



Cities search for goals to defend their League title

Cities gun Naomi Snook will be hunting for goals on Sunday.

Photo: Darryn Smith hoc3005i

WOMEN'S FINAL: Cities will need to overcome a red-hot Wallaroos to claim another Premier League title on Sunday afternoon.

For once the Bundaberg team won't enter a final as favourites, with Roos' goal-scoring form hard to look past.

They scored more than double (42 to 20) the goals of

Cities in regular season and romped home in their semi-final 4-1 last weekend.

"They've proven they're prolific goal scorers whereas we've just been doing enough this season," Cities coach Robert Quaite said.

"They've certainly come good at the back end and it will be hard work if we want to

knock them off, especially in Maryborough."

In what Quaite described as their best performance of the year, Cities negotiated Roos 3-1 earlier in the season, but since then the Maryborough outfit have only improved.

"We played well that day, but we had the luck as well," he said.

"Since then goals haven't been coming as easily as we are used to."

The fact they are travelling to Maryborough does not faze Quaite though.

"We've played there and won there before," he said.

"That's not an issue. Whoever gets the bounce of the ball will get the win."

Defence is crucial for Cities' win

By MURRAY WENZEL

MEN'S FINAL: Construction began at Tuesday night training on a Cities defensive brick wall that they hope will hold out defending champions Granville Tigers in Sunday's Premier League grand final blockbuster in Maryborough.

Despite finishing on top of the table and mustering 47 goals before semi-finals, Cities' 18 goals against handed them the fourth-worst defensive record in the league.

Their brittle defence was exposed by Granville in their last meeting when Cities leaked five unanswered goals on their home turf.

An improved effort at the back is what player-coach Mick Callaghan has demanded, with the motivator believing the goals will take care of themselves.

"We have enough attacking talent to score enough goals to win a game," he said.

"Our problem has been keeping them out of our net; we need to get much tougher and tighter in defence. We need to let Granville know we're there."

The team responded well to Callaghan's request last week, shutting out Hervey Bay and registering their first clean sheet of the year.

"I think we did lift our intensity for



Cities centre-half Sam Burtt at his probing best against Granville two weeks ago.

the semi," Callaghan said.

"There was less daylight between us and our man, but there is still room for improvement."

The wounds are still fresh for Cities after last year's grand final loss, while the Tigers will have their tail's up at home.

"Travelling to Maryborough doesn't scare us," Callaghan said.