

HANDBALL

Size no barrier in the state team

IT BECAME a family affair for the Weber family as brothers Kurtis and Jordan represented NSW at the Australian handball championships in ACT recently.

Kurtis, 13, and Jordan, 10, of Oatley, were both part of the same state side which finished third out of three teams at the national championships.

NSW played six games across three days, with ACT winning. Queensland was second. Jordan became the youngest player to represent the state and could potentially play in the same side for the next four years.

"I just went to watch my brother try out and train with the team," Jordan said. "The coach then asked me to try out, and



GENNext

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after four weeks of trials I was in. I couldn't believe it."

Jordan was so excited by his NSW selection that he paraded his state jersey around during multi-clothes day at his school, Oatley Public.

At the championships he became the youngest player to score for NSW, and possibly the youngest in Australia.

"It was a good feeling," Jordan said. "I never thought it was possible, being so little and on the wing."

Jordan said he looked up to his older brother who managed a few goals for NSW. Kurtis first played the sport at Inaburra High where he is a year 8 student.

"The toughest team we played was Queensland," Kurtis said.

"They breed them big up there." The pair were joined by cousin Jarrod Moon in the state team.

"It was good for my grandparents who usually spend all weekend running around watching us play soccer on three different fields," Kurtis said.

"They got to watch all three of us at once."



Handy: Brothers and state handball players Kurtis (left) and Jordan Weber.

Picture: Jane Dyson

Details: NSW Handball Association is holding a come-and try-day from 3pm this Saturday at Ryde Community and Sports Centre, Kent Road. There will be another day on December 10. Contact: nshandball.com.au.

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HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

- Seven players a side
- The court is the size of two basketball courts
- To gain points the handball must be thrown into a goal net similar to that of a football goal
- The defending side can prevent the offensive side from scoring by blocking the path of the player with possession
- Players can take three steps and hold the ball for three seconds
- Dribbling is allowed, however the ball must be patted with the palm, similar to basketball, therefore passing is usually quicker.

Taken from europeanhandball.com.au.

SAILING

Port Hacking crews on top

PORT Hacking Sailing Club members sit on top of the state's junior championships after the first race last month.

Hosted by Middle Harbour 16ft Skiff Club, sailors aged 7 to 13 competed at Middle Harbour in Sydney's north.

Port Hacking Sailing Club's Cody Linnegar skippered boat 2781 *Goose*, while Kash Powell was crewing with the boat at the top of the leader board.

The championships are open to skippers and crew with more than one year's sailing experience who compete in the main fleet.

People in their first year compete in the novice fleet and their results are handicapped.

Round two of the competition will be at Avalon Sailing Club this weekend.

Sail ahoy: The victorious boat from Port Hacking Sailing Club.



AUSSIE RULES

Bronze-level accreditation to Rams

RAMSGATE Rams Junior Australian Football Club (JAFC) has become the first junior club in the region to be given a bronze-level accreditation as part of the AFL quality club program.

The program helps community football clubs improve their administrative operations and overall club environment.

It does this by providing the opportunity for all clubs throughout NSW and the ACT to measure their club operations and administration with a ranking system.

The bronze level is the first level of the program. Ramsgate JAFC president Andrew Kilpatrick said the club was striving for excellence off the field: "We are extremely proud to receive this accreditation," Kilpatrick said.

"It is an acknowledgement of the enormous amount of hard work done by our committee and parents.

"This club only has one focus and that is to provide an environment that gives kids a fun and safe place to play football while

allowing families the opportunity to make friendships that can last a lifetime."

AFL community football manager Andrew Knott said that strengthening clubs at the grass roots level was an important objective of the AFL.

"The Ramsgate Rams have been working very hard with their off-field governance and administration processes," Knott said.

"They have an active committee working to provide the best possible environment for players and members alike."

SHORT Burst

CRICKET

TWO St George-Sutherland Slayers have been selected in the NSW under-18 team for the upcoming Australian Championships. Nicola Carey and Mary Molloy will compete in the tournament in Victoria on January 18-24. The girls will play Twenty20 and 50 overs matches. Carey has represented the state in youth teams since the under 15s. St George Cricket Club's Hamish Solomons will coach the side.

GYMNASTICS

A TRIO of Sutherland Shire's Acrogym gymnasts were named Australian international acrobats of the year. Madelyn Bennett, 16, Rachel Cook, 15, and Katrina Kissock, 14, were given the award in Victoria recently. The award was in recognition of their eighth place at the World Acrobatics Age Games in Wroclaw, Poland. The girls were the first team to make the finals from Australia in the 11-16 age group. Last year they were also Australian Champions in their division.

CYCLING

BRIE Dutton, 16, won the under-19 junior women's individual pursuit at the NSW Championships at Dunc Gray Velodrome on November 13. Dutton, of Mortdale, beat her opponent in the final by more than two seconds. She was also part of the winning elite women state sprint team, second in the state junior women's under-19s scratch race and third in the NSW point score championships.

GYMNASTICS

LAUREN Heneghan, 16, represented Inaburra School and the Christian Schools Sporting Association at the recent Combined Independent Schools gymnastics competition. Heneghan, of Alford's Point, finished first on floor and beam, equal first on vault and second on bars.