-year-old McIlroy won the US Open in 2014 and is in peerless form, hoisting three wins in his last four starts.