



State under 16 rugby league representative Latrell Mitchell with Clive Bloomfield from Iguana.

# Latrell's late start for trial

LATRELL Mitchell almost didn't make the trial that eventually saw him included in the NSW under 16 rugby league side to play Queensland at ANZ Stadium next Wednesday night.

He had been named to play in a Possibles/Probables match at Leichhart Oval but the journey to Sydney was anything but smooth. He was travelling with his parents and they met with car trouble nearing the Central Coast. The Mitchells finally limped into Sydney only to meet peak hour traffic.

"Dad rang to tell them we were running late," Latrell said.

"We got there five minutes before kickoff."

This meant he missed the first quarter of the game. However, Latrell did enough when given a run to be named in the squad to play as a curtain raiser to the State of Origin game next week.

He is the Manning River Times-Iguana Sportstar of the



## Sports Star of the Week

**This week:** Latrell Mitchell - rugby league

Week, earning a \$50 open order at Iguana.

While he hasn't been officially informed, Latrell thinks he'll be named at fullback for the Blues and admits he 'can't wait' until the kickoff. He's been a spectator at ANZ Stadium, but this will be the first time he's played there.

He was pretty happy with the way he played in the trial but admits he wasn't over-confident about gaining a spot in the State team.

Latrell's already had a busy season. He played in trials last October for the Newcastle Harold Matthews (under 16s) team. While he missed a spot with the Knights, he was spotted by scouts from the Central Coast Centurions. This meant he had to

spend summer travelling to the Central Coast for training - on one occasion the squad completing a 10km run on a day when the temperature topped 40 degrees.

Latrell was fullback for Central Coast and the Centurions made the semi-finals where they were beaten by Cronulla.

He started playing rugby league with Taree RSL Red Rovers and was a regular member of the Group Three representative teams.

He now plays halfback for Taree City's under 18s.

Latrell's attracted a bit of interest from NRL clubs, but nothing concrete has been decided yet. A year 11 student at Chatham High, Latrell lists basketball and fishing as his other sporting interests.