



Tegan Hatzimihail will return to bolster the Federal Trusty Glass line up tomorrow.

Picture: CHARLIE LOWSON

Now is the Season to hand Federal a loss

Steve Menzies NETBALL

THERE will be no better chance for Seasons Lasseters to score their second win in the club's history against reigning KFC A Grade premier Federal Trusty Glass than tomorrow.

That previous success was a long time ago when the teams had vastly different line-ups than they will tomorrow. It is the opening game of an interesting round of the premier competition in the KFC Alice Springs Netball Association.

There could be another first to finish the day with new club Kiwi Warriors Uncles Tavern chasing the first win in their debut season against Neata Glass Giants in the 6pm game.

Federal will be without

coach Deb Gray and the juniors who have filled in so admirably to cover the absence of senior players through injury and other commitments in the first four rounds plus defender Tahlia Lee, while Susan Ames is still unavailable.

Captain Crystal Dixon, who fills an important utility role for the team, is trying to juggle other commitments so as not to leave the team too short.

Back into the side will be Katelyn Henwood and Tegan Hatzimihail.

"With so many players, including the juniors, unavailable we are lucky Federal is a strong club with plenty of depth," Henwood said.

"We will be calling up playing from the A Reserves or under-17s, who are both play-

"We are lucky Federal is a strong club with plenty of depth."

KATELYN HENWOOD

ing at 1.30pm so they might have to double up.

"Shayla (Reihana) might have to play another week in the defence circle instead of her preferred centre court.

"We will be out there giving it our best shot but it is only one game in the season and making the finals at the end of

the season is all that matters."

West's Gillen Club will come up against Rovers AMS at 4.30pm with the round ending with the Kiwi Warriors clash with Giants.

The recent tale of Giants' woes have just become worse this year to the extent that even the return of former captain Crystal Pollitt has not given the side the lift it needed with four of its 2016 best not lining up tomorrow.

This has left the team's performances in the hands of the club's talented juniors.

Kiwi Warriors have improved since round one and the inclusion of Manui Ford has given the team some real class to complement the skills of Renee Smith, Cheryl-Lee Ngatai and Sherkeira Abala.

They are getting support from other players who joined the club to get a chance to play in the A Grade competition.

Unfortunately for West's their task against the competition leader has been made more difficult with key players Lauren Wapling and Monique Chong away with the NT team at the national U17 titles.

Rovers will be looking to be at full strength with Ellen Schembri and Rhiannon Banner returning to the line-up.

Rovers defender Tracey Meeking showed her class in the side's previous match when she shut Seasons Mai Segi down two weeks ago and the young West's shooters will struggle to get the quality ball needed to score a winning tally against her.

Not too late to register for BDM

Steve Menzies RUNNING

IT is not too late to be in the running for some of the great prizes in the second Barrett Drive Mile to be held tomorrow.

Online registrations are up on 2016 but they are now closed. Intending participants can still enter in person at the Juicy Rump Deck with the Mile Team between 4:30pm and 6:30pm today and from 10am to noon tomorrow.

Event organising committee member Mel Much said this was when entrants can pick up their participant packs.

"We still want as many people to enter between now and Saturday as possible," she said.

"One of the new events being held in conjunction with the mile is a 200m dash for under-17s so mums and dads can bring their children down and have a run.

"There will also be free rides for youngsters available throughout the afternoon.

"It's also not too late to enter a team in the 'Novelty Mile'.

"Dress up and have some fun."

This run is ideal for businesses, friends, sports teams and the services (Police, NTES etc) to get competitive and register a team up to 10 people.

Last year saw nurses from the hospital racing in their scrubs and pushing a team member on a stretcher.

Paralympian Michael Roeger, who is the current world record holder for 1500m, is coming back and looking to win after finishing second in 2016.

He will be bringing his bronze medal from the 2016 Rio Games with him. On Friday Roeger will be visiting Alice Springs schools.

The Barrett Drive Mile events kick off at 3pm with a Cycling criterium

There is more than \$6000 in cash prize money up for grabs across all events — and hundreds of dollars worth of Sponsors Giveaways on the day as well.

Funds raised at the event will be supporting Alice Springs Drivers Volunteer Service For more details go to the Barrett Drive Mile web site www.asrwc.com.au/mile

Rugby players on show

RUGBY UNION

ALICE Springs' top rugby union players will get the chance to show their wares this weekend when a Red Centre team takes on Katherine in Darwin.

A side from Alice Springs has travelled to Darwin this week to challenge Katherine in a curtain-raiser for the annual Country of Origin match.

The side, coached by Junior

Po Ching, is headlined by John Cooper best and fairest award winners Dustin Briscoe and Schaylen Parai from Eagles.

Briscoe and Parai will be joined in the squad by seven Eagles teammates with nine selected in total.

The match will be held tomorrow afternoon as a curtain raiser to the Country of Origin match, which will see the Territory's best rugby players square off.



Junior Po Ching

Positives for NT despite two defeats

NETBALL

THE two NT teams had some positives despite being soundly defeated in the first round of the 17-and-under and 19-and under national titles in Canberra on Wednesday.

Although the 17s lost 19-49 to Victoria, they fought out the game to the end and were only outscored by a goal in the final term.

Getting the ball into the net

was again a problem with NT only converting 68 per cent of their shots while Victoria nailed nine of every 10 shots.

All 12 NT players got on court with Courtney Summers the best of the shooters scoring seven of her nine shots, at 78 per cent after coming on at half time.

While the U/17s lost to Victoria, the 19s lost 20-38 to South Australia with their problem getting a shot as they

only had 24 for an 84 per cent strike rate.

After a slow start when they scored four goals to 12 their best term was the third when they were only outscored by two.

Centralians Ruby Farthing and Amy Farthing played a half and a quarter respectively in the loss to South Australia.

The tournaments will continue over the weekend and will finish on Monday.