



Wilson HTM
INVESTMENT GROUP

MEDIA RELEASE

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Wilson HTM Ballymore Tornadoes name squad for the Mazda Australian Rugby Championship

Nineteen members of the Brisbane-based Mazda Australian Rugby Championship team - the Wilson HTM Ballymore Tornadoes - have been selected from club rugby ranks, reinforcing the importance of the competition as a stepping stone to the fully professional game.

Nine members of the 28-man squad are contracted players with the QR Queensland Reds, with the balance made up mostly of semi-professional Reds Academy and Trinity Queensland Premier Rugby players.

Premier semi-finalists GPS and Wests fill 11 places in the squad, announced today along with the team's principal sponsor, newly listed Wilson HTM Investment Group.

Wallaby prop Greg Holmes and hooker Sean Hardman have been drafted into the squad pending possible World Cup selection, while former Wallaby tourist and new Reds signing Leroy Houston is also included.

Reds flanker Tom McVerry is captain of the squad, which is coached by former Wallaby Chris Roche, assisted by Paul Healy.

The Ballymore Tornadoes also drew players from the Norths, University and Brothers clubs, along with the Sunshine Coast Stingrays who supply two players in prop Shon Siemoneck and No 8 Charles Wyllie. Former Brothers player David Collis joins the side from Sydney and Tim Sampson was drafted from East Coast Aces feeder club Sunnybank to provide more experience in the midfield.

Four of the 19 club players have come via the Reds Academy, selected on the basis of their efforts in Premier Rugby.

Wilson HTM Investment Group Executive Chairman Steve Wilson said it was this direct link to grassroots rugby that attracted his firm to become the team's principal sponsor:

"I've been involved with rugby for most of my life and I know how vital the grassroots is to the overall health of the game in Australia," said Mr Wilson, who is also a director of Queensland Rugby.

"Wilson HTM is proud to be a supporter of this new national competition, which aligns to our brand values of developing talented individuals who can perform at the highest level."

As its name suggests, the team will play its home games at Ballymore in Brisbane, with their first game in the eight team championship a local derby against fellow Queensland side, the East Coast Aces at the Gold Coast Stadium, Carrara on Sunday, August 12 (kickoff 4pm).

Wilson HTM Ballymore Tornadoes 2007

Paul	Doneley	Outside Back	Brothers
Sean	Hardman	Hooker	Brothers *
Brendan	McKibbin	Scrumhalf	Brothers **
Anthony	Sauer	Outside Back	Brothers
Will	Genia	Scrumhalf	GPS *
Tom	McVerry	Backrow	GPS (captain) *
Steve	Miller	Backrow	GPS
Brett	Naylor	Tighthead Prop	GPS
Byron	Roberts	Outside Back	GPS
Elia	Tuqiri	Flyhalf	GPS
Blair	Connor	Outside Back	Norths **
Tristan	Hill	Lock	Norths
Peter	Loane	Tighthead Prop	Norths
Ray	Stowers	Backrow	Norths
Greg	Holmes	Loosehead Prop	Sunnybank *
Tim	Sampson	Inside Back	Sunnybank
Shon	Siemonek	Loosehead Prop	Sunshine Coast
Charles	Wyllie	No 8	Sunshine Coast
Brett	Gillespie	Inside Back	University **
Peter	Hynes	Outside Back	University *
Daniel	Linde	Lock	University **
Geoff	Abram	Hooker	Wests *
Jared	Hanna	Lock	Wests
Scott	Higginbotham	No 8	Wests **
Ed	O'Donoghue	Lock	Wests *
Clinton	Schifcofske	Fullback	Wests *
David	Collis	Flyhalf	Sydney
Leroy	Houston	Backrow	Sydney *

* Denotes contracted QR Queensland Reds player

** Denotes Reds Academy player

Other facts about the Wilson HTM Ballymore Tornadoes:

- The average age of the squad is 24
- The youngest player is 18 year old Blair Connor
- Team Captain Tom McVerry was born in Melbourne (as was the captain of the East Coast Aces, Lloyd Johansson)
- Tom McVerry and Peter Hynes won their 50th cap for Queensland during the 2007 Super 14 season
- Prop Brett Naylor moved to Queensland mid-season from the ACT specifically to pursue his dream of playing professional rugby
- 2006 Tooheys New Player of the Year Charles Wyllie has recently returned from a stint playing rugby in Italy
- Elia Tuqiri is the cousin of Wallaby Lote Tuqiri