

Margs tops surf squad

RHYS DICKINSON

MARGARET River surfers will spearhead Western Australia's national titles campaign at Port Macquarie in August.

Jarrad Davies, Jerome Forrest and Bronte Macaulay were gifted spots in the highly-contested team last week.

Davies and Forrest would join stand-out professional performers Paul Paterson and Luke Campbell to represent the State while Macaulay would team with Kallaroo's Jaala Baldock, Yallingup's Holly Thomas and North Hampton's Sue Moran to vie for the title in New South Wales.

Surfing WA events manager Justin Majeks said he expected both teams to challenge for titles come August.

"This is probably one of the strongest teams on paper in quite a few years, so there are some high hopes for those travelling to national titles in the coming months," Mr Majeks said.

Forrest made the selection panel's decision easy with an impressive display at last weekend's HIF Pro Am Series at Trigg Point.

Forrest stole the show in less-than-desirable conditions to take out his first professional win over State team



Bronte Macaulay will represent WA at the National Titles in Port Macquarie in August.

PICTURES: NICK WOOLACOTT

compatriot Luke Campbell.

Forrest blitzed the heats with a combination of powerful top turns and aerial manoeuvres.

Taking on Campbell, Jarrad McHale and Margaret River's 13-year-old Jack Robinson in the final, Forrest brought his best surfing to the table to take out one of the closest finals in recent history.

He posted a heat-high 7.83 on his opening wave to burst out of the pack and never looked back.

"I'm really happy with the result,

it was very hard work out there and I knew that each of the other guys had the ability to win, so it was a pretty nervous wait in the last few minutes," Forrest said.

Despite his fourth-place finish in the open final, Robinson dominated the pro junior final, beating out competitors more than five years older than him to claim the win.

Robinson dominated the field with reverse aerial manoeuvres and fast-paced face work.

Hawks must win two more

FOOTBALL

AUGUSTA-Margaret River Hawks Football Club League coach Luke Norman says this week's away bout with Harvey Bulls is a must win if they are serious about making a finals berth later in the year.

Norman said the next three games against the Bulls, Bunbury Bulldogs and Busselton Magpies were crucial to the Hawks' 2011 campaign.

"We really have to win at least two of those three matches before the mid-season break to be part of the finals," he told the *Times*.

He said a win over Harvey at the weekend would be a perfect start to the three-game run.

But he admitted his side had to get over its away-form hoodoo.

"It does seem to be a problem at the moment. I think it's a mental thing," he said. "We just don't seem as fired up when we're away.

"We've worked on improving our preparation, so hopefully it pays off this weekend."

The Hawks failed to capitalise on two strong wins against Eaton and Collie as they were comprehensively

beaten by Carey Park at the weekend.

Norman said illness struck the camp before the game and the Hawks got off to a slow start on Sunday.

"They were really determined and pumped up," he said.

"They brought a big side to the field and just smashed us at the clearances."

The Hawks trailed by 26 at the first break, but showed some resilience in the second term to reduce the deficit to just 14 points.

Unfortunately, their form didn't carry over into the second half as the Panthers kicked away in a six-goal-to-two term to lead by 38 point lead heading into the final quarter.

The Hawks showed some spirit in the final term, winning the quarter six goals to four, but it wasn't enough to rein in Carey Park as the visitors slumped to a 19.8 (122) to 15.8 (98) loss.

Norman said it was among the Hawks' worst performances for the season.

"We just played terribly," he said.

"But in a sense it gives us promise,

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