



2009 QUEENSLAND JUNIOR STATE TEAM Information Sheet 1



Congratulations!

Well done on being selected for the 2009 Queensland Sundevils Junior State Team. Representing your state is a great honour and you have the distinction of having the opportunity to be part of our National Championships title defense.

The road from here will be a long and demanding one for players and coaches alike. We have set the bar high for ourselves with the title wins the past two years, but I believe that with the caliber of athlete we have on this squad, that we can certainly feel confident, even at this early stage.

To bring this goal to fruition will, however, take commitment and dedication to this challenge. Training attendance, home study of playbooks, meeting of payment deadlines, providing administrative information and contributing to fundraising efforts will all be essential elements of this process.

I am sure though that you will agree it will all be worth it!

Where are we headed?

All of our attention now is directed towards preparing for our Nationals campaign. The Gridiron Australia Junior Nationals will be staged from 16-23 May 2009 on the Gold Coast, back at the Tallebudgera Leisure Centre. This is a great facility to stay and enjoy the state experience.

Who is involved?

We are lucky to have a strong coaching staff along with our Team Manager. With Head Coach Steve Box, Offensive Coordinator Paul Knight and Assistant Coach Andy Miller returning we have coaches who have recent success at this level. Adding the knowledge and enthusiasm of Coaches Thompson Sunerton and Shaun Hunter to the team, both Junior Sundevils players in 2004 and Australian players in 2005. Coach Dan Franklin has been around the game for many years and after returning to the country is ready to help guide the offensive line. Completing our coaching staff is Coach Liam Flannery who will also assist in management duties. Our Team Manager 'Captain' Ron Knight is back again in 2009 and will be ready to help our charge.

Clear Your Schedule...

With training now underway, there is a set schedule of training in place. Attendance at training is compulsory. If there is some reason that you absolutely cannot make a session, it is essential you contact a member of the coaching staff (not one of your teammates) to inform them. Remember that the more training you are involved in, the better prepared you will be. Playing time and position on any depth charts will also be affected by training attendance. I

also suggest devoting some time away from state training for personal fitness training to help you maintain the best body condition needed.

Sundevils Communication

Where possible we will make use of the internet and email to keep information coming to players. There will be regular Information Sheets such as this one in the lead up to the Nationals and we will have these available from the Gridiron Queensland website. If you do not have access to the internet, please let us know, or alternatively, ask one of your friends or club teammates to download a copy for you.

With almost all of you currently under the age of 18, obviously your parents play a huge role in this, whether providing transport, paying fees etc. Please ensure you pass on information that we provide to keep them in the loop. We are always available for questions about the on or off-field aspects of this campaign.

Show Me the Money \$\$\$

This State Team, just like our regular club season, is entirely user pays. We are fortunate to have our league body in a good state to offer us a subsidy towards each participant, but that goes only a small portion of the way to covering our costs.

We are waiting final confirmation of budget from the tournament organizers, but we anticipate the fees per player set at approx \$850. These fees include uniform, accommodation, meals, tournament dinner, team jersey presentation, tournament registration, team photo, as well as some in camp team recreation activities. Some very organised budgeting has been completed to keep costs to a minimum and maximize value for participants.

We are intending that through fundraising efforts we will be able to bring this cost down for each player, but it will require active contributions from players. Cadbury chocolate drives and a big raffle are the two main avenues we will follow to help reduce costs. It is anticipated that every dollar raised will go directly to reduce these fees per player, with our goal to shave over \$200 from each player's outlay of money. Until fundraising is completed, please continue to make scheduled payments.

A generous payment schedule has been implemented to allow players to pay their state costs off gradually. It is important, however, that all players adhere to this schedule, as the income dates match times that Gridiron Queensland is spending money on the state team. Non-compliance in payment of fees may jeopardize your position on the team. Of course players are welcome to pay their fees in full upfront. The first payment date is the first training session. A list of payment deadlines and amounts is included on the training schedule.

When writing cheques, please make these payable to Gridiron Queensland. Mr Ron Knight will be collecting monies at each training, and will provide a receipt.

Playbooks

Offensive and Defensive Playbooks will be distributed to players at the first training session in 2007. We encourage all players to dive into their playbooks to commence the learning process. As with any playbook, much of the learning will occur on the practice field, but please take the time to familiarize yourself with the playbook and your responsibilities etc.

Sizes and Details

At the next training session, all players will be asked for an indication of what sizes they would like in team apparel. The apparel will include Polo Shirt, Sweater, Cap, Training Shorts (basketball mesh style) and T-Shirts (warmup). Please ensure you know what size you are when you are asked.

We will also be asking to confirm preference of your jersey number for the team. Please be aware, we will be looking to follow our regular procedure of allocation of numbers somewhat relative to position. The coaching staff reserves the right to request a player wear a particular type of number. NB. Number 1 and 69 will not be allocated to players in the Junior State Team. When there is more than one person expressing a first preference for a number, a previous state player is given first priority. If no returning state player is involved, the process will involve negotiation. Coach Box I know has already spoken to a number of you regarding jersey number allocation already.

Requirements for Training

Each player will be provided with a training jersey. This jersey will be signed out to each player to look after for the duration of the training and tournament program. Players are asked to wear pants and lowers for all training sessions, unless specifically told otherwise.

As we commence training in summer, we suggest players bring water/Gatorade etc. We will have our supplies on hand, but we encourage players to provide their own as well.

State Team Helmets

Each tournament, one of the optional purchase items for players is a brand new State Team helmet. This helmet comes in yellow with maroon facemask of choice, hard cup or soft cup chin strap and official sundevils decals can be worn by players during the tournament. Several players have done this before, but it is an extra expense that is optional. This year, Sundevils helmets are available for approx: \$342 For a DNA, \$450 for an ION 4D or \$270 for an Air Advantage. Of course, players are most welcome to use their existing club helmets. If players are interested in purchasing new club helmets, contact your club for this.

Gloves

Official NCAA rules (under which we play) stipulate that gloves should be grey in colour. At club level we have a local rule that eliminates this requirement, but sometimes at state level they enforce this rule. I have yet to receive confirmation of this, but keep it in mind when purchasing gloves in the future.

Lets Get to Work!

I am very excited to be back in state football mode again and can't wait to see how our team comes together and grows as a unit. Those involved previously know what a great experience it is, and now we have a huge incentive of ensuring the title stays north of the border. I look forward to working with you all this campaign and can't wait to get started.

If you have any other questions about the Sundevils, don't hesitate to contact Head Coach Steve Box via email: jnr@sundevils@gridironqld.asn.au or ph: 0402 859 406.