

North Shore Times



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YOUR PLACE, YOUR PAPER

Football heights beckon

By Simon Plumb

Football-mad Cameron Lindsay is on the brink of English premier league stardom.

Defender Lindsay, 15, is leaving for Lancashire to sign a professional contract with top-flight English club Blackburn Rovers, one of only four clubs to have won the premier league title alongside Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United.

"I was a bit stunned at first," he says.

"But now I just want to get out there."

The Northcote College student flies to England's north-west on Thursday where he'll put pen to paper on a four-year deal that could launch a high-profile and lucrative career.

Salaries for premierships players can be upwards of \$2 million a year.

"I'll start in the under-16s, then the under-18s and hopefully in the third year, I'll break into the reserves," he says.

"After that it's the senior side."

Sharing club residence with a wealth of international talent, Lindsay's first two years as a youth player will require as much work off the pitch as on it,



Birkenhead to Blackburn: Cameron Lindsay is signing for Premier League Blackburn Rovers this week.

Photo: BEN WATSON

with a fulltime academic schedule.

In 2010, when he turns 17, Lindsay will then be a fully-fledged professional, paid to play.

After impressive performances in the Nike Cup, visiting scouts from premier league club Everton offered the Central United player a

trial. Agent and Kiwi soccer icon Wynton Rufer used that to engineer other trials at Blackburn and Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers.

"The trial at Blackburn was only meant to be a week long but it got extended to two," says Lindsay.

He was given the opportunity to mix with senior

staff including manager and Manchester United goalscoring legend Mark Hughes, and club captain and fellow Kiwi Ryan Nelsen.

"I talked to Ryan for about an hour. He gave me a signed shirt and told me just to enjoy myself," says Lindsay.

The new signing follows an increasing Oceanic fla-

avour in top football with the likes of Aussies Tim Cahill, Lucas Neill, Mark Viduka and Harry Kewell in the premierships and Kiwi Chris Killen at Scottish giants Celtic.

As the latest product from his school of excellence, Fifa representative Rufer has no doubt over Lindsay's ability.

"Cameron's got a great attitude, technique and he's quality on both feet," he says. "But this all started back with the Knights when New Zealand got a professional team. It provided inspiration."

"Cameron's showing it's possible and the sky really is the limit."

Shore murder link

A MAN wanted on the North Shore for drugging his wife is at the centre of a murder investigation in Scotland.

New tests carried out this month revealed his first wife, who died in 1994, may have been poisoned.

Malcolm Webster, 48, has been on the run since failing to appear in the North Shore District Court in 2000 on charges of unlawfully administering a drug,

stupefying his wife, and two counts of arson.

Warrants for his arrest are still in force.

His first wife Clare died in a crash 14 years ago in Aberdeenshire. The car burst into flames.

Tests showed she had traces of a sedative used to treat epilepsy in her system.

Webster survived the crash and moved to Saudi Arabia with the proceeds of

a £200,000 insurance payout.

While there, he met his second wife, Felicity Drumm. They were married in Takapuna in 1997, according to the Scottish Sunday Mail.

A year later the couple were involved a crash on the North Shore.

Ms Drumm survived. She was found to have traces of a sedative in her system.

The arson charges relate to a fire at the home of Ms Drumm's parents.

The Drumm family, who still live in Takapuna, told the North Shore Times they had nothing to say.

New Zealand police have been called in to help by their Scottish counterparts who have reopened the file on Clare Webster.

North Shore district police commander Les Pater-

son referred requests for information to Wellington, saying the matter was being handled nationally.

It is believed that Webster has left New Zealand.

He is a health care worker, and has been reportedly seen in Oban and Bute in Scotland, as well as in Devon and Cornwall.

Reports about the crash that killed Clare Webster said the vehicle, a Daihatsu

4x4, did not immediately burst into flames after the crash.

Now police in Scotland are appealing for witnesses to another crash involving the same type of vehicle a month or so before the fatal accident to come forward.

They want to speak to a farmer who helped tow the vehicle on to the road, saying it is "vitally important" to the investigation.

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