

SPORT

Magpies wary of injuries in derby

SOCCER

BY MICHAEL HARTSHORN

MAITLAND Magpies coach Mick Bolch says he will err on the side of caution in his selections for Sunday's El Clasico derby against the Weston Bears.

Bolch is fuming over a tackle which has sidelined backman Grant Brown and left his playing stocks even more threadbare.

The Maitland mentor is also unable to call on injured duo Matt Thompson and Ryan Broadley for up to a month and midfielder Sean Pratt is overseas.

Relief is coming with former Newcastle Jets player Nick Cowburn signing with the Magpies to join his cousins Carl and Liam Thorton, however, Cowburn will not be available for the Magpies until their game against Broadmeadow Magic in the first weekend of July.

"It's all about managing the squad at the moment. There were a lot of tired and sore boys on the weekend against Valentine," Bolch said.

"You break it down three or four weeks ago we had Alex Read, Grant Brown, Sean Pratt and Jimmy Thompson, boys like that fresh on the bench coming on.

"But in the last couple of weeks we've lost Sean Pratt, Matt Thompson, Ryan Broadley and it looks like Grant Brown is out long-

term now because he got a real bad tackle on the weekend and could have a fractured ankle."

Bolch said youngsters Louis Townsend and Tommy Duggan were vital injections in the weekend's win against Valentine and may come into calculation for starts against the Bears.

He said it was a massive game with both sides in strong form going into Sunday's encounter at Cook Square Park.

"They have won their last five straight in the comp and we've won our last five including two FFA Cup games, but we've just got to see what side we can get on the park," he said.

"We'll spend the week in the ice baths recovering and getting ready again.

"Match fitness doesn't get affected at this stage of the year, it is just about trying to freshen the group up.

"It would be ideal to be able to freshen a couple up. The problem is you keep playing them, you fatigue them, and they can do a hamstring or soft tissue injury and be out for five or six weeks.

"We threw our eggs in the basket a bit on the weekend knowing that if we got the three points, that if we drop a game in the next two or three weeks we have a bit of a break. It may have to be that way to ensure the wellbeing of the squad."



DOUBLE: Halle Walterback launches a strike to score the second of her two goals for Maitland Grossmann High School in the Bill Turner Cup.

Maitland Grossmann beat St Peters 6-2



KEEN CONTEST: Matiese Wadwell (left) and Mia Threlfo contest the ball in Wednesday's Bill Turner Cup round four game at Lorn. **Picture:** Michael Hartshorn

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MAITLAND Grossmann High have progressed to the Bill Turner Cup round of 32 with 6-2 win against All Saints College St Peter's at Lorn Park on Wednesday.

The game was a far more even contest than the scores suggest with the Grossmann girls taking greater advantage of their chances, led by doubles to Olivia Hanks and Halle Walterback and single goals to Miah and Isabella Threlfo.

Mercedes McNabb scored a double for St Peter's.

The boys round four games

are to be held next week.

Maitland Grossmann are on the road from now on and will play the winner of Lower North Coast match between Port Macquarie's St Joseph's Regional College and Great Lakes College, Forster Campus which is scheduled for Monday.

Maitland Grossmann High 6 (Olivia Hanks 2m, 34m; Halle Walterback 50m, 59m; Miah Trelfo 10m; Isabella Threlfo 33m) beat **ASC St Peters Maitland 2** (Mercedes McNabb 28m, 45m) at Keith Smith Reserve.

— MICHAEL HARTSHORN

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