

# Groth fired up by breakthrough victory

IT has taken him the best part of a decade, but power ringer Sam Groth is finally ready to make his mark.

Fresh from dumping Lleyton Hewitt out of the Brisbane International in a 6-3, 6-2 first-round boilover on Tuesday night, Groth is displaying new found self-belief.

He says much of the credit must go to his coach Ben Mathias, who he considers his best mate on tour.

Mathias, 34, has helped Groth's execution, and against Hewitt he delivered the sort of all-round package tennis players dream of.

"I don't think I could have done much else and played much better than I did," said Groth, who is currently the fifth-ranked Australian man at No.85, but is playing with an eye on a top-50 place.

"It's huge for my confidence obviously to beat Lleyton, but I

had confidence going in before the match. I feel like I belong. I want to play matches on big courts."

Mathias is also a Tennis Australia touring coach for Brisbane-based Sydneysider James Duckworth, and both Groth and Duckworth fine-tuned for the Brisbane International at the Queensland Tennis Centre.

Groth will take up his racquet with a different mindset

today on Pat Rafter Arena. His second-round opponent, Polish qualifier Lukasz Kubot, is ranked No.177, 92 places lower than the Australian.

Groth, who served a fastest rocket of 232km/h against Hewitt, said improved fitness through the programs of TA conditioner Aaron Kellett had been key to him sustaining his standard of play against Hewitt.



CONFIDENT: Sam Groth.

# Serena still has time on her side

PAUL MALONE

MARIA Sharapova says her ailing rival Serena Williams has time to piece together an Australian Open challenge despite her listless start to the season in Perth this week.

Williams won just three games against Canadian Eugenie Bouchard, an opponent to whom she had not previously lost, at the Hopman Cup on Tuesday and said she was mystified by her lack of energy.

The world No.1 is scheduled to play today for the US against the Czech Republic in Perth.

Williams is a five-time Australian Open champion but has lost the knack of timing her preparation, having not been able to go further than a quarter-final since 2010.

Sharapova, who today plays her Brisbane International quarter-final, said that without direct knowledge of Williams's circumstances it was still possible for her to be a strong factor, as is customary, when the

grand slam event starts on Monday week.

"Yes, of course, it's an individual type of preparation," Sharapova said.

"We've had about two months of off-season and everyone trains in different parts of the world and does it their way.

"But when you get to an Australian Open you don't think about what's happened before or the matches you have won or lost before.

"You start from scratch and that applies to everyone."

Sharapova won her first match of the year 6-0, 6-1 over qualifier Yaroslava Shvedova on Tuesday.

The world No.2 will play Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro, ranked 17th, today in the Brisbane quarters.

"With every match you have to raise your level," Sharapova said.

"I'm only in the quarter-finals and each match gets tougher. There are three matches to go."



WAKE UP SERENA: American Serena Williams looks downcast after dropping a point against Eugenie Bouchard of Canada in the women's singles match during day three of the Hopman Cup.

# St Onge visits Lake Tinaroo

WORLD barefoot skiing champion Keith St Onge will return to Cairns next month to conduct clinics on Lake Tinaroo. The two-time world champion and world record holder in trick, jump and slalom will put Far North skiers through their paces at Tinaburra on Lake Tinaroo from February 9-15. Spots in the session are still available, call Katina on 042 7953 609 or visit the Rampaige Ski School Facebook page.

# Court run over for Harrower

VETERAN Australian basketballer Kristi Harrower has announced her retirement from the sport. The 162cm point guard represented Australia at four Olympic Games and four World Championships including the gold medal-winning team of 2006. Harrower will stay on as assistant coach with Bendigo Spirit for the rest of the WNBL season and is expecting her first child in June.

# Motorcyclist dies in Dakar

ORGANISERS say that a Polish motorcyclist competing in the Dakar Rally has died of unknown causes. Michal Hernik, 39, showed no signs of an accident and the circumstances of his death have not yet been determined. His death is the first in this year's Dakar rally. Cairns driver Geoff Olholm improved two places over 625km journey to lie 47th overall in the car category.

# Hayne's NFL plans held up

DETROIT Lions, the NFL club favoured to sign former Parramatta NRL star Jarryd Hayne, announced yesterday it had signed 11 players to reserve or futures contracts, including eight on the practice squad – but Hayne was not one of them. It was reported the Lions were waiting to resolve paperwork issues before finalising his contract. Hayne had previously said he was close to signing a deal.

# Munce riding his last race

MELBOURNE Cup-winning jockey Chris Munce will retire from the saddle after Saturday's Gold Coast meeting and take up training from Sunday. The 45-year-old Munce is one of only seven jockeys to have won Australia's big four – the Melbourne Cup on Jazabeel, the Cox Plate on Savabeel, the Caulfield Cup on Descarado and two Golden Slippers on Dance Hero and Prowl.

## RACE DIVIDENDS

**DOOMBEN**  
**Race 1:** 1 Casino Century \$4.30 \$1.70 7 Desert Gambler \$4.90 6 Smart Ruler \$27.50. Q: \$45.50. E: \$72.00. T: \$4,186.60. A2: 1-7: \$14.10, 1-6: \$64.20, 6-7: \$174.50. FIRST 4: (1 7 6 12) \$33,399.60. Scr: 15.  
**Race 2:** 14 Petrani \$7.20 \$1.90 6 Boy Scout \$4.90 7 Real Heart \$1.30. Q: \$70.00. E: \$173.90. T: \$592.60. A2: 6-14: \$17.00, 7-14: \$5.60, 6-7: \$11.20. FIRST 4: (14 6 7 11) \$3,721.00. Scr: 1,21,8,10,12,16.  
**Race 3:** 2 Lucky Sound \$4.80 \$1.60 5 Superstition \$1.20 8 Menacing \$1.90. Q: \$5.70. E: \$15.00. T: \$49.70. A2: 2-5: \$2.40, 2-8: \$4.40, 5-8: \$2.10. FIRST 4: (2 5 8 9) \$190.60. Scr: 1L,4L.  
**Race 4:** 10 Silverene \$18.30 \$3.50 1A Bit Wicked \$1.50 11 Heart Command \$2.20. Q: \$59.20. E: \$140.70. T: \$616.00. A2: 1-10: \$14.20, 10-11: \$8.90, 1-11: \$6.50. FIRST 4: (10 11 2) \$3,042.40. Scr: 3,5L,6L,7.  
**Race 5:** 1 Tips 'n' Tales \$7.90 \$2.30 6 Lily My Girl \$1.60 11 Chantilly Miss \$2.30. Q: \$16.30. E: \$43.80. T: \$301.00. A2: 1-6: \$6.00, 1-11: \$6.70, 6-11: \$9.50. FIRST 4: (1 6 11 5) \$756.60. Scr: 2,3,4,8L.  
**Race 6:** 12 Lady Jetsetter \$2.50 \$1.40 7 Jagonal \$2.30 10 Thomas The Tank \$2.00. Q: \$12.30. E: \$14.90. T: \$82.30. A2: 7-12: \$4.60, 10-12:

\$2.90, 7-10: \$6.10. FIRST 4: (12 7 10 5) \$401.00. Scr: 2,4,9,11,14,15L,16,17L.  
**Race 7:** 2 Auguste \$2.50 \$1.20 9 Prussian Heart \$1.70 3 Lord Pyrus \$2.80. Q: \$5.80. E: \$12.20. T: \$70.60. A2: 2-9: \$2.80, 2-3: \$3.60, 3-9: \$10.20. FIRST 4: (2 9 3 6) \$314.80. Scr: 1L,5,8,10.  
**Race 8:** 6 How Can I Help \$5.90 \$2.10 18 Coup D'etat \$5.20 4 Iron Meteorite \$1.80. Q: \$116.20. E: \$191.80. T: \$1,111.50. A2: 6-18: \$33.10, 4-6: \$5.30, 4-18: \$29.60. FIRST 4: (6 18 4 10) \$7,219.80. Scr: 1L,2,5,7,8L,11,15L,16L,17L,19.  
**EXTRA DOUBLE:** 2 Lucky Sound 10 Silverene \$102.10. SUB: 5 Superstition 1 A Bit Wicked. **DOUBLE:** 2 Auguste 6 How Can I Help \$19.50. SUB: 2 Auguste 3 Three Beers Please. **TREBLE:** 12 Lady Jetsetter 2 Auguste 6 How Can I Help \$70.60. SUB: 12 Lady Jetsetter 2 Auguste 3 Three Beers Please.  
**QUADDIE:** 1 Tips 'n' Tales 12 Lady Jetsetter 2 Auguste 6 How Can I Help \$343.80. SUB: 6 Lily My Girl 12 Lady Jetsetter 2 Auguste 3 Three Beers Please.  
**SANDOWN**  
**Race 1:** 10 Fifty Eight Facets \$2.40 \$1.20 5 Mathison \$1.40 7 Thrill Keeper \$1.80. Q: \$3.20. E: \$4.30. T: \$18.50. A2: 5-10: \$1.60, 7-10: \$2.90, 5-7: \$5.40. FIRST 4: (10 5 7 3) \$103.00. Scr: 6.  
**Race 2:** 2 Cordoba \$17.70 \$3.60 9 Omarion \$5.70 11 Idle Dreams \$4.10. Q: \$170.70. E:

\$261.60. T: \$10,011.40. A2: 2-9: \$50.10, 2-11: \$38.30, 9-11: \$56.70. FIRST 4: (2 9 11 8) \$10,922.20. Scr: 1,12.  
**Race 3:** 1 Java \$7.00 \$2.20 2 Pure Addiction \$2.20 3 Hong Kong Captain \$1.70. Q: \$22.20. E: \$42.90. T: \$80.40. A2: 1-2: \$7.10, 1-3: \$4.10, 2-3: \$5.30. FIRST 4: (1 2 3 8) \$1,349.20. Scr: 5,11.  
**Race 4:** 8 Light Years Ahead \$15.10 \$4.60 9 So You Drink \$2.10 6 Totolo \$2.80. Q: \$52.80. E: \$205.90. T: \$2,702.40. A2: 8-9: \$14.70, 6-8: \$35.30, 6-9: \$13.90. FIRST 4: (8 9 6 10) \$15,320.80. All Started.  
**Race 5:** 9 Melting Moment \$15.00 \$3.90 8 Hot Ruby \$2.30 6 Elle Excite \$1.60. Q: \$62.10. E: \$108.60. T: \$637.40. A2: 8-9: \$11.70, 6-9: \$9.10, 6-8: \$5.30. FIRST 4: (9 8 6 11) \$2,085.80. Scr: 2,7,12.  
**Race 6:** 3 Zahspeed \$5.30 \$2.40 6 Lucques \$3.10 5 Faraja \$1.90. Q: \$25.00. E: \$40.50. T: \$260.80. A2: 3-6: \$7.80, 3-5: \$6.40, 5-6: \$12.80. FIRST 4: (3 6 5 1) \$1,399.20. All Started.  
**Race 7:** 1 Heez Notorious \$11.10 \$2.90 7 Storm Approach \$2.80 10 Beach Head \$1.60. Q: \$69.50. E: \$105.40. T: \$403.90. A2: 1-7: \$22.20, 1-10: \$8.90, 7-10: \$5.60. FIRST 4: (1 7 10 5) \$2,847.00. Scr: 3,4,9,13,14.  
**Race 8:** 12 Winter Palace \$17.50 \$4.60 1 Alakris \$1.30 7 Cool Attraction \$2.90. Q: \$26.20. E: \$76.80. T: \$525.50. A2: 1-12: \$8.90, 7-12:

\$15.20, 1-7: \$4.10. FIRST 4: (12 17 17) \$3,284.40. Scr: 4,5L,10L,13,16,20.  
**EXTRA DOUBLE:** 1 Java 8 Light Years Ahead \$209.20. SUB: 10 Pattini 11 Mystic Puzzle. **DOUBLE:** 1 Heez Notorious 12 Winter Palace \$342.30. SUB: 10 Beach Head 1 Alakris. **TREBLE:** 3 Zahspeed 1 Heez Notorious 12 Winter Palace \$1,806.50. SUB: 5 Faraja 10 Beach Head 1 Alakris. **QUADDIE:** 9 Melting Moment 3 Zahspeed 1 Heez Notorious 12 Winter Palace \$34,634.10. SUB: 6 Elle Excite 5 Faraja 10 Beach Head 1 Alakris. **WARWICK FARM**  
**Race 1:** 5 Cast In Stone \$5.20 \$2.50 1 Dream Folk \$1.30 2 Sommernachtstraum NTD. Q: \$6.00. E: \$23.40. T: \$43.80. FIRST 4: (5 12 4) \$88.60. All Started.  
**Race 2:** 5 Bella Galeano \$1.90 \$1.30 2 Passionflower \$1.60 1 Elegant Doubt NTD. Q: \$2.60. E: \$4.40. T: \$10.90. FIRST 4: (5 2 13) \$30.40. All Started.  
**Race 3:** 10 Kontiki Dane \$4.10 \$1.70 4 Got You Double \$4.80 3 Electrifyin' \$1.20. Q: \$55.00. E: \$62.50. T: \$253.20. A2: 4-10: \$16.90, 3-10: \$3.30, 3-4: \$7.20. FIRST 4: (10 4 3 8) \$7,280.80. Scr: 5,11.  
**Race 4:** 6 Palazzo Pubblico \$9.50 \$2.70 5 Eventide \$2.70 1 Hebden \$1.30. Q: \$34.50. E:

\$103.70. T: \$240.80. A2: 5-6: \$6.70, 1-6: \$6.00, 1-5: \$5.70. FIRST 4: (6 5 1 4) \$643.80. Scr: 2L,9.  
**Race 5:** 5 Montiro \$11.90 \$3.00 7 Piamini \$3.90 3 Episodes \$1.90. Q: \$80.30. E: \$200.60. T: \$611.10. A2: 5-7: \$20.70, 3-5: \$6.60, 3-7: \$10.70. FIRST 4: (5 7 3 10) \$3,814.80. All Started.  
**Race 6:** 8 Felines \$2.80 \$1.30 9 Frankiefourfingers \$4.00 7 Run Cannon Run \$2.20 5 Britalla Kate \$1.90. Q: \$32.40. E: \$66.10. T: \$291.40. A2: 1-10: \$9.80, 1-5: \$8.60, 5-10: \$12.20. FIRST 4: (1 10 5 11) \$1,479.20. Scr: 6,7,8.  
**EXTRA DOUBLE:** 5 Bella Galeano 10 Kontiki Dane \$12.10. SUB: 5 Bella Galeano 3 Electrifyin'. **DOUBLE:** 8 Felines 1 Aghamore \$28.60. SUB: 8 Felines 11 Majaska. **TREBLE:** 5 Montiro 8 Felines 1 Aghamore \$255.10. SUB: 10 Am Impressed 8 Felines 11 Majaska. **QUADDIE:** 6 Palazzo Pubblico 5 Montiro 8 Felines 1 Aghamore \$6,246.20. SUB: 3 Freeze The Charges 10 Am Impressed 8 Felines 11 Majaska.