

All Blacks, Cities have tough tasks

By **MURRAY WENZEL**

HOCKEY: Long-time women's hockey dominators Cities will face its biggest test yet this weekend when they travel to the grass fields of Hervey Bay to tackle a much-improved Bay team.

The Bay side remains undefeated this year and has only conceded one goal in four games.

Cities' defensive record is just as impressive but facing the Bay on the bouncy grass fields will give the home team an advantage.

Having trained and played on the Hinkler Park or Maryborough water-based surface every game for the last two years, Cities will have to adjust quickly to the different style of play that grass hockey demands.

Uprights traps, hitting passes and no drag-outs from corners are some of the more difficult adjustments, while the goalkeeper will also have to become accustomed to the uneven

nature of the grass field.

Cities' men face the same challenge, and will be without the services of long-time fullback Jamie Rach and centre half Sam Burt.

Burt received a red card for abusing the umpire late in last week's defeat of Arrows and copped a two-match ban for his efforts.

It will cause a reshuffle within the team, but there is enough depth and experience for last year's local champions to cope.

All Blacks men's and women's teams have the tough task of Granville Tigers in Maryborough.

Granville men have been dominant this season and All Blacks are yet to win a game.

Rovers take on Maryborough's Brothers, with the Bundaberg teams starting favourites.

Tinana – the only team to take a goal from Hervey Bay this season – play Arrows-Athletics in the final Premier League clash of the weekend.