

SPORTSMONDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE

QUEENSLAND CUP

Young talent to fire for the Cutters

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LUKE Young came to Mackay to take up the large football challenge of playing with a brand new rugby league team on the Australian scene, the Mackay Cutters.

The Cutters make their debut in the 2008 Queensland Wizard cup and Young wants to be in the team, playing the pivotal five eighth position.

He has no illusions. "It will be tough being a new team," he said.

"I want to be competitive as a player and for us as a team.

"We have a good bunch of blokes who work hard. It's been tough at training; we want to do well," said Young, who arrived in

Mackay just two weeks ago.

He brings some solid credentials with him.

He played with the Welsh Celtic Crusaders, based at Bridgend in southern Wales, in 2006 and 2007.

The team won the title in its first year in the National League One competition, one level below Super League, and Young played most matches.

The premiers are decided on a home and away match system.

Young, who played full time professional football with the Crusaders, began his football career in Sydney with the Cronulla Sharks.

He played under 17s, 19s and reserves before switching to Penrith, playing reserve and first grade. He also played with the Canterbury Bulldogs at reserve



Former Celtic pivot Luke Young is hopeful of cementing a spot in the Cutters' halves.

PHOTO: AMANDA BALMER 081207/038

and first grades levels.

He played nine first grade games in the National Rugby League.

Young is 27, single ("which is lucky for the girls"), weighs 85kg and is 178 cm tall.

As a five-eighth, he loves to kick in play, to work options and provide variety.

That could be vital for a new team trying to make its mark in a tough new comp.

Off the football field, he enjoys music and surfing, although he may notice a bit of a difference in the waves here, compared to the magnificent surf off Cronulla beaches.



RIGHT: Matt Mannion takes a dive during a physical training work-out at Mackay Harbour on Saturday.

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