

**Media Release:**

**10.02.09**

## **Academic Achievements for NTIS Athletes**

Young Territory athletes at the Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) are showing their talents both on and off the field combining sport at an elite level with outstanding education achievements.

NTIS Director Dr Ian Ford said a number of NTIS athletes received excellent Year 12 results in 2008 with many athletes now set to commence university studies in 2009 either here in the Territory or at interstate institutions.

“The NTIS strives to develop the Territory’s young athletes as a whole - physically, mentally and emotionally - and we’re extremely pleased to see such fantastic academic results on par with their achievements as elite athletes,” Dr Ford said.

“Robert Duguid, one of our hockey players who also holds an individual development scholarship at the NTIS, has just been accepted to study Medicine at the University of WA this year which is a remarkable achievement.

“Robert is currently representing the Northern Territory in the national Under 21’s competition being held in Perth from 10 February 2009 and plans to continue playing hockey whilst completing his degree.

Dr Ford said 18 NTIS athletes completed either their Northern Territory Certificate of Education (NTCE) or International Baccalaureate (IB) at the end of last year.

“Three members of the NTIS netball squad achieved excellent Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER) scores, Stacey McKenzie from Darwin High, Jess Moller from Kormilda College and Tegan Pannell from St Phillips in Alice Springs,” Dr Ford said.

“Stacey achieved the highest NTCE for an Indigenous student with a TER score of 89.95 and still trained five times a week for which she credits the NTIS for assisting her develop these time management skills.

“Tegan has been with the NTIS for 5 years now and after receiving a TER of 92.2 has just relocated to Darwin for a gap year to further her involvement with netball.”

Jess Moller, who received a TER score of 96.3 and has been with the Institute for four years, said netball was an avenue to release stress from school and studying.

“One of the benefits of being a student athlete at the NTIS was the behind-the-scenes support of a number of different NTIS staff, including Liz Grylls the Sports Psychologist and Athlete Career Education Co-ordinator,” Ms Moller said.

Dr Ford said there are 27 NTIS athletes who have just commenced Year 12 studies for 2009 and he wishes them all the best for the year ahead.

“The primary purpose of the NTIS is to develop Northern Territory athletes into champions through strong leadership, high quality integrated coaching and support services, and an environment that optimises opportunities to achieve at the highest levels in sport and life.”

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Dr Ian Ford on 8922 6820**

Issued: 3.10pm Thursday, 12 February 2009