

Bulls have the fiercest of rivals in their sights

THE FNQ Bulls hope to tap into the fierce rivalry between Cairns and Townsville and lure a big crowd to this weekend's Queensland State League semi-final against the NQ Razorbacks in Mareeba.

Bulls president Alex Srhoj is hoping for a crowd of 1000 people to pack Borzi Park to give the game a genuine derby atmosphere.

"If we get over 500 I'll be happy but I'd love to crack 1000," he said.

"Our crowds have been a little down this year but that's not just us, that's been the case across the board in a lot of sports.

"We've got quite a few Cairns boys born and bred who play for the Bulls and we appreciate their support.

"Hopefully that will entice a few people up from Cairns along with the fact we're playing Townsville

and everyone up here loves getting one over Townsville."

The Bulls plan to run a bus from Cairns to Borzi Park on Saturday.

Pick-up points are at Stockland Cairns in Earlville (5.15pm), Dunwoody's Tavern on Sheridan Street (5.30pm) and Smithfield shopping centre (5.45pm).

Bookings are essential and can be made by emailing Srhoj at alex@tgt.com.au.

Return price is \$12 for an adult and \$10 for a child under 12.

Gate entry to the ground is separate and costs \$10 for an adult and \$5 for a child. Children under 12 are free.

The Bulls held an open training session for the public at Endeavour Park at the weekend.



Getting set: Robert Pendenza at Bulls training ahead of this week's semi-final against Townsville. Picture: JAKE NOWAKOWSKI

Schwarzer deal stalls

ARSENAL manager Arsene Wenger admits he may be forced to give up his chase for Socceroos goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer.

Schwarzer, 37, is desperate to join the Gunners from Fulham, but new Cottagers boss Mark Hughes has rejected two offers of about \$3.49 million.

Wenger is confident of making one more signing before the transfer window closes but hinted he may have to turn his attentions elsewhere if he cannot get Fulham to sell Schwarzer.

"We have to be as quiet as possible. You cannot force any club to sell a player," he said. "If they don't want to sell, they can say no. If we make an offer for a player, the club says yes or no.

"If the club says no, then that's it."

Wenger believes Arsenal are already beginning to benefit from Fabio Capello's decision to omit Theo Walcott from the England World Cup squad.

Walcott bagged a hat-trick as the Gunners crushed Blackpool 6-0 at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday with an Andrey Arshavin penalty and goals from Abou Diaby and Marouane Chamakh - his first for the club - completing the scoring.

Custodian's safe hands inspire win

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Great: Goalkeeper Steve Dangaard was sensational against Leichhardt in Fusion's FNQ Football division one win on Saturday.

A BRILLIANT performance from goalkeeper Steve Dangaard helped the FNQ Fusion under-19s steal a 1-0 win against Leichhardt in the FNQ Football men's premier division on Saturday.

Fusion scored the opening goal early in the contest when Peter McGarth fired home from an acute angle before Leichhardt started marauding forward.

It seemed inevitable Leichhardt would find an equaliser and then a winner but they could not beat the outstretched limbs of Dangaard.

The Fusion custodian was at his shot-stopping best and was aided by some grim defending from his team-

mates in the backline. Fusion coach Martin Docherty, who used to be in charge of Leichhardt, was in awe of Dangaard's performance.

"He was unbelievable," Docherty said.

"I think he would've saved five or six certain goals.

"Leichhardt can

count themselves unlucky not to have won the game but in saying that we've been on the other end where we've dominated and haven't got the win.

"It was just a pleasure to see the players shake each other's hands at the end of the game knowing they got a victory playing ugly because they really had to defend hard."

Leichhardt coach Chris Pennington agreed his side had no luck in front of goal but credited Fusion for their grit and determination.

"We were unlucky but in saying that they're a bloody good side," he said.

"They're a super bunch of kids. They never backed down and took it up to us."

In other games, Edge Hill thumped Innisfail 5-0, while Marlin Coast thrashed Mareeba 8-2.

AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED