

Bats fire in Twenty20

Big shots come out in Tully

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RAINFOREST Cup cricket brought out the big shots at the weekend, with six Far Northern teams converging on Tully's Country Club and Aerodrome ovals.

The annual indigenous Twenty20-style tournament attracted teams from as far as Cooktown and Malanda – the eventual winner of the two-day competition.

Innisfail Redbacks, consisting mostly of young players with little cricket experience and older heads who had been out of the game for several years, lost their opening pool match against Cooktown, but hit back in an exciting local derby against Tully.

The home side reached a total of 105 runs, before being dismissed in the final over.

George Savage, Brodie Clubb and Larry Mow snared two wickets each.

The Redbacks threw plenty of enthusiasm into the run chase, with openers Stan Lowah and Herb Walsh offering a quickfire 42-run stand before the fall of the first wicket.

Innisfail reached the target in the final over.

The Redbacks cruised through the quarterfinal against Jumbun, scoring a massive 133 runs for the loss of just three wickets in their 20 overs.

Kyle Payne retired on the maximum individual score of 30, with Luke Club reaching 29.

In reply, Jumbun reached 6/78, with George Savage capturing 2/19 for Innisfail.

The Redbacks faced up to Cooktown in the semifinal and,



SHOT: Redbacks captain Herb Walsh sends the ball to the boundary in the pool match against Tully on Saturday.
BELOW: Teenager Corey Davis sends one down for Innisfail.

once again, the Imparja Cup champions proved too good for the inexperienced Innisfail side and won their way through to the final against Malanda.

"We were expecting those sides to do well," coach Stan Lenoy said. "Most of our guys don't really play cricket, so they did really well."

"Brodie Clubb hasn't really played before and he's improved out of sight. Then there's guys like Gavin Masina, who hasn't played for 17 or 18 years."

Young all-rounder Kyle Payne was a standout for the Redbacks, consistently taking wickets and scoring runs throughout the weekend.

Lenoy said the tournament was an overall success and he wished to thank sponsor John Pizzolato for supplying the Redbacks with their uniforms.

"We're hoping to have it in Tully again next year and all the teams said they'd like to come back," Lenoy said.

