

# A Sarah Walters special seals win

**HOCKEY:** Cities women booked a Premier League grand final spot in true 2010 fashion yesterday, holding off Hervey Bay for the narrowest of victories.

Their 1-0 result was another case of just doing enough for the points – a common trend in this season's games.

The game was won in the 13th minute when young gun Sarah Walters sent a blistering long-range shot past the Hervey Bay goalkeeper.

She dribbled wide to the right of the circle and let rip a shot that blew away the big crowd and sent the Cities faithful into raptures.

Despite raid upon raid into Bay territory, Cities were unable to put the final pass on a stick or find the back of the net again.

Bay striker Dana Gartrell kept Cities' defensive battery on their toes, but she too was unable to beat the net, with the Bundaberg side getting the upper hand after a 1-1 result earlier this year.

They will need to lift their game though – travelling to Maryborough to play the red-hot Wallaroos next Sunday.

Cities failed to transfer the ball with the pace expected of the successful side, while their passes were cut off by the Bay defence with worrying ease.

In Maryborough, Wallaroos accounted for Granville 4-0, proving themselves favourites for next week's final. A hat-trick from Belinda Kenny led the Maryborough team to victory, with Jodie Cullen providing the other goal.

The final is set down for Sunday, with normal fixtures still on Friday night and Saturday.



Cities' Helen Dorran and Sea Eagles' Lily Hayter. Photo: Darryn Smith hcc3005e



Photo: Darryn Smith

Granville's Jon-Paul Kahler and Rovers' Ryan Lee battle for possession during Rovers' loss.

# Rovers pipped, Cities find winning form

By MURRAY WENZEL

**HOCKEY:** When Granville Tigers were forced to shed their usual strip to avoid confusion against the yellow and black Rovers yesterday morning, there were murmurs in the grandstand about the time Samson was given a haircut.

But just like the biblical strong man, the Tigers — 2009 Premier League champions — found the strength to pass their gallant rivals and book a date with Cities in the 2010 Premier League final.

They brushed aside memories of their 7-0 defeat to Rovers last time they played to immediately grab the advantage, before hanging on for a 4-3 victory.

It was crushing for the Bundaberg Rovers, who had the Tigers in a spin late in the match, and could have run over them if there was more time on the clock.

But in the end, two goals in the first 10 minutes proved too great a

## PREMIER LEAGUE FALLOUT

- Granville Tigers 4 (Cameron Baker, Joel Helmstedt, Aaron Kenny, Travis Sutton) def Rovers 3 (Haydn Lancaster, Colby Zahn, Simon Cuder)
- Cities (women) 1 (Sarah Walters) def Hervey Bay 0
- Cities (men) 4 (Joel Latham 2, Brody Latham, Josh Stacey) def Hervey Bay 0

deficit to claw back.

Colby Zahn and Josh Crowe were again inspirational for the Bundaberg team, while some hard running from the Rovers forwards and tight marking in defence forced Tigers to lose their cool and almost hand Rovers a victory.

Tigers hard man Trent Baker was sent off for a bad tackle and could miss next week's final, while Travis Sutton also felt the wrath of the umpire for a lazy tackle. They will ready themselves for a Mary-



Rovers' goalkeeper Adam Webb stretches with success during their semi-final against Granville.

Photo: Rod Praed

borough showdown with Cities — a replay of last year's final.

Cities booked their place in the decider with a 4-0 deconstruction of Hervey Bay.

In contrast to the last time the teams met, Cities controlled possession and had the bulk of the opportunities.

But like their women's team they could only find the net once in the first half despite the chances.

It was more of the same in the second stanza, until Joel Latham extended their lead in the 58th

minute.

A Josh Stacey tomahawk followed into the net four minutes later, before Latham lined up his second and the team's fourth in the 65th.

It was the first-time they have kept a team scoreless, much to the satisfaction of "keeper Brendan Weller.

"We marked a lot tighter in the back and had a lot of control. It was good to watch from the box and hopefully we build on that next weekend," he said.