



Baseball boys a hit in America

Three local baseball players have been hitting home runs overseas.

Hayden Timberlake has hardly been home since he signed to play professional baseball with American Major League franchise the Houston Astros in June.

No sooner had the Albany Creek local inked a deal with the Astros, he took part in the Baseball Australia Academy on the Gold Coast.

Over six weeks, 77 top young baseball players completed a 48-game schedule to prepare them for the rigours of playing professional and collegiate baseball.

At the completion of the camp Timberlake, who plays as a catcher for Pine Hills Lightning, was named in the Australian under-18 team that competed in the Baseball World Cup in Taiwan last month.

Another Baseball Australia Academy attendee, Closeburn's Sam Beattie, is also

Albany Creek's Ryan Battaglia in action for the Mahoning Valley Scrappers in the USA. Photo by Jesse Picuch.

furthering his baseball career abroad.

The Pine Hills pitcher will undertake a four-year degree at the University of Oklahoma, where he will play for the Oklahoma Sooners.

Beattie and Timberlake, Queensland Rams junior representative players, are following in the footsteps of another US-based, ex-Pine Hills star.

Albany Creek local Ryan Battaglia has been playing baseball in America for the past five years, as part of the Cleveland Indians organisation.

He started 2013 by playing for Cleveland's Class-A Advanced team, the Carolina Mudcats, before being drafted to play for another Indians' affiliate team, the Mahoning Valley Scrappers.

Battaglia celebrated his 21st birthday by scoring a run as the Scrappers beat Williamsport Crosscutters 6-2 in June.

Battaglia, who plays as a catcher, is a former Australian under-19 representative and the youngest man to play for Brisbane Bandits in the Australian Baseball League.



Karl Withers racing at the mountain bike orienteering world titles. Photo by Ian Dalton

Karl mapping out success in Europe

The Samford region has a proud tradition of athletes representing Australia in orienteering, with several members of the Neumann family donning the green and gold.

Now another youngster from the district is competing internationally in a different version of the sport.

Karl Withers represented Australia at the World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships in Estonia last month.

He finished 24th in the sprint race, 34th in the middle distance event and 37th in the long distance event, while his three-person team placed eighth.

Withers, from Samford Valley, was one of 261 athletes from 26 countries who competed in Rakvere.

The 18-year-old, who made his world championships debut in Hungary last year and whose dad Murray and sister Gaby also race, said mountain bike orienteering is more challenging than foot orienteering.

"This is probably a little bit harder because you have got to be able to ride fast and you can't get lost at the same time," he said.

Anyone wanting to try mountain bike orienteering can phone 0418 871 193 or visit www.mtbo.com.au

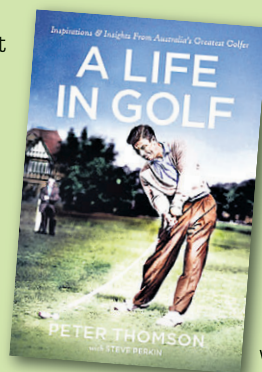
WIN

One sporting triumph had eluded Australia for 77 years, until Adam Scott secured the famous Green Jacket in golf's biggest tournament, the US Masters, this year. The **Highlights of the 2013 Masters Tournament DVD** details one of the most dramatic tournaments in living memory, as Scott defeated Angel Cabrera in a playoff. **Highlights of the 2013 Masters Tournament** (Roadshow Entertainment, RRP \$29.95) also includes special features such as the champion's



press conference, the Butler Cabin green jacket ceremony and more.

Legendary five-time British Open champion, Peter Thomson, shares the knowledge he has absorbed during a lifetime of golf in the engaging and inspirational new book, **A Life in Golf**. Thomson's evocative prose and firm opinions shed light on his career, golfing techniques, and the world's greatest players. **A Life in Golf** (Slattery Media



Group, RRP \$22.95) is essential reading for anyone interested in the game of golf or in the life of a true champion – the man still considered Australia's greatest golfer.

The Westerner has three golf prize packs, featuring a copy of the **Highlights of the 2013 Masters Tournament DVD** and a copy of the **A Life in Golf** book, to give away. To enter send your name and contact details to: The Westerner Golf competition, PO Box 5189, Brendale BC, 4500 or email lee@thewesterner.com.au, Attn: Golf competition. Entries close 30 September.



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