

THOMMO TO PLAY TODAY

Jeff Thomson, the world's fastest bowler, will be in action against Townsville cricketers at Endeavour Park today.

Thomson's thunderbolt deliveries will be the feature of a special 25-over knockout match beginning at 1.30.

Thommo's Eleven will be captained by experienced local cricketer, Allen Barrett, who is no slouch himself when it comes to fast bowling.

The opposing team, Edwards' Eleven, will be skippered by Fred Edwards, who needs no introduction to Townsville cricket fans.

The match will be played on No. 1 wicket, which is expected to provide plenty of pace and lift. The outfield is in top condition and bright cricket is expected.

Thomson is expected to relish the opportunity to bowl in Townsville as part of his warm-up for the forthcoming first-class season. His lightning-fast bowling has made him an indispensable member of the Queensland Sheffield Shield side and the spearhead of the Australian Test attack with Dennis Lillee.

Thomson's appearance at Endeavour Park will be by courtesy of 4TO and T.C.A. officials hope that this trip will be the start of regular appearances in the future by southern cricket personalities.

The demon bowler's visit has generated great interest among Townsville's growing junior cricket ranks and youngsters will have a first-hand opportunity to watch him in action today.

Sporting enthusiasts will be able to meet Thomson at a social function to-night at the Endeavour Park clubhouse.

During the evening, he will present life membership badges to prominent Townsville cricket identities, Mr. Col. McElligott and Mr. Mick Downey.

THOMMO'S XI ELEVEN

JEFF THOMSON: Needs no introduction to cricket followers. Reported to be the world's fastest bowler. His slinging action and ability to generate unexpected bounce have troubled the world's top batsmen.

ALLEN BARRETT (Brothers): Will captain Thommo's Eleven. Townsville's top inter-city and club wicket-taker who last season took 43 wicket at an average of 9.3. Former Sydney Grade player.

ARTHUR KEEN (Subs.-Parks): Opening bowler with ability to secure an early breakthrough.

RODNEY RICE (Subs.-Parks): North Queensland's top wicket-keeper. Forceful batsman who averaged 62.67 runs last season before travelling overseas to play a season of English cricket.

DAVE McINTYRE (Subs.-Parks): Solid all-round cricketer. Middle-order batsman and capable keeper.

RAY KOHN (Norths): Pace bowler who played first-grade cricket in Brisbane. Took 27 wickets last season at a cost of 9.1 runs.

DAVE PEEVER (University): Promising young batsman who performed solidly in his first season of local cricket.

LINDSAY FERGUSON (University): Brisbane Grade wicket-keeper - batsman who recently arrived in Townsville.

DAVE TROLLOPE (University): Medium-pacer whose bowling showed potential in his first season of local cricket.

BRIAN HEDGES (Wanderers): Top-order batsman who scored freely last season and can hit the ball hard.

EDDIE WHITE (Wanderers): Experienced opening bowler who has taken all 10 wickets in one innings of local A Grade cricket.

EDWARDS' XI ELEVEN

FRED EDWARDS (Wests): Captained his club to third successive premiership last season. Regular member of Queensland Country teams. His spin bowling bewildered some top West Indies batsman at Cairns last November.

GARY PAGE (Wests): Ex-Australian Schoolboy representative. Experienced top-order batsman who averaged 41 runs last season.

SILVIO SPIDALIERI (Wests): Top run-getter in Townsville cricket last season. Opening batsman with a sound defensive technique.

GEOFF GERRARD (Norths): Newcomer to local cricket from Rockhampton. Left-hand batsman with no fear of pace bowling.

BARRY HANKIN (Wests): Another product of Townsville cricket. Promising young 'keeper who can also wield the bat aggressively.

RON BARKER (Wests): Former St. George (Sydney) pace bowler. Top out-fielder with strong throwing arm.

FRANK STEPHENS (Wanderers): Runner-up in Townsville batting aggregate. Aggressive batsman who can deal harshly with pace bowling.

RAY GARTRELL Junior (Subs.-Parks): Promising young all-rounder. Consistent performer in North Queensland junior teams.

COLIN TURNER (Yabulu): Won lower grade batting aggregate last season. Can also bowl steady medium pace.

RON HICKLING (Subs.-Parks): High-order batsman. Has played only one season in Townsville cricket.

The players in the Thommo XI photo are:

Back: Lindsay Ferguson, Alan Barrett, Jeff Thomson, Arthur Keen, David Trollope, Brian Hedges

Front: Ray Kohn, Eddie White, Rodney Rice, David Peever, David McIntyre



"SCREAMING" THOMMO

Townsville's top run-getter of last season, Silvio Spidaleri, was not able to cope with the speed of Australian Test bowler, Jeff Thomson, in the of match at Endeavour Park yesterday. Spidaleri made only two runs.

(Alex Trotter)

Thommo's 11 downed

At Endeavour Park on Saturday Fred Edwards' 11 defeated Jeff Thomson's 11 by a narrow margin.

Despite Thomson's effort his team went down to a better team on the day which justified the Townsville selectors choice.

Gary Page was instrumental in turning the tide against Thomson with his attractive innings of 68 (13 boundaries).

Edwards team staged a remarkable recovery after being four wickets down for 14 runs. Ray Gartrell (Jnr.) hit six boundaries in his solid innings of 35 and other batsmen to perform against Thomson were Frank Stephens who scored 25 and opening batsman Silvio Spidalihero who made 21.

Thomson managed to collect one six in his stay at the crease. Other batsmen to support him were Ray Kohn who scored a chancy 33 (two sixes), Brian Hedges with 30 and Dave McIntyre with a solidly compiled 23 not out.

Ron Barker took the bowling honours for Thomson's 11 with his capture of two wickets for 24 from his allotted five overs.

Allan Barrett was his team's most successful bowler with his figures

of 12 for 17 off five overs.

In the Townsville pre-season competition played yesterday at Cuthberts Park Wests 7-132 defeated University 6-97.

Suburban Parks 5-140 defeated Norths all out 45, Wanderers 4-125 defeated PYC-Idalla 69, Yabulu-Natvale scored a win over Brothers 4 for 122 with Brothers scoring 4 for 108.

The selected team for the North Queensland cricket championships to be hosted by the Townsville Cricket Association at Endeavour Park on the weekend of October 2 and 3 as follows.

Open age: Ray Diog (Ayr, captain); Fred Edwards (T'ville, vice-captain); Alan Barrett (T'ville); Silvio Spidalihero (T'ville); John Baldwin (T'ville); Rodney Rice (T'ville); Garry Page (T'ville); Frank Stephens (T'ville); Max Carlyon (Ayr); Rod Ross (Home Hill); John Dempster (T'ville) with Ray Kohn (T'ville) as 12th man.

The under 24 years

side: Colin Page (T'ville, captain); Ray Gartrell (T'ville, vice-captain); Mark Bragg (T'ville); Glen Lyne (T'ville); Mark DeFranciscis (Ayr); Doug Leather (Bowen); John Turner (T'ville); Dave McLeane (T'ville); Mark Hind (T'ville); John Graham (Ayr); Dave Peever (T'ville) twelfth man.

The teams were announced by Jeff Thomson after the game in which he participated on Saturday afternoon. The teams will play against the district sides from Rockhampton, Mackay and Cairns.