

SPORTSMONDAY



HEART BREAKER: Stingrays second rower Bryden Lang passes to a teammate during yesterday's loss to the Gold Coast.

NICHOLAS FALCONER

## 1300 students converge on Coast for 16th annual games

MORE than 1300 students will converge on Sunshine Coast beaches and sporting venues today for the first day of the Northern University Games.

Students from Central Queensland University south to Griffith University Gold Coast will contest the 16th annual instalment of the games.

Students will participate in basketball, beach touch and volleyball, football, hockey, lawn bowls, netball and tennis in the next three days.

University will host netball and football while beach touch and volleyball will take place at Moffat Beach.

Tennis and lawn bowls will be contested at Kawana venues with Caloundra Indoor Stadium hosting basketball.

Australian University Sport chief executive officer Don Knapp said the games were more than just a sporting opportunity for students.

"The average awake time for students that come to these games is about 14 hours," he said.

"They put in good, long days so I'm sure they'll see a good portion of the Sunshine Coast.

"The most popular sports are touch and netball but it's quite dynamic in terms of what sort of sport and level of competition that's on offer.

"It really is an all-of-community activity. You add it all up and it's a pretty good package."

Four-time Olympic rower Bo Hanson is the event's patron.

- TRAVIS MEYN



PATRON: Bo Hanson. NICHOLAS FALCONER

# Stingrays add to their book of misfortunes

Controversial try proves costly as Coast still chases second win for 2009

By **JON TUXWORTH**  
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THE Sunshine Coast Stingrays added another unlucky chapter to their 2009 book of misfortune after a refereeing blunder cruelled any chance of victory against Gold Coast yesterday.

Looking for just their second Premier Rugby win of the season, the Stingrays trailed 15-11 with about 15 minutes left at Stockland Park.

However, shortly after Stingrays No. 8 Isaac Helu was sent to the bin for an infringement, Breakers fly half Vitori Tomu Buatava barged over for a try after the Breakers appeared to knock on.

Stingrays winger Tim Bransdon, playing his 100th Premier Rugby match, declared there was little

**GOLD COAST 27**  
(Cameron Bracewell, Josh Fuimaono, Tyler Edwards, Vitori Tomu Buatava tries; Tomu Buatava 2 conv, 1 pen goal)

**SUNSHINE COAST STINGRAYS 21**  
(Adam Dear, Tim Bransdon, Josh Macpherson tries; James Rodley 2 pen goals)

doubt the try should have been disallowed.

"I think just about everyone on the field did (see that it was a knock on), probably including them," he said.

"It makes it hard when you get decisions like that go against you, when you're already behind and

you've got someone in the bin. "It seems to happen every week."

The Stingrays got off to a good start when winger Adam Dear grubbered through and regathered to give his side a 5-3 lead after five minutes.

Twenty minutes later Gold Coast No. 8 Cameron Bracewell handed the Breakers a 10-5 lead after strolling through some weak defence. Their half-time advantage was extended to 15-5 when Josh Fuimano crossed five minutes from the break.

Two penalty goals after the resumption from scrum half James Rodley put the Stingrays back in the hunt at 15-11.

But Tomu Buatava's controversial try, followed by another to Tyler Edwards shortly after, ended

the match as a contest.

The Stingrays responded with late tries to Bransdon and Josh Macpherson to grab a bonus point for losing by less than seven.

Stingrays coach Glenn Panoho said the decision to bin Helu cost them dearly.

"When we were down to 14 men they scored two tries. That was pretty much the crucial decision for us," he said.

Bransdon said the Stingrays have been playing better than their position at the foot of the table suggests.

"We are competitive but it would be nice to turn some of those matches into wins," he said.

"Winning becomes a habit and if we turned over a couple (of wins) it's scary to think where we might be on the table."

Who  
What  
When  
Where

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Thursday 9th July

