

# COLLEGE SPORT



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## Mudzekenyedzi's long journey to Canes U18 camp

RUGBY

THERE'S a poster of Cory Jane at Heretaunga College which a young Zimbabwe-born man walks past and thinks "I want to be on there". That man is Brandon Mudzekenyedzi who last Thursday was named as one of 57 high school rugby players to attend a Hurricanes under-18 camp. The 18-year-old attends the same Upper Hutt school that Jane went to, but has had more success than the All Black did in his early rugby career. Jane was never picked, or even nominated, for the Wellington team when he was at Heretaunga, but Mudzekenyedzi, who plays in the midfield, has already starred for the Hurricanes under-16s in 2013 and should have made the under-18s last year.



Heretaunga College centre Brandon Mudzekenyedzi has made the Hurricanes under-18 training camp. Photo: ROSS GIBLIN/FAIRFAX NZ

### IN CAMP

**Wellington players named in the Hurricanes under-18 camp:** Alex Fidow, Thomas Umaga-Jensen, Peter Umaga-Jensen, Henry Mexted, Jarimar Schuster (Scots), Billy Proctor, Sefo Numia, Kevin Fauatea (St Pat's Town), Asafo Aumua, Losi Filipo, Josh Brown (St Pat's Silverstream), Kemara Hauiti-Parapara, Jimmy Hewitt (Wellington College), Brandon Mudzekenyedzi (Heretaunga), Fologa Vaalepu-Austin (Bishop Viard), Ben Power (HIBS).

ing to be like him but I've got a long way to go."

Another inspiration for him is Jane, who showed him that you can succeed no matter what school you go to if you're willing to put in the hard yards.

"Every day I walk past the poster of him at our school and think 'I want to be on that poster'."

"It's crazy to think that if you want it bad enough it can happen."

However, rugby isn't his only passion. In 2013, he won the Wellington secondary school culinary competition, before going on to represent Wellington in the national final. "You need something to fall back on other than rugby and I want to be a chef. You

can't just do one thing, I like the cooking because you can make people smile with food."

But at the moment rugby is the only thing on Mudzekenyedzi's plate as he prepares for the camp in Feilding in July.

He'll be up against the most talented rugby players from 21 schools across the lower North Island. The list includes five players from Scots College, three each from St Pat's Town and Silverstream, two from Wellington College and one each from HIBS and Bishop Viard.

There was little surprise that Scots had the highest representation of any of the Wellington schools. They continued their undefeated run in premier one rugby over the weekend with a comfortable 34-3 win over Wellington College.

In other results, two tries to St Pat's Town's Hurricanes camp-bound Kevin Fauatea saw them cruise past Wairarapa College 50-12.

Tarquinn Alatipi continued his impressive form for St Pat's with a hat-trick in their 25-3 win over Upper Hutt rivals HIBS. The 17-year-old might consider himself unlucky not to make the Hurricanes camp after scoring nine tries in his last five games.

Rongotai College had a closer than expected game against Tawa, eventually prevailing 17-13.



## Horan chasing Olympic dream

Hamish Horan is taking aim at the Olympics after just a year of competitive archery.

Photo: MAARTEN HOLL/FAIRFAX NZ

ARCHERY

IN LITTLE more than a year of competitive archery Hamish Horan has won all the Wellington age-group titles on offer.

The 15-year-old Hutt Valley High School pupil fired his first competitive shot this time last year, but since has won the Wellington junior titles in target, club, indoor and field.

"I've done pretty well so far in my age group, that's what lots of people are saying to me," he said.

Learning to shoot in windy Wellington gave him an edge over

his rivals from other regions, Horan said.

"The wind can blow you off sometimes, it's usually trying to find the right time to take the shot."

"There will be gusts of wind but you'll be able to find the perfect timing. It's good with the wind here because you travel to other competitions and the wind is completely still, which is so much nicer."

The only reason he took up the sport two years ago was because a friend was doing it.

"I was at a friend's house and he was going to an archery course

and I tagged along. I liked it and got signed up and everything started from then. [My friend] dropped off, he could've been good but I've stuck to it and obviously done quite well."

He trains at the Randwick Archery Club and looks up to Bernie Fraser, who still shoots even though he is in his 80s.

"In archery, if he [Fraser] doesn't know it then it's not worth knowing," Horan said.

While he has a top five at next year's nationals in his sights, the long-term goal is to make it to the biggest stage of all.

"Later on in life I'd love to go to the Olympics, that would be amazing and a very good goal."

"I feel like I can achieve it, I'll have to work pretty hard but I've seen some kid my age being chosen to go the youth Olympics for New Zealand."

"So I thought if he can do it then I can do it."

Archery doesn't come cheap however, with Horan's bow, all its attachments and arrows costing more than \$1500. But Horan said it's a sport that kids should be encouraged to compete in, as it's unique and highly enjoyable.



Phoebe McKnight won the year nine event at the New Zealand secondary schools cross-country championships in Dunedin on Saturday. She is pictured here in May. Photo: COLIN WILLIAMS/FAIRFAX NZ

## 3000m duel comes down to mad dash

ATHLETICS

AFTER a gruelling 3000 metres it came down to one last sprint before Phoebe McKnight knew she would win a national title.

The Hutt Valley High School year nine duelled it out with Cashmere High School's Liliana Braun for the entire course at Gladfield Golf Course in Dunedin, before prevailing to win the year nine division of the national secondary schools cross-country championship.

"It was really close, I only won by three seconds in the end," the 13-year-old said.

"We kept on changing [the lead] until the end, and then it was a sprint-off and I just got her."

It was a bitterly cold day in Dunedin on Saturday, but

McKnight said the underfoot conditions were the hardest part of the run.

"The course was really muddy but we went first so it wasn't too bad for us."

McKnight is also a handy swimmer, claiming a bronze in the 200m butterfly in the 12-13 age group at the national championships in May.

But she rates as her best sport.

"I like running because it's different and you can go to lots of different places and see lots of different things, not just the same swimming pools."

Kelsey Forman, from Wellington East Girls' College, had to settle for second in the senior girls' division, seven seconds adrift of St Kentigern College's Is-

abella Richards. Forman and her East schoolmate Phoebe Edwards will fly out of Auckland tomorrow with the New Zealand team for the world youth athletics championships in Colombia.

Another of her East teammates, Tessa Hunt, was third in the junior girls' event, 42 seconds away from runaway winner Hannah O'Connor.

Wellington College also tasted success in Dunedin, with their junior boys' team winning both the three and six to count team competition from Hamilton Boys' High School.

Matt Sutcliffe led the way in finishing eighth with Dylan Lynch 11th and Patrick White 17th.

The six to count team comprised Ricky Kiddle, Max Wickens and Dylan Reid.

## Biddiscombe wins world taekwondo gold

MARTIAL ARTS

ROSE BIDDISCOMBE is on top of the world after becoming the first Kiwi female to win an individual taekwondo sparring world title.

The 17-year-old Kapiti College pupil won two golds, a silver and a bronze at the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF) world championships in Italy last month.

Her first win came in the under-18 under-65kg sparring competition, before helping a six-person team beat Argentina for gold in the team sparring competition.

Her other medals came in the speciality division, which sees competitors perform jumping kicks at a high target, with the highest kick the winner.

Biddiscombe said she had to win five spars to take the title and beat opponents from Canada, Norway, England and Ireland.

The competition saw four judges marking who they thought had won the spar, with Biddiscombe winning every spar, bar the final, 4-0.

"I won the final 3-1 and it was

amazing to stand on the podium wearing the flag," she said.

There are two main styles of taekwondo in the world: ITF and WTF (World Taekwon-do Federation). ITF is the dominant style in New Zealand but WTF is the style at the Olympics.

"They have different techniques you use and different skills," Biddiscombe said.

"WTF is the one you see in the Olympics, so I can't actually go there which is quite unfortunate."

It was Biddiscombe's second time at the world championships after winning two silver medals in 2013.

Her mum travelled with her to Italy, while her dad and friends were left with a few sleepless nights in front of the computer.

"They had live streaming on their website, so dad and a few of my friends stayed up quite late in the morning to watch me spar, so it was really cool for them to watch."

"My first fight was at 11am in Italy and the final was at 4pm, so they were up until three in the morning here."

New Zealand team manager Jenny Church said Biddiscombe was the first New Zealand female to win a world sparring title, and her success was due to her attitude and work ethic.

"She is a very determined young woman and gives 100 per cent to all her training and competition."

"She has two superb coaches in Estelle Speirs and Kane Baigent who have trained, nurtured and mentored her for the best couple of years."

Biddiscombe's performance saw her finish runner-up for the overall best junior female title at the event, behind Kiwi team-mate Frances Lloyd who competed in more events.

She was already eyeing more gold in two years time.

"I'll be senior in the next world's so obviously getting a medal in the senior division will be a lot harder, so that will be a goal and would be amazing."

Paraparaumu College pupil Calum Woodill also performed well at the championships, securing medals in team speciality and team power.



Kapiti College pupil Rose Biddiscombe won four medals at the 2015 taekwondo world championships, including gold in the individual and team sparring. Photo: RANDALL WALKER/FAIRFAX NZ

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