

# Persistence pays off for team

Mitchell Craig | 5th January 2012

IF it is to be, it is up to me.

Those were the final words Brisbane North coach Ian Reeves said to his players as they took the field at Saunders Oval, Ballina, yesterday.

After 11 years of coaching Brisbane North in the Ballina Under-13 cricket carnival, Reeves knew his team were on the verge of achieving their best result in the 21 years of the carnival.

"I told the boys they were in control of their own destiny and on the verge of making history," Reeves said.

"The highest we've ever finished is seventh and a win against Ballina would put us 3-0 and into the top four," Reeves said.

"We'd never beaten Hawkesbury before and we started the week with a win against them on Monday."

After finishing at 7-167 they bowled out Ballina for 125.

Captain Ashwin Raj led from the front, scoring 38 runs in a 50-run opening partnership with Will Thompson.

Jared Thompson was the pick of the bowlers and narrowly missed out on a hat-trick when they had Ballina in trouble at 5-15.

Reeves is thrilled with the success of his youngsters, who are a second-tier development team; the first XI is playing in a Queensland competition.

"This is my 24th rep team and it's terrific how hard they work," he said.

"They love it down here and without blokes like Geoff Jacobs, Greg Daniels and Bruce Johnstone running the carnival, it wouldn't be a success."

## *Scores from Under-13 carnival games yesterday:*

Hornsby 8-145 d South-East Queensland 11-129

Manly 10-122 d Mid North Coast 11-121

Hawkesbury 11-158 d Gold Coast 8-153

Brisbane North 7-167 d Ballina 11-125

Lismore 8-133 d Metro South West 11-131

Hunter Valley 6-74 d Brisbane East 11-73

Newcastle 7-206 d Tamworth 11-84

Central Coast 7-238 d Toowoomba 11-73

## *Draw for today:*

Central Coast v Manly at Fripp Oval, Brisbane North v Newcastle at Kingsford Smith South; Lismore v Mid North Coast at Hill Park Oval; Hawkesbury v Hornsby at Megan Crescent; Gold Coast v South-East Queensland at Saunders Oval; Toowoomba v Brisbane East at Porter Park; Hunter Valley v Metro South West at Geoff Watt Oval; Ballina v Tamworth at Kingsford Smith North.

