

Experienced umpires sidelined for district deciders

SENIOR umpires Royce McCormack and Martin Jones have been brushed from all finals action in Newcastle district cricket this weekend.

Interestingly, McCormack was the 2007-08 Newcastle District Cricket Umpires Association umpire of the year, an award Jones has won an incredible six times.

Jones announced his retirement from umpiring at the end of the 2006-07 competition but was lured back part-time the following season and full-time this campaign.

McCormack has only umpired since Christmas this season because of work commitments. Kim Norris and Michael



Quick singles

Connolly will stand in the first-grade final.

■ Belmont batsman Craig Slavek will benefit from the premature departure of English import Simon Greenall by playing in his first top-grade district final.

Greenall, like most imports from the UK, was forced to leave before the end of the season.

Slavek was called into the first-grade side for Belmont's last-round

game against Hamilton-Wickham.

A member of the second-grade side all season before that, Slavek played in last week's semi-final win over Merewether at Harker Oval.

■ Looking back on the season, Toronto Workers are the standout side after completing their rise from cellar-dwellers to minor premiers on the back of three successful years.

University also lifted their game dramatically to finish sixth after finishing one spot ahead of wooden spooners Waratah-Mayfield the previous season.

Luke Bird proved an excellent acquisition for the club, and they

NDCA FINALS

1st grade: Toronto Workers v Belmont
at No.1 Sportsground

2nd grade: Merewether v Toronto Workers
at No.2 Sportsground

3rd grade: Merewether v Toronto Workers
at Harker Oval

4th grade: Toronto Workers v Merewether
at Waratah Oval

finished in style with a win over defending champions Merewether at Townson Oval in the last round.

■ Toronto Workers will scoop the pool when the bowling awards are

handed out at the NDCA presentation night on Friday, May 29.

Kookaburras all-rounder Joseph Price is the runaway winner of the most wickets with 59 scalps at an excellent average of 11.68.

Toronto skipper Paul Toole just scraped in with 25 wickets, the minimum number required to win district awards, to win the best bowling average of 10.6.

Merewether batsman Troy Goodwin had another excellent year with the bat.

Goodwin scored 524 runs at 58.22 to win the aggregate and average awards.