

# Diamonds wary of ambush

REBECCA WILLIAMS

MIDCOURT star Madi Robinson says the Diamonds must work harder together as a group if they are to seal a quad series victory against arch rivals New Zealand today.

After making her own brilliant return to the international netball stage last week, Robinson said the world champion Diamonds still had a lot more to give in the deciding Test against the Silver Ferns in Melbourne.

The Diamonds scored comfortable victories in their open-

ing two battles of the quad series against South Africa last Sunday and England on Wednesday, but the players know they must improve their consistency and skills to ensure they stay on top of their trans-Tasman rivals.

"It's been great to get the two wins, but at the same time we have been a little bit disappointed with the inconsistency over the four quarters and coming in and out of the game," Robinson said. "We know that if we do that (today) then they will punish us on the scoreboard."

"We have been focusing on cutting down those errors, basic turnovers or poor decision making."

"Each individual has identified that they have got more to give."

"You can expect from every single person out there playing for the Diamonds to step it up another level because we know we need to bring our A-grade game to make sure that we can compete with the Kiwis because they are playing some really great netball."

Robinson brought her A game for her impressive come-

back to international netball, picking up MVP honours in the Diamonds' 25-goal win over South Africa in the quad series opener in Auckland last Sunday.

It is Robinson's first series with the Diamonds since 2014 after the champion wing attack missed last year's World Cup campaign following a knee reconstruction.

"This has been pretty special. When it is taken away from you and completely out of your control it just shows you how much you want it," Robinson said.

"I didn't want to put too much pressure on myself thinking that it was just going to happen straight away, I thought it might have taken me a good 12 months because you never know how you are going to come back from injury."

"It's obviously been a bit of a whirlwind and I'm sure I'll sit back at the end of the year and go, 'Wow, that was pretty good.'"

**AUSTRALIA V NEW ZEALAND, TODAY, 3.40PM AT MARGARET COURT ARENA**



**COURTING SUCCESS:** Madi Robinson in top return.

## Redlands turn up Heat

MARCO MONTEVERDE

MICHAEL Lee scored a dramatic stoppage-time winner as Redlands United twice fought back from a goal down to beat FNQ Heat 3-2 in last night's NPL Queensland grand final at Perry Park.

The Heat seemed destined for victory as they led 2-1 deep into the contest thanks to a Kieran Sanders double.

However, Redlands, who knocked A-League champions Adelaide United out of the FFA Cup at the same venue last month after trailing, again weren't to be denied.

Jake Sherwood made it 2-2 in the 86th minute, taking advantage of a mistake from Heat goalkeeper Kevin Ward.

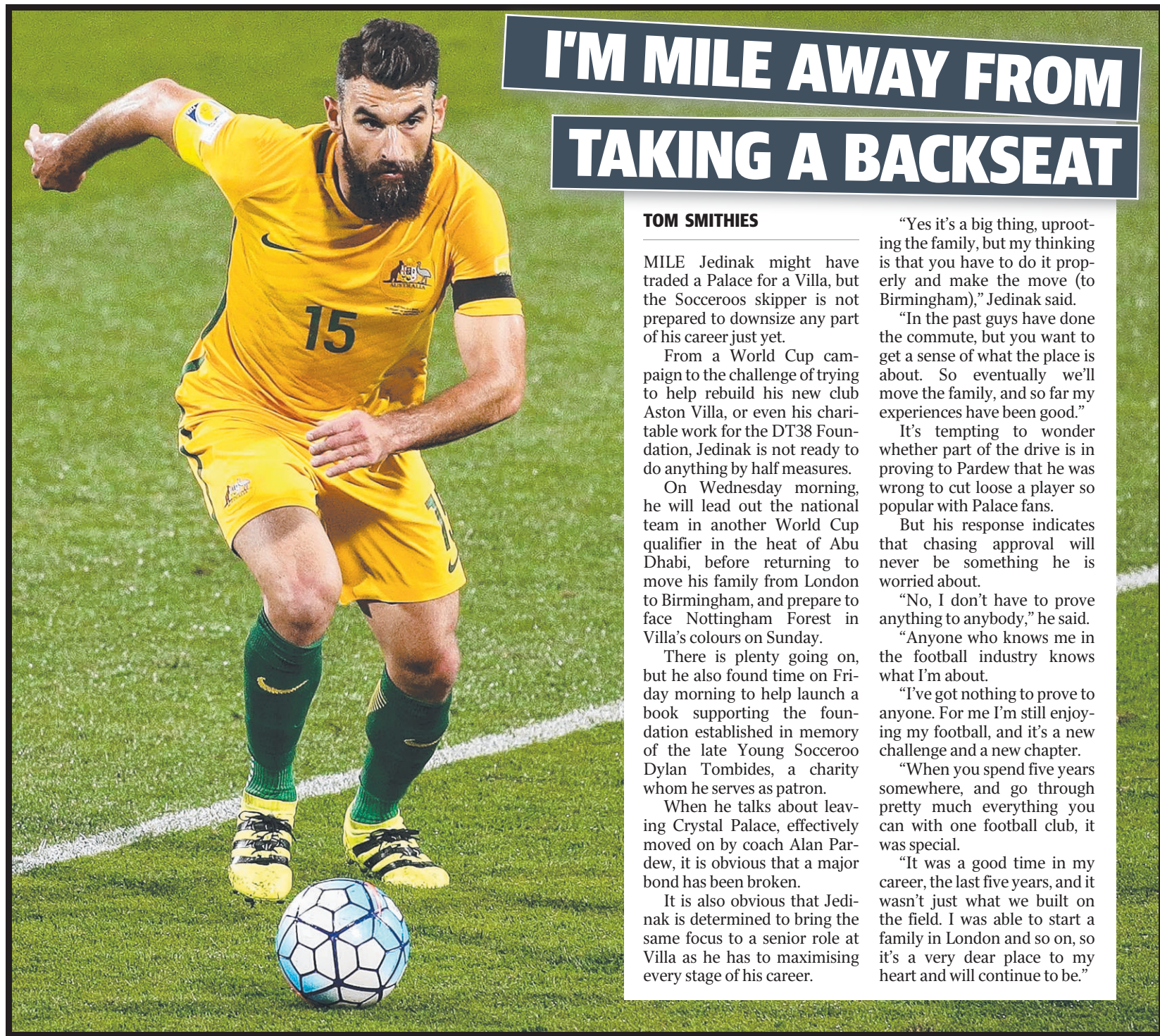
Redlands finished the job one minute into injury time via Lee, who unleashed with a long-distance strike that broke Heat hearts.

Redlands had last week ended the finals campaign of NPLQ premiers Brisbane Strikers.

But the Strikers' effort to top the ladder has earned them a spot in the upcoming eight-team NPL Australia finals series.

■ THE chance to finish the season undefeated is added motivation for The Gap in their NPL Queensland women's grand final tonight against Olympic FC at Walton Bridge Reserve.

"One thing that's been driving us is getting that unbeaten record," Gators skipper Ruth Blackburn said.



TOM SMITHIES

MILE Jedinak might have traded a Palace for a Villa, but the Socceroos skipper is not prepared to downsize any part of his career just yet.

From a World Cup campaign to the challenge of trying to help rebuild his new club Aston Villa, or even his charitable work for the DT38 Foundation, Jedinak is not ready to do anything by half measures.

On Wednesday morning, he will lead out the national team in another World Cup qualifier in the heat of Abu Dhabi, before returning to move his family from London to Birmingham, and prepare to face Nottingham Forest in Villa's colours on Sunday.

There is plenty going on, but he also found time on Friday morning to help launch a book supporting the foundation established in memory of the late Young Socceroo Dylan Tombides, a charity whom he serves as patron.

When he talks about leaving Crystal Palace, effectively moved on by coach Alan Pardew, it is obvious that a major bond has been broken.

It is also obvious that Jedinak is determined to bring the same focus to a senior role at Villa as he has to maximising every stage of his career.

"Yes it's a big thing, uprooting the family, but my thinking is that you have to do it properly and make the move (to Birmingham)," Jedinak said.

"In the past guys have done the commute, but you want to get a sense of what the place is about. So eventually we'll move the family, and so far my experiences have been good."

It's tempting to wonder whether part of the drive is in proving to Pardew that he was wrong to cut loose a player so popular with Palace fans.

But his response indicates that chasing approval will never be something he is worried about.

"No, I don't have to prove anything to anybody," he said.

"Anyone who knows me in the football industry knows what I'm about."

"I've got nothing to prove to anyone. For me I'm still enjoying my football, and it's a new challenge and a new chapter."

"When you spend five years somewhere, and go through pretty much everything you can with one football club, it was special."

"It was a good time in my career, the last five years, and it wasn't just what we built on the field. I was able to start a family in London and so on, so it's a very dear place to my heart and will continue to be."

**SUNDAY BETS**

WITH STEVE WADDINGHAM

**UBET**

### THE POOL

Each week UBET provides a \$50 bet with the proceeds going to Brisbane's Childhood Cancer Support network.

Close but no cigar last week, with the Roosters going down to the Sharks and Daniel Ricciardo finishing second in Belgium.

**Total: \$4140.20**

### THE BANKER

No Peyton Manning for the Denver Broncos and they will take time to

click with new quarterback Trevor Siemen. Our \$40 will be on Carolina giving up three points start when the NFL season opens on Friday.

**Collect: \$74**

### THE HAIL MARY

With searing heat expected and the UAE coming off a shock win over Japan, the Socceroos would probably happily take a point in their World Cup qualifier in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. Our \$10 goes on a scoreless draw.

**Collect: \$90**

## Coughing and massage rub Hauschildt the wrong way

AMANDA LULHAM

JUNK food and alcohol are the evils athletes usually avoid before a big race but coughing and massage have caused triathlete Mel Hauschildt the most grief before world championship races.

The Australian distance triathlete has been intent on avoiding both as she bids to claim a third world half ironman title this weekend, just five years after taking up the sport.

"Hopefully it's all behind

me now," Hauschildt said before the world 70.3 championships at Mooloolaba today, where she will take to the water as one of the women's favourites.

Hauschildt (pictured) admits her history of injury is a little strange.

A former Commonwealth Games steeplechaser who switched to triathlon at the end of 2010 because her body could not cope with the rigours of her first love, she has missed several major events due to injuries sustained in an unusual



pector and dislocated rib and two months on the sidelines.

Last year a fit of coughing caused a fractured rib which would not heal.

"The fracture is right behind my lung so it won't heal at all," Hauschildt said.

Today she hopes to add a

manner. In 2014, a massage before her first Hawaii ironman triathlon left Hauschildt with a torn

pector and dislocated rib and two months on the sidelines.

Last year a fit of coughing caused a fractured rib which would not heal.

"The fracture is right behind my lung so it won't heal at all," Hauschildt said.

Today she hopes to add a

third crown to her win-list at the Mooloolaba race involving a 1.9km swim, 90km cycle and 21km run.

"I think it will be great preparation for the Hawaii ironman as well," Hauschildt said.

"I'm feeling very relaxed and chilled."

The Mooloolaba race has attracted a top field, with Swiss triathlete and defending champion Daniela Ryf likely to provide Hauschildt's main opposition.

Tim Reed is Australia's top hope in the men's race.