



# Secondary School Sport CHRISTCHURCH mail

WWW.CANTERBURY.SCHOOLSPO.RG.NZ

## Touch kicks off Passion to run garners titles

■ **BILL GROGAN**  
Regional sports director  
Canterbury School Sport

Last weekend marked the beginning of what promises to be a very busy term of secondary school sport.

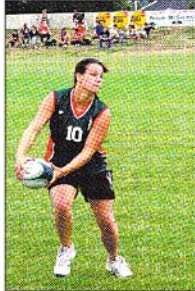
On Friday evening and Saturday, a qualifying tournament, to determine the final roster of teams in both the girls and boys premier grades for the 2008 volleyball competition, was held at Pioneer Stadium.

With only two places available in each grade, competition for places was intense resulting in some very closely contested games.

Burnside High school, which was unseaten throughout the tournament, emerged as the top qualifier in the girls grade, with Linwood College claiming second place.

These two teams will now join with automatic qualifiers; Ellesmere College, Christchurch Girls' High School, Cashmere High School, Riccarton High School, St Margaret's College, Rangiora High School, St Andrew's College, Rangī Ruru Girls' School, Avonside Girls' High School, and Aramui High School in a 12-team competition.

In the boys grade, St Bede's College, also unseaten throughout the tournament, was the top qualifier, with Aramui High School, after a close five-set encounter with Linwood College in the final game, taking second place.



Play's on. Shannon Prandeville looks to offload during the qualifying touch tournament played at Linfield Park on Sunday.



Go for it. Valentine Taumati looks to start another attack with Vaughan Thompson in support during the qualifying touch tournament played at Linfield Park on Sunday.

These two teams will now join with automatic qualifiers; Shirley Boys' High School, Riccarton High School, Christchurch Boys' High School and St Andrew's College in Division 1 of the boys league for 2008.

A qualifying tournament was also required for the touch competition.

Played at Linfield Park on Sunday, six boys teams and six girls teams contested the four remaining places in their respective Term 1 Super Touch competitions and A grade of the Canterbury Schools Touch Championships to be held on February 23.

At the conclusion of this tournament, Christchurch Boys' High School, St Bede's College, Hillmorton High School and Lincoln High School were the four qualifiers in the boys grade.

Christchurch Girls' High School, Villa Maria College, Kaiapoi High School and Lincoln High School claimed the four places available in the girls grade.

Competition for these top teams in both volleyball and touch will begin this week along with the A grade of the water polo competition.

All other weekly competitions will begin next week.

■ **DEB STRINGER**

Nicki McFadzien is fast becoming one of the best runners in New Zealand for her age-group.

The 16-year-old Villa Maria student already holds a string of regional and national titles for cross-country, athletics and mountain running and will soon travel to the Czech Republic to compete at the World Secondary School Cross Country in the 3km event.

McFadzien was excited about the pending trip and was training hard to do her best.

"I train every day with five other girls and my coach Brian Taylor — this helps me add strength and stamina to my runs."

Although she trained every day McFadzien said she did not mind as running was her "passion".

One reason McFadzien was especially excited about travelling to the Czech Republic was because two of her friends were also going along to compete. "It's great to know they are coming along and even though we compete with each other, we are still really good friends," she said.

McFadzien said she had been running for as long as she could remember, however she only began competing seriously when she was 13. "Before that I was running for the Avon City Club and a coach from there called Paul Norton encouraged me to take my running one step further."



On the run. Nicki McFadzien is one her way to the top runners in her age-group in New Zealand.

"Ever since then I haven't really looked back."

Although McFadzien said she enjoyed competing in athletics, cross-country and mountain running she believed her strongest event was cross-country.

"I do hope to do more mountain running in the future though," she said.

Other things McFadzien plans to tackle in the future include taking part in a triathlon.

"I would really love to do one of these now, however I will have to wait a while as my coach doesn't really like us doing this until we are 18, because he believes it can put too much stress on the bones."

McFadzien's ultimate goal is to compete at the Olympics some day.