

MEDIA RELEASE

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Forging pathways for future generations

Former NTIS athlete Michael Scaturchio, 27 now shares his time between Darwin and Italy where he has been playing professional Rugby Union since 2004.

With other NTIS graduates such as Richard Tambling at the Richmond Tigers and James McManus at the Newcastle Knights, the Institute is certainly doing its bit in progressing athletes to higher levels within the professional football codes.

Darwin born Scaturchio who plays number eight while in Italy and 2nd row number eight while in the Territory said the NTIS helped him develop his talent and brought him closer to becoming a professional athlete.

“When I moved to Queensland I wasn’t a small fish in a big pond, during my time with the NTIS it was though I was playing at a professional level.

“The NTIS is one of the best Institutes I’ve come across in Australia. I was taught how to train and the importance of nutrition, especially after games, this all helped me recover and stay at a peak level week in week out,” he said.

NTIS Director, Ian Ford said the NTIS was about helping Territory kids make the transition from being just another talented junior athlete to actually making it on the national and international stage, and with this, forging a pathway for future generations.

“While we haven’t produced any Wallabies or Super 14 competition stars we are hoping that through the work we are doing in partnership with the NT and Australian Rugby Unions, the pathway will one day lead to just that.

“At the moment we have former NTIS athletes like Joe Egan and Curtis McLean at the Western Force, Robert Butcher at the ACT Brumbies and Chris Ratahi with the Queensland Reds giving it their best shot,” he said.

Scaturchio’s career history includes playing for the Mosquitoes off and on since 2000, for the Wests in Brisbane during 2001-2003 and for the Aussie Mozzies against Samoa in 2004.

Ends

Media note –Michael Scaturchio will be available for a photo and interview opportunity at the NTIS Gym - Arafura Stadium, Abala Rd, Marrara - Wednesday 28 May between 2.30pm-3pm and again on Friday, 30 May between 10am – 2pm. To lock in a time please call *NTIS, Head Rugby Union Coach - Tony Bundock 0401 118 402*

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