

# COLLEGE SPORT



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## European success for Stoupe

TENNIS  
 EMMA TAYLOR

HUTT INTERNATIONAL student George Stoupe has had a tournament win in Europe.

Stoupe, 14, and his Auckland partner, Chris Zhang, won the 14 years double title at the Storks Cup tournament at Meppel, in the Netherlands last weekend.

Stoupe and Zhang, who were unseeded, beat the top seeds, from the Netherlands – 6-3, 6-7, 10-7 – in the final.

The New Zealand pair are competing in another tournament this week, at Velp, with Stoupe winning his first round singles match.

He also reached the second round of the singles at Meppel and at his first European tournament, in Amsterdam.

He is among a squad of junior players who are spending two months in Europe as part of Tennis New Zealand's targeted athletes development programme.

The squad, who are accompanied by tennis New Zealand coaches Marcel Vos and Lan Bale, will compete in five tournaments, in the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany.

It represents a wonderful opportunity for Stoupe, who has been playing tennis for nine years and won the New Zealand under-14 doubles title, with schoolmate William Brownlie, in January.

Stoupe had been excited about competing in Europe but nervous about the level of competition and "playing on a surface [clay], where I haven't played on a lot before".

He has already won more than 20 singles and doubles titles and travelled to Australia, Thailand and now Europe to represent New Zealand.

His coach, Marc Paulik, said "Stoupe's excellent concentration and work ethic makes him a good prospect."

"George is playing competitive tennis week in, week out," Paulik said.

"He is training six days a week, all while attending school and keeping up with homework."

Paulik said Stoupe's improvement over the past year was illustrated when he played Australia's No 2, Tristan Schoolkate, at a World Cup qualifier in Asia earlier this year.

"He played the same guy a year ago and George was off the pace."

This year Stoupe lost, but in three close sets with a match point.

"Getting these kids through the 14 to 17-year-old period is important, as this is where they start getting exposed to a few different things with their schoolmates," Paulik said.

"If we can get him [Stoupe] through to 17 and he is still loving playing and improving all the time, then he will do something big, whether that is on the pro tour or a good US college career."



Talented young tennis player George Stoupe notched another milestone at the weekend.  
 Photo: FAIRFAX NZ

## Twins make impact at Hurricanes U-18 level

RUGBY

PETER and Thomas Umaga-Jensen were twin threats in midfield for the Hurricanes under-18 team this week.

Thomas was at second five-eighth and his twin at centre as the gifted Scots College pair helped the Hurricanes squad thump their Crusaders counterparts in Blenheim on Monday.

After it had been 17-17 at halftime, the Hurricanes dominated the second half to win 61-17 and finish with eight tries.

"It was very encouraging," Hurricanes under-18 coach Darren Larsen said. "These players represent the future for the Hurricanes."

Larsen expects a number of the 23 players in the Hurricanes squad, which included nine from Wellington schools, to be in contention for the New Zealand secondary schools and Barbarians sides.

"Very much so. And we will be nominating more than just those 23 players, so a lot of other players can be looked at as well."

Peter Umaga-Jensen added to what is likely to be a memorable season when named captain of the Hurricanes team.

"He led the side superbly, on and off the field," Larsen said.

Umaga-Jensen usually plays at fullback for Scots but fitted in well at centre for the Hurricanes team. "From a talent ID perspective, he has all the attributes to make a

### THE LINEUP

The Hurricanes under-18 squad was:

**Wellington:** Asafo Aumua (Silverstream), Josh Brown (Silverstream), Alex Fidow (Scots), Losi Filipo (Silverstream), Kemara Hauti-Parapara (Wellington College), Henry Mexted (Scots), Ben Power (HIBS), Thomas Umaga-Jensen (Scots).

**Hawkes Bay:** Tiaan Falcon, Tim Farrell, Marino Mikaele-Tuu, Al Moimosea, Pouri Rakete-Stones.

**Manawatu:** Sione Asi, Braydon Iose, Vilimoni Korori, Jona Nareki, Thomas Stewart.

**Poverty Bay:** Angus McDonald, Naera Tipoki, Isaia Walker-Leawere.

**Whanganui:** Stephen Perofeta.

very good centre. He's a big, strong lad and has real vision. He sees things down the field and that's very exciting for his future. He's very agile and good defensively."

Thomas Umaga-Jensen is now an established second five-eighth, after playing as a loose forward early last season.

"Ball-carrying is one of Thomas' obvious strengths," Larsen said. "He's very strong at the line and is good at off-loading and keeping the ball alive. He is a dominant tackler and has the range of skills needed to be a good second five-



Scots College captain Peter Umaga-Jensen was also selected to lead the Hurricanes under-18 team.  
 Photo: FAIRFAX NZ

eighth in the modern game." Scots head boy Henry Mexted demonstrated his progress on the rugby field this year by taking one of the starting places at lock on Monday.

"He kept working hard [at the camp]," Larsen said. "We had a Rolls-Royce backline and needed ball winners in the forwards and Henry did that at the lineout."

"He has good speed off the

ground and a good jump and catches the ball well."

Wellington players Alex Fidow, Losi Filipo, Ben Power were also in the starting XV, with Asafo Aumua, Kemara Hauti-Parapara and Josh Brown coming off the bench.

However, in the case of hookers Power and Aumua, the roles were soon reversed, as Power suffered a broken nose after four minutes

and was replaced by Aumua, who played the remainder of the game.

Power, who was also a member of the Hurricanes squad last year, has always been regarded as a hooker in waiting but, out of necessity, plays at No 8 for Hutt International.

"It's always hard for Ben, because he plays at loose forward for his college," Larsen said. "But we think hooker is the best fit for

him. He worked really hard at the camp and his throwing [into the lineout] was great.

"He's effective with the ball but is also a hard worker and puts his head in all the dark places. He's a very good rugby player."

Aumua, a key member of the St Pat's Silverstream pack, took advantage of his opportunity. "He made a huge impact on the game," Larsen said. "He's got good aggression, but controlled aggression and was dominant with the ball and in the tackle."

Fidow made the national secondary schools side last year and the free-running Scots prop made his usual impact at the camp and on match day.

"He was dominant, as always, and came into his own in the second-half, running through the line and off-loading."

"He's a big man and has attributes you don't usually see in a tighthead prop, though he played at loosehead this week."

"He loves to get excited and to play the game. He's a very good character, in and around the team environment, and is making huge improvements all the time."

Filipo, a NZ Barbarian last year, played on the wing and got limited opportunities in the first half but was able to showcase his skills once the Hurricanes retained more possession.

"We like to see him on the inside channels," Larsen said. "He's got good pace and the ability to beat a man. He can genuinely get through a parapara."

Hauti-Parapara, the Wellington College skipper, took over from Feilding High halfback Thomas Stewart at halftime.

"He [Hauti-Parapara] made a really good contribution to the game. His running game and passing were good and he helped get the best out of the boys."

"He was also able to accept his role coming off the bench. Few of these players would be used to starting on the bench or even being replaced during a game."

Brown's selection in the Hurricanes squad was evidence of the progress he has made with Silverstream this year. He started the second half at No 6, before moving to No 8.

"He a good ball carrier and able to punch through the line and good at the cleanout."

## Judo pair look to Japan for shot at Olympics

JUDO

LIAM HYSLOP

TRAINING at the home of Judo is on the wishlist of two of Wellington's brightest martial arts talents.

Wellington High School's Qona Christie and Onslow College's Alex Rivett spent the first week of the school holidays training at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) with the New Zealand youth development squad, but both have Japan as a long-term ambition.

Christie said the AIS training had taught her a lot.

"We had a French head coach teaching us new skills and I really benefited from it. We were working on our posture, grips and some advanced judo techniques."

Rivett said the three sessions a day were demanding and a step up from their normal workload.

"We had a one-hour strength and conditioning session in the



Wellington's top age-group judokas, Qona Christie, top, and Alex Rivett, have been training at the Australian Institute of Sport. Photo: KEVIN STENT/FAIRFAX NZ

morning, before two two-hour mat sessions in the afternoon and evening.

"The second session in the

evening was high-intensity training and usually saw us have multiple fights against different people."

"It was a great experience as I fought a lot Aussies who have different fighting styles and techniques."

Rivett, 16, has had a strong first half of the year, winning a bronze in the under-73kg division at the Oceania Championship.

He took up judo when he was five because his mother was doing it and he was bored of just sitting there and watching her train.

Rivett was eyeing a trip to Japan as a way of progressing to his ultimate goal, the Olympics.

"My long-term goal is to represent New Zealand at the Olympics in 2024, as well as the Commonwealth Games in 2026."

"Later next year I am looking at training in Japan and competing in other international compe-

titions outside of NZ and Australia."

"That will give me good experience and help me to get a sense of what big competitions are like and what I need to improve so I can reach my goal."

Christie has also made a great start to the year, winning gold in the under-52-kilogram cadet division at the Oceania Judo Championship, before winning again at the Auckland International Judo Championships on June 21 and claiming silver in the under-57kg division.

"Those have been my two biggest competitions this year so I am stoked with my results," she said. "My main goal was to medal at Oceania which I achieved. My other goal in general is to medal at any international competition. I have the New South Wales Open coming up, so I hope to reach that goal there."

Like Rivett, she also wanted to compete on the biggest stage.

"I would like to make it to the Olympics with judo."

"Unfortunately the Commonwealth Games in 2018 doesn't have judo, so the goal would be Tokyo 2020."

"Before that I would like I go on my first trip to Japan and train over there."

The 16-year-old started judo when she was seven, after a friend's blackbelt grandmother encouraged her, and hasn't looked back.

Her idol is former judo champion and current Ultimate Fighting Championship women's bantamweight champion Ronda Rousey.

"She's simply the best. I would love to be like her in terms of her skill. She took bronze at the Olympics and is now dominating MMA [Mixed Martial Arts]."

## Only one loss but little reward for Porirua

BASKETBALL

ONE below par game proved costly for the Porirua under-17 girls basketball team at the national tournament in Auckland.

The Porirua side won five of their six games by big margins but failed to make the semifinals.

The team stumbled in the quarterfinals, with a one point loss to Taranaki. That had followed a 36 point win over eventual finalists Canterbury Metro, before Porirua finished the tournament with a 53 point victory over seventh-placed Rotorua and a 22 point winning

margin against Auckland Counties in the playoff for fifth and sixth.

Ironically, Porirua coach Nixon Penese felt both Canterbury and Auckland were stronger teams than Taranaki.

"But credit to Taranaki, they came to play and we didn't get the result we wanted. We had one of our starting players fouled out and I think we felt the pressure of playing a quarterfinal."

Sariah Penese, who scored 23 points against Taranaki, was Porirua's leading scorer over the tournament, and was rewarded

with selection in the tournament team, for the second year.

Penese (St Mary's), Terrelle Onesemo (St Mary's), Grace Vaofusi (Hutt Valley) and Parerima Wiki-Cummings (Tawa) had returned from the Porirua team that finished second at the 2014 tournament.

It was the final year at under-17 level for that group but half of the 2015 squad will also be eligible for the 2016 tournament. The bulk of the Porirua squad attend either St Mary's or Hutt Valley.

It is a busy period for some of the leading school basketballers and

Penese, Vaofusi and Wiki-Cummings are heading to Las Vegas on Sunday with a New Zealand Basketball Academy team.

Porirua was the only girls team from the Wellington region at the under-17 tournament but Porirua (13th), Hutt Valley (15th) and Wellington (18th) were among the 20 teams in the boys division.

Taane Samuel (Scots) scored 121 points for Wellington while Rangimarie Mita (Silverstream) recorded 117 for Hutt Valley and Dom Kafatolu (Silverstream) topped 100 points for Porirua.

The college basketball compe-

tion in Wellington resumes on July 24.

Wellington Girls' remain the team to beat in the senior girls' competition but are among three teams who completed the first half of the season with a five win, one loss record from their six games.

St Mary's and Newlands are also on 10 points, with Hutt Valley well placed to be the other team in the top four. A young St Mary's team, that has eight year 10 players and none above year 11, caused the shock of the season when beating Wellington Girls' by a single goal last month.

### BRIEFS

#### INDOOR BOWLS CSW champs

Finbar McGuigan (Aotea) reversed the result of the outdoor championships when beating schoolmate Seamus Curtin in the singles final at the College Sport Wellington indoor bowls championships. McGuigan, the runner-up in 2014, took the title when beating Curtin 9-8 in the final. Bradley Down (Onslow) and Jack Stewart (Aotea) were the other semifinalists. Reece Edgecombe and Dominic Kelekolio (Newlands) had a 12-4 win over Tyler Hogg and Liam Martin (Onslow) in the pairs final.

#### SQUASH Another title

Scott Galloway (Hutt Valley) registered a fourth South Island title at the weekend. The year 13 student, who had taken the under-11, under-13 and under-15 titles earlier in his career, won the boys under-19 title at Blenheim. Galloway, the top seed, did not drop a game at the tournament, but had to work for the title before beating second seed Jayden Millard, from Christchurch, 11-9, 11-9, 15-13 in the final. Galloway's sister, Charlotte, completed a family double when beating Canterbury rival Sophie Whittall 15-5, 15-7, 15-12 in the under-15 girls final.

#### HOCKEY Age group

The Capital under-18 teams both finished sixth, in an eight-team competition, at the national regional tournament last week. The Wellington boys team were runner-up to Auckland in a 17-team competition at the association tournament, with the Wellington girls finishing fifth. Hunter Stent (Wellington College) and Craig Turner (Onslow) topped the goalscorers at the boys tournament.

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