

Long road to China

Collins in NSW All Star team

BASKETBALL
By Dave Taylor

BATHURST Goldminers' forward Misty Collins has been selected in the NSW All Star senior team to tour China in September.

Collins is one of 10 players from the State League, ABA and Waratah Cup competitions to be selected in the women's squad, which will be coached by former Goldminers' coach Brendan Parnell.

The four-game tour, from September 17-27, takes the players to Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing and also includes plenty of time for sightseeing.

Collins has previously toured America to play basketball, but she said the opportunity to tour China will be a unique experience.

"I think the atmosphere is going to be a huge thing, just totally different to Australia, and just experiencing sport in a different culture," Collins said.

"The other thing is the travelling ... I can't wait to see the Great Wall."

While the NSW men's side enjoyed a successful tour to China last year, the women's team struggled to match the physical nature of the Chinese and Collins' inclusion will ensure the NSW

side has a physical presence in the key.

Collins was selected to go last year but, financially, was unable to make the tour and she is hoping Bathurst businesses will provide her with sponsorship to raise the \$3100 needed to go this time.

Without support, she will again be unable to make the trip.

Kelso Kitchens has already offered support, while the Oxford Tavern will soon be running a fundraising night.

In the lead-up to the China tour, Collins will be aiming to play her part in guiding the Goldminers to the State League finals, which the side is again on track to make.

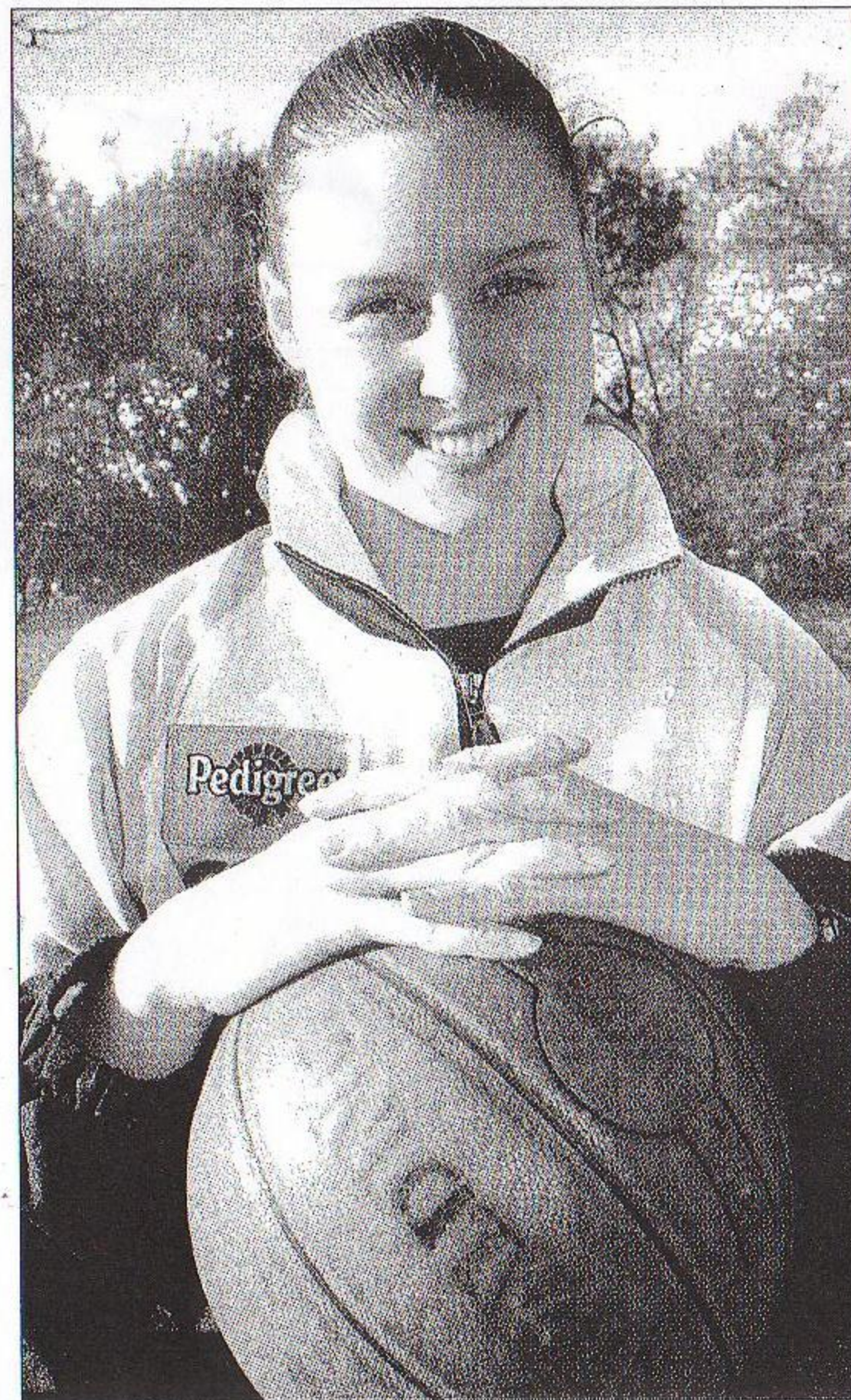
"So far so good," Collins said about the 'Miners' form in the State League this season, the team having had just one loss.

"We're half way through now and I think everything is looking good.

"The best thing about us is we've almost never had a full team, either I've been out, Jessica McGrath's out at the moment, so is Nicole (Casey), other people have had injuries, and we've still been able to pull through.

"It just shows the depth of the team."

Any businesses interested in helping Collins finance her tour can contact the *Advocate* sports department for details.



TOUR CHANCE: Misty Collins will travel to China with the NSW All Star team. Photo: PHILL MURRAY.

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