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# SPORT



**GOOD SPORTS PAGE 34**



# BRAGGING RIGHTS



## North Queensland rivalry set to ignite



By **MARK BODE**  
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**RUGBY LEAGUE:** What's better: Experience or youth exuberance?

That's the question which will be answered when the Mackay Cutters and North-

ern Pride clash in the opening round of the Queensland Cup at Barlow Park in Cairns on March 15.

Cutters player-coach Shane Muspratt yesterday fired the first salvo in what's sure to be one of the fiercest rivalries in the

competition by questioning the Pride's experience.

Pride coach Andrew Dunemann responded by saying he would rather have the passion which came with youth.

"I know a fair few players in the Pride side," Muspratt said.

"They're a fairly young side - a young pack."

Muspratt said the Cutters were stacked with NRL-reared experience - which could prove decisive at critical times.

"I brought in experience players with NRL experience, like Jamie McDonald, John Doyle, Adam Schubert and Luke Young, to help the younger players," he said.

"In tight situations, when it comes down to the wire, those players, including myself, will hopefully result in us making the right decisions."

Muspratt said early season bragging right would be up for grabs in the opening round clash.

"There's always been a bit of rivalry between the two teams through the Foley Shield days," he said.

"We play them in our first trial game in Moranbah on February 16, so that will give us a fair idea what they're like."

Muspratt labelled his

former Cowboys teammate, halfback Chris Shepperd, as a Pride player who will come under extra scrutiny.

"I'd say he'll be probably leading them around the ground and he'll probably be captain as well," he said.

Dunemann, who finished up his multi-club career at the Raiders last season, said he liked the look of his

squad.

He said while it was a young squad, there was an injection of experience through Shepperd and Brett Anderson - both of whom have NRL credentials.

"Overall I like young players - they put their bodies on the line," he said.

"We've got a lot of players who still want to play NRL."

"They've come here to play NRL with the Cowboys."

Dunemann said he was happy with his squad but admitted he would like more depth in the halves.

"We're a bit light on in that department," he said.

The Pride coach said he "didn't have a clue" about the Cutters squad.

MACKAY	CAIRNS
Shane Muspratt	Brett Anderson
John Doyle	Ryan Bartlett
Jamie McDonald	Chey Bird
Daniel Goddard	Greg Byrnes
Luke Young	Drew Campbell
Kerrod Toby	Mark Cantoni
Quinton Fielder	Warren Jensen
Chris Guimelli	Ben Kerr
Josh Rovelli	Ben Laity
Jim Bryant	Richie Marsters
Aaron Barba	Adam Mills
Luke Srama	Hezron Murgha
Todd Seymour	Joel Reithmuller
Michael Pearce	Jason Roos
Matt Mannion	Chris Sheppard
Anthony Coulton	Stephen Sheppard
Cody Norton	Steve Singleton
Matt Parnis	Alex Starmer
David Nixon	Noel Underwood
Jared Owens	Eric Warria
Daniel Flynn	Kahu Wehi
Tim Williams	Michael Mark
Adam Schubert	Jesse Joe Parker
Sam Granville	Josh Vaughn
Scott Leigh	Gordon Rattler
Brendan Crouch	



Aaron Barba and Shane Muspratt at a weights session with fellow Mackay Cutter Cody Norton.  
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