

**SPORTSMONDAY**

**RUGBY LEAGUE**

**QUEENSLAND CUP**

# Former Comet to bolster Cutters



By **Jim Mulcair**  
jim.mulcair  
@dailymercury.com.au

CODY Norton brings a full season's experience of Queensland Cup football to the Mackay Cutters in their debut year.

He played with the Central Queensland Comets (Rockhampton) last year and wants to be a permanent member of the 17-man squad for the debutantes.

Norton is 22, and is a 180cm, 90kg centre/lock.

He wants to play centre this year. Originally from Moranbah, Norton has also played Colts football with Redcliffe between 2003-05, winning a grand final in

2003.

"That was the highlight of my career, that and making my State League debut with the Comets," Norton said yesterday.

Norton said the step-up to State league standard was "massive".

"This is serious. One week you could be playing club footy and then you get picked in the League and could be facing top players from the NRL who play for the Broncos or the Gold Coast.

"You have to be pretty tough and very fit to play at that level."

Norton sees his fitness and his stamina as major advantages coming into the

Cutters' training squad.

"I had great commitment with the Comets to finish any game as well as I started. You have to be extremely fit and I want to do the same with the Cutters.

"Developing a better defence is also a priority for me at this level," Norton said.

"So my goals are fairly simple. Get into the squad permanently and get a run on start as often as possible.

If Norton is forced out of the squad he will play with the Souths Sharks at the local club level, where he played all his junior football.

He also played Confraternity Shield for St Pat's,

Mackay.

Norton is a semi-professional but also works a full time job like most of the other players based in Mackay.

He is an air-conditioning mechanic at McGuire Air.

He trains six days a week. When not at work or on the training paddock Norton likes to hit the surf or play golf.

Norton met his partner, Chantelle Traficante in Rockhampton and she had just completed a degree in media marketing.

Looks like the surf and golf may be off the agenda if Chantelle makes the move north.

Former Central Comets player Cody Norton is now with the Mackay Cutters. AMANDA BALMER 181207/657



One of Mackay Rugby League's more colourful characters; Aaron Barba is set to add some spark to the Mackay Cutters back-line. AMANDA BALMER 181207/655

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