



Cities division 1 players Sarah Quaite, Angela Asnicar, Clare Slaney and Caitlin Clark.

Photo: Mike Knott hcc0706a

Cities' reign ends in Premier League

Tigers too good, but women pledge a return to rewrite history

By **DOUG GILLET**
 Doug.Gillett@news-mail.com.au

HOCKEY: A golden era for reigning premiers Cities Women was shattered on Sunday night in a heart-breaking conclusion to the Premier League grand final.

The chance to claim a fourth consecutive premiership in the Wide Bay competition and enter the league's record book was snatched away by the resurgent Granville Tigers in overtime.

Coach Robert Quaite said the sudden 2-1 defeat had been a disappointing end to his side's Premier League campaign, but morale was still high.

"It's something of an end to an era for us and now we've got to try and bounce back and notch up

another few premierships," he said.

"It would have been a record and it's still a record we want to set."

Quaite believed the feat was still within the team's reach with experience, depth and skill at its disposal.

"It's going to make it a much longer journey but it's possible and after the loss, the girls will be even hungrier for it," he said.

"We've got some great long-term players and some great up-and-coming players and we'll be back next year."

With the score tied at 1-1 at full-time, a golden goal to Granville with 30 seconds to go, in the first drop-off of overtime sealed the fate of Cities.

A tense stalemate gripped the

field in the first half with staunch defence on both sides of the park clipping the wings of forwards.

Granville cut through the tension mid-way through the first

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half with a striking goal, leaving Cities striker Naomi Snook to equalise five minutes later.

Snook ran the ball up from 25m out to slot a sneaky goal through the pads of the Granville keeper.

"The girls held on and really brought it to them, but ultimately couldn't get the extra goal when we needed it," he said.

After the loss the team will redirect its energy on the Bundaberg Hockey Association competition, but Quaite said notching up the four-year milestone would remain an aspiration for his side.

"We'll be working hard in the local competition because I don't think the girls want to feel that sinking grand final feeling again."

Quaite conceded Granville were the better side on the day but said his team would be back hungrier and meaner next year.

"We knew it was going to be tough and they've proven they are contenders, but we're not going anywhere," he said.