

JUNIOR SPORTS STAR



Monique Rae broke six records, including two state ones, recently.

Picture: DANNY AARONS

Monique's six of the best

MONIQUE Rae has broken six records, represented Australia and trained at the Australian Institute of Sport. And that's only in the past week.

Monique, 13, dreams of green and gold and her father Neil Rae couldn't be prouder.

"We're supporting her on a journey and we're very proud about that. Winning

SWIMMER DREAMS OF GREEN AND GOLD

awards, including those for the Trans-Tasman squad and becoming National Age Champion in Brisbane are my proudest moments," he said.

Monique, this week's Rebel Sport Junior Sports Star nominee, broke the NSW records in the 800m

freestyle and 200m backstroke at the NSW Metropolitan Championships at Sydney Olympic Park this month. She started swimming at age six and hasn't stopped paddling since.

"I love everything about swimming. It's so much fun to be in the water," she said.

"I'm pretty competitive too, when I've put in all the hard work I expect to see results."

Monique, from Leichhardt, trains an average of 16 hours per week and hopes to follow the footsteps of her Olympic hero Libby Trickett.

"I got to speak to Libby for about half an hour and in that time she told me to have fun and always try your best," she said. "I've followed her advice and hope to do well in my coming meets."

*written by intern
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FOOTBALL



Murrumbidgee under-10s.

Kanga kids bounce back with trophy

TEAMS from Balmain District Football Club and Murrumbidgee Red Devils returned from an international youth tournament in Canberra with titles. The Balmain DFC under-14 boys team won the Kanga Cup final 2-1 at McKellar Stadium against the Imran Soccer Academy from Indonesia.

The Murrumbidgee under-10 boys team went through the tournament undefeated and won the final 5-0 against Monaro Panthers.

The Balmain DFC under-14s captain Joseph Birds said: "Playing in the Kanga Cup was a fantastic experience. It was exciting to play teams from overseas in the final."

The Kanga Cup included more than 200 teams from countries including Chile, Indonesia, Korea, New Zealand and the Philippines.



Balmain under-14s

FOOTBALL



Brian Dene

Dene to remain at college as director

Oliver Murray

BRIAN Dene will continue as the director of football at Stanmore's Newington College despite being promoted to head coach of Sydney FC's youth team.

Dene was assistant to Ian Crook for the Sky Blues national youth team last season, but will be head

coach after Crook took over the reins of Sydney FC's first team.

Dene, who has coached in the NSW Premier League, said it was important to remain in his role at Newington College.

"Being in a school environment allows me to understand more easily what these young athletes

go through and give up, and how they manage that," he said. "Also my work at Newington is during terms two and three, while with Sydney FC it's terms one and four."

Dene wants to help develop more players for the Sydney FC first team, with youth team members Joel Chianese, Daniel Petkovski,

Mitch Mallia and Blake Powell now in the top squad.

"I like working youth development, because I like seeing the players progress in their lives," Dene said.

"Not only their football education, but also their academic education. It's important to make sure

they have a good education as well."

Dene was also looking forward to working with Crook.

"I know the system he wants to play and the youth team will play the same system," he said.

"It will be an easier transition going from the youth team to the first team."