

Kurt Barnes

Category:

Elite

Classification:

Sport - Golf

Kurt Barnes, a young talented sportsperson experimented from the age of nine with athletics, basketball, touch football, junior rugby league, junior soccer and golf. He was familiar with being reported, and landed in the pages of the Muswellbrook Chronicle. In March, 2002, all that suddenly changed. He won the Australian Amateur Golf Championship at Indooroopilly, Queensland. He was then gracing the pages of many national newspapers and magazines, as well as featuring on the electronic media throughout Australia.



Kurt's parents, Kenneth and Kerry, moved from Condobolin to Muswellbrook in 1980. Having worked in abattoirs, Kevin obtained employment with Muswellbrook Coal Company, then after a time delivering petrol, he re-joined the coal industry with Drayton Quarries Pty Ltd.

On 25th May, 1981, Kurt was born in Muswellbrook, NSW, being the first of two children, with a sister, Karen. Muswellbrook South Public School provided his primary education, then he obtained his Higher School Certificate at St Joseph's High School at Aberdeen.

In November, 1990, the Chronicle reported that he won the Under 10 100m (14.5 seconds), 200m (31 seconds) and was runner up in long jump and shot-put at the Catholic Schools State Athletic Championships in Canberra and qualified for the NSW Athletic track and field team.

At this time, he played rugby league on the weekends, with his father as coach and athletics on Friday nights. He combined this with two years of junior soccer.

When aged 13 years, he competed in a junior rugby league charity golf day, “had a good round” and hasn’t looked back.

After winning the Muswellbrook Golf Club Junior Championships in 1995 and 1997, Kurt, at the age of 16 years, made 1997 an unbelievably successful year.

1997

- Represented NSW Combined Catholic Colleges (CCC) at the NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association (CHSSA) Teams Championship.
- Won the CHSSA Teams Championship.
- Won the CCC Match Play Championship and was awarded a School Blue.
- Won Muswellbrook Golf Club A Grade Championship with 285 (72 holes par of 288) – was first to score an under par total for 72 holes on the new course, including a course record of 66.
- Played Pennants for MGC.

His other victories and achievements include:-

1998

- CCC Match Play Champion: Received a Blues Award for Golf.
- NSW State Junior representative at Canberra in Australian Team Championship (Undefeated in all matches).
- NSW Junior Development Team at Orange
- In Muswellbrook A Grade side v. Newcastle at Belmont
- Won Hunter District A Grade Championship
- Won Muswellbrook Open
- Played Pennants for MGC.

1999

- CCC Match Play runner-up.
- Pennants for MGC
- Pennants for Liverpool GC in Sydney (Also 2000 to 2002)
- Won Muswellbrook Open

2000

- Completed a year at Australian Institute of Sport – Melbourne

2001

- Named in NSW Colts Team
- Won Hunter District A Grade (6 under)
- Named in NSW Institute of Sport
- Captained NSW Colts to win Interstate Series in Tasmania
- Shot course record (65) in Jack Newton Junior Golf Foundation at Muswellbrook Golf Course
- Won Denman Open (68 course record), MGC A Grade Manning River Classic, MGC Pro-Am (Amateur-2 under).

2002

- Named in NSW Five Man Team to tour New Zealand
- Tied 6th in U23s Tournament – Hastings New Zealand
- Top 20 Lake Macquarie Amateur (5 under)
- Third in State Vardon at NSWGC (Sydney – even)
- Winner Australian Amateur Championship
- Winner NSW Medal – Tied with Adam Groom (14 under)
- Member Australian Two Man Team which won Juan Carlos Tailhade Cup in Argentina. Second in the Individual Event (even).

2003

- Winner Riversdale Cup – Melbourne (22 under, 72 holes, record)
- Member Australian Six Man Team – Winner of Four Nations Cup in New Zealand (Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada).
- Winner New Zealand Stroke Play (12 under)
- Winner MGC A Grade (18 under – tournament record)
- Turned Professional – October 2003

Inducted December 2003