



2008 PACIFIC SCHOOL GAMES  
CANBERRA

30 November - 6 December

## Media Release

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28 April 2008

### **Jackson, Mills and Withers endorsements add to 2008 Pacific School Games excitement**

The 2008 Pacific School Games (PSG) today proudly announced the induction of 3 brand new ambassadors to the 2008 PSG Ambassadors Program. Sporting greats Lauren Jackson, Patrick Mills and Lincoln Withers will complete the PSG Ambassadors Program which currently boasts 8 other distinguished athletes who have made an outstanding contribution to their sport.

Current World Champion Australian Opal, Lauren Jackson, adds to the impressive list of PSG ambassadors who have come on board to support this international multi- sport extravaganza which is expected to attract over 7000 competitors and visitors to Canberra in November.

Jackson, a 5 time WNBL champion and 2 time WNBA Most Valuable player, has close ties with Canberra having spent 9 years in the Nation's Capital playing for the Australian Institute of Sport and the Canberra TransACT Capitals.

Widely regarded as the best female Basketball player in the world, Jackson says that she is excited and honoured to be part of the 2008 PSG which she believes is a fantastic international school sport event for Canberra and all participants. Fresh from winning her 2<sup>nd</sup> Euro League Championship with her Russian Club Spartak Moscow, Jackson will be an integral part of the Australian Opals as the World Champions aim to capture the Olympic Gold Medal in Beijing this August.

Rising Basketball star Patrick Mills has also come on board as an ambassador to the 2008 Pacific School Games. The Canberra born and bred Basketball prodigy has been making waves internationally since his recent move from Canberra to the United States where he currently plays for St. Mary's College.

Mills, now an Australian Boomer, grew up in Canberra playing for Shadows Basketball Club, a club founded by his parents Yvonne and Benny. Mills then went on to represent the ACT in numerous National Championships before securing an AIS scholarship.

Mills, who represented the ACT at the 2005 Pacific School Games in Melbourne believes that the PSG is a wonderful platform for young and aspiring athletes to showcase their talent on an international stage.

Canberra Raiders star, Lincoln Withers rounds up the list of distinguished 2008 PSG Ambassadors. The talented former All Australian Schoolboy played for Woden Valley Rams and made his first grade debut against the Brisbane Broncos in 2000.

Renowned for his versatility and defensive prowess, Withers was selected to play in the prestigious Prime Ministers XIII last year.

Withers, who represented the ACT as a 12 year old in the 100m, 200m and Long Jump at the 1992 Pacific School Games in Darwin said that the Pacific School Games was an inspiring experience for him as a school aged athlete and is thrilled to be part of the Pacific School Games once again this year.

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**2008 Pacific School Games**  
**61 2 6205 8388, 0406 376 762**  
[www.pacificschoolgames.edu.au](http://www.pacificschoolgames.edu.au)



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The 11 Pacific School Games Ambassadors are

Adam Pine  
Peta Gallagher  
Sally McCreedy  
Deahne McIntyre  
Adrian Faccioni

Chris Nunn  
John Jakeman  
Petria Thomas  
Lauren Jackson  
Patrick Mills  
Lincoln Withers



### **Lauren Jackson. Basketball**

- Former Canberra Capital
- Gold Medal, World Championship
- Dual Olympic medallist
- 5 WNBL Championships
- 4 WNBL MVPs
- 2 WNBA MVPs
- 1 WNBA Championship



### **Patrick Mills. Basketball**

- Australian Boomer
- AIS Scholarship holder
- ACT Under 20
- Pacific School Games (Basketball) 2005



### **Lincoln Withers. Rugby League**

- Canberra Raider
- Australian Schoolboys
- Prime Ministers XIII (2007)
- Pacific School Games (Track and Field) 1992

#### *Photo Credits*

*Lauren Jackson – Australian Sports Commission*

*Patrick Mills – Kangaroo Sports*

*Lincoln Withers – Canberra Raiders Media*

*The Pacific School Games is an international sporting event for primary and secondary school students aged from ten to nineteen. The 2008 PSG in Canberra will feature the sports of Basketball, Diving, Hockey, Swimming and Track & Field conducted at the Australian Institute of Sport, the Canberra National Hockey Centre, the Belconnen Basketball Stadium and the Canberra Olympic Pool. The event will attract over 7,000 visitors to Canberra and will involve Canberrans from the school, sporting and general community.*

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