

Special athlete wins national selection

Cricketer defies boundaries

By Robert Fedele

CROSSING the boundaries of cricket and life, Keilor resident Andrew Payton has always prided himself on his ability to attack from the back foot.

When he was younger, the 22-year-old was diagnosed with a learning disability, affecting his communication skills.

"It's something that we continue to work on with him," his father, David, says.

"It's something he'll be faced with for life."

Despite the hurdle, Payton has continued to excel in sport, being selected to represent Australia in the inaugural Special

'I'm proud of my achievement and hope to set an example for others with disabilities.'

Andrew Payton

Olympics International Cricket Cup to be held in Mumbai, India, from November 6-13.

The Moonee Valley Cricket Club all-rounder was one of three Victorians selected in the 15-man squad.

"I was surprised and very proud when I received the letter in the mail," he said.

"I am really proud and excited to represent Australia and to be able to play against other cricketing countries around the world."

A left-arm swing bowler and handy middle-order batsman,



Big times ahead: Keilor's Andrew Payton is all set for India.

Picture: Joseph Feil

Payton took up cricket when he was 16.

"I enjoy taking wickets and making runs, particularly hitting boundaries."

Father David said Andrew had been a talented sportsman right

from day one. "His actual learning disability hasn't affected his ability to play sport really well," he said.

"To get selected in any team representing Australia is a fantastic achievement."

Payton was selected in the Australian side after testing sessions across the country rated players on batting, bowling and fielding.

The youngest player to be chosen from Victoria, he will

attend a training camp in Sydney just before heading over to the tournament.

David said his son's biggest strength was his mental resolve.

"He copes with his learning



disability really well. He's determined to do well in most things."

Payton, who is undertaking a gardening apprenticeship, says he's eagerly looking forward to representing his country and hopes his selection will spur other people with disabilities to follow their dreams.

"I'm proud of my achievement and hope to set an example for others with disabilities," he said.

The Special Olympics International Cricket Cup marks the official launch of cricket as a recognised sport for the Special Olympics globally.

Teams from England, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and the West Indies will take part.

To get involved with Special Olympics as an athlete, supporter, coach, sponsor or volunteer, phone 1300 654 070 or 1300 225 762, or visit www.specialolympics.com.au

WRFL

We'll be ready for our second crack at favoured Hoppers, Colts coach says



Pumped: John Ellis can't contain his excitement after last year's premiership win in the WRFL Division 1 competition.

Pictures: Ted Kloszynski

KEILOR resident John Ellis has a date with destiny this Saturday.

He is co-coach of Port Melbourne Colts, who do battle with Hoppers Crossing in the Western Region Football League's Division 1 grand final at the Whitten Oval.

Ellis, who shares the top job with star forward Jason Clarke, was all smiles after watching the Borough demolish Sunshine in the preliminary final at the home of the Western Bulldogs last Saturday.

"We've got another crack at Hoppers," he said as he sipped a can of cold ale in the dressing rooms after the game.

"We'll be ready for them from the first bounce."

He predicts a crackerjack game and concedes the Warriors deserve to be favourites after outpointing Port Melbourne Colts in the second semi-final a fortnight ago.

These are exciting times for Ellis. The master motivator put his name up in lights after masterminding the Colts' flag win in 2005.

He deserved all the kudos. Ellis enjoyed many splendid moments as coach of Albanvale in Division 2.

But he suffered the heartache of several losing grand finals.

I can't wait to hear Ellis' pre-match address this Saturday.

He'll have his players breathing fire as they run down the race.

Steven Milne



The spoils of victory: A premiership medallion dangles around Ellis' neck as he holds the premiership cup.

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