

SPORT

Jockey kicks in for skaters

By NATHAN DOLE

A STAR on the turf, Victoria's top jockey Brad Rawiller has kicked in to help youngsters pursue their sporting dreams on the ice.

Through RegionalOne Credit Union's support of *The Advertiser* Southern Cross TEN Sports Star of the Year, Rawiller donated the \$1000 he received to the Ice Skating Club of Bendigo.

Rawiller's generosity has helped the club upgrade the Hattam Street rink's sound system and buy learner skate frames.

It was family links that led to the top jockey doing what he could for the figure skaters.

The Rawiller and Browell families have excelled at many sports, most notably gallops racing.

While he was at the rink yesterday, Rawiller watched Kassidy-Rae Browell show her skill on the ice alongside her enthusiastic clubmates.

"From speaking to Kassidy-Rae's parents, Darren and Leah, I knew the club was keen to get as much support as it could, especially financially.

"Kassidy-Rae is showing a lot of promise in figure skating and it's great that the rink is open again."

During his visit, Rawiller was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the club.

Rawiller's visit to the Golden Square-based rink followed another hectic day racing at the Bendigo Jockey Club.

Skaters were off the ice from last November until mid-June.

With renovations now complete the figure skaters and their coaches are working toward major competitions later in the year.

Skate Bendigo will be run on August 3.

Club spokesman Jenni Clohesy said Skate Bendigo would draw competitors from Melbourne and interstate.

"It will be an important lead-up to the Australian championships

to be held in Queensland in August," Clohesy said.

Kassidy-Rae Browell and Andrew Taylor are working hard in their lead-up to compete at the Australian titles.

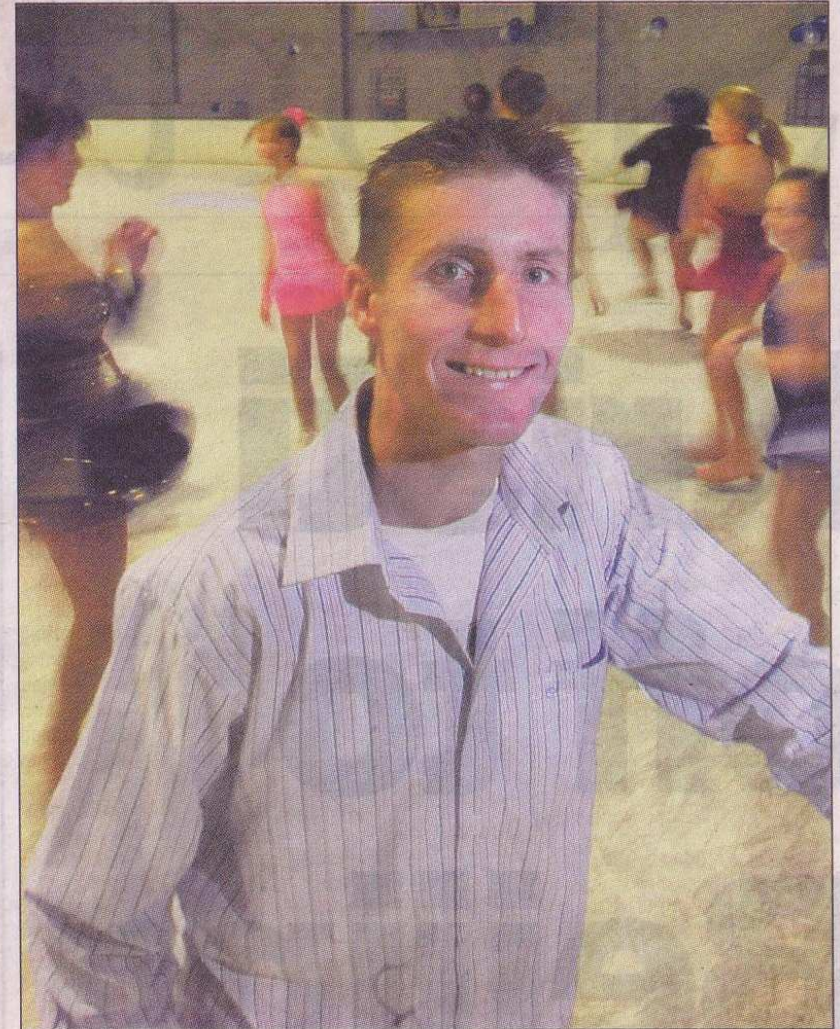
For Rawiller the quest to break the national record of 223 wins in a season rolls on at today's Flemington meeting.

Yesterday's win at Bendigo aboard Prospect Royale lifted Rawiller's tally to 202 wins in Victoria and 205 nationally.

His card at today's Flemington meeting includes Chiack, trained by his older brother, Todd, in the VRC-CRV Winter Championship 1600m.

Rawiller's record-breaking run earned the May award in *The Advertiser* Southern Cross TEN Sports Star of the Year for 2007-08.

Another \$1000 from RegionalOne means he will again be pondering a cause to support in the city where his remarkable racing career first began.



ON ICE: Bendigo-raised jockey Brad Rawiller and some of the Ice Skating Club of Bendigo's young stars. Picture: NICK McGRATH