JUNIOR SPORT

WITH GLYNIS NUNN (OAM)

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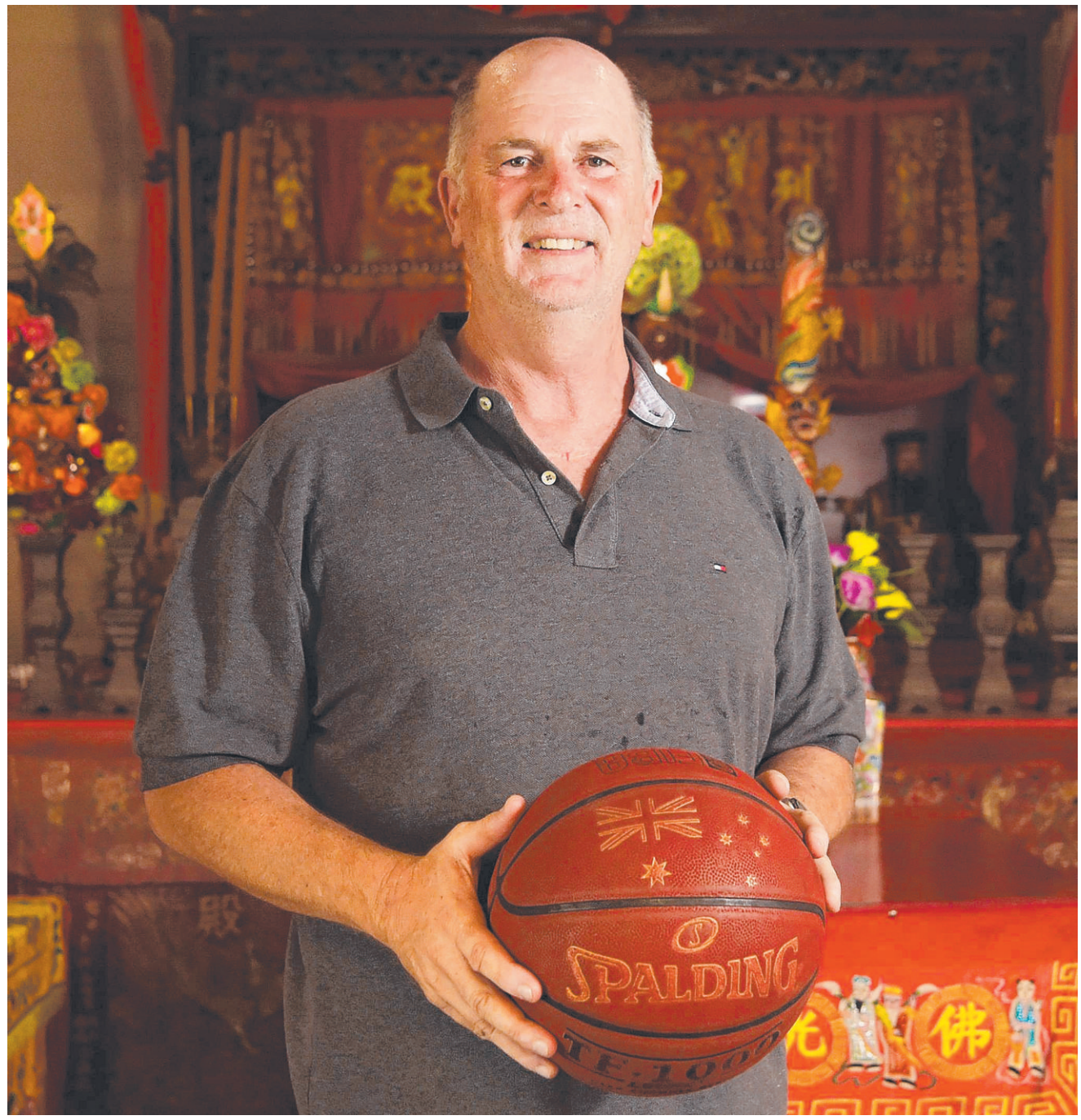
AUSTRALIAN STARS GUIDE COAST GUNS

Former Olympic champion Glynis Nunn has put a call out to all aspiring basketball players for a huge clinic.



Australian basketball legend Phil Smyth will lead a clinic on the Gold Coast. Picture: Keri Megelus

THE Gold Coast Academy of Sport is excited to be offering a two day basketball clinic on June 30-July 1 at The Southport School stadium.

Led by Australian representatives Phil Smyth and Brian Kerle, this is an opportunity not to be missed. With more than six hours of on-court technical direction and educational sessions delivered by professionals in their field, athletes will finish the two days with tools and knowledge to further their journey in their sport.

Smyth was a member of the Australian team for more than two decades. He represented in four Olympic Games and five World Championships playing 346 games in the green and gold.

As the team's point guard he was perhaps the most astute player Australia has seen being an incredible court leader which commanded respect from many of the great players. He was to be known as "The General" all around the world.

In his career of 356 NBL games, he scored 4980 points at an average of 14 per game.

He has the credible standing of being number 4 in the all-time free throw percentage list and 3rd on the list of assists and 2nd for steals.

When captaining the Canberra Cannons, they won three NBL titles in 1983, 1984 and 1988. In 1988 and 1989 he was voted as the best defensive player in the NBL. He was named as grand final MVP following the Cannons' 1988 championship victory over the North Melbourne Giants and in 1998 he was named in the NBL's Season Team.

When he left Canberra to head to Adelaide, he proved himself to be every bit as successful as a coach as he was as a player. Smyth, who enjoyed a stellar 14-season career in the National Basketball League, led Adelaide to back-to-back NBL championships in his first two seasons as head coach in 1998 and 1999 and then again in 2002.

He has contributed considerably to the sport of basketball during his career and in 2001 he was appointed head coach of the Boomers.

Smyth is now involved in a mentoring role with many leading coaches across sports but particularly with AFL. Working with a number of local Australian rules clubs in Adelaide, he also works with the Brisbane Lions to help their coaches in roles they have within the coaching team. This has proven to be a successful relationship.

As a coach Smyth saw four important factors as essential for a team and players to be successful in their sport:

1. Don't put yourself ahead of the team;

2. Ask players what are you prepared to give up, to make the other players around you better?;

3. Don't be late to training unless it is family related; and

4. Whilst a serious business, understand it is important to have some fun as well.

He says, "If we have fun, we'll do a much better job at what we're doing." Some wonderful guidelines for all sporting programs.

The other leading coach for the program is Brian Kerle. Another former Australian player, who brings incredible knowledge to the two-day clinic.

An Australian representative in the World Championships in 1970 and 1974, he then also competed at the Munich Olympics.

Brian also coached national teams to four championships, leading the St. Kilda Pumas (1979 and 1980) and the Brisbane Bullets to wins.

With more than 400,000 registered players in Australia and many more who play socially, it is a sport that can be played by anyone – dual gender and every age and ability – all you need is a court and ball. It is a game for all.

The academy is proud to be offering the opportunity for athletes on the Coast to work with two outstanding past players and coaches. With the Boomers last year achieving a bronze medal at the Olympics and Patty Mills being the outstanding player, basketball remains as popular as ever. The women's team, the Opals, unfortunately missed a medal in Tokyo but previously had success in the early 2000s with three silver and two bronze medals between 1996 and 2012.

That elusive gold has been missing but hopefully in the future, Australia will be able to create history.

Basketball is an exceptional way for kids and adults to stay fit, have fun and experience the beauty of healthy competition.

The sport of basketball in our culture sees it pop up in backyards, local parks and in sporting stadiums during weekdays and weekends. It has produced world-class heroes.

So, if you are interested in improving your game and looking for ways to improve your game and approach contact us to become involved in this outstanding program. Scan the code below to make an application.

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