

Malin takes Aussie title in just her sixth bout

Swedish student starts with boxercise and ends up as national 65.5kg champion

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BOXING: Swedish blonde bombshell Malin Kirjonen can proudly call herself an Australian boxing champion.

Now all she has to do is figure out a way to stay in the country.

Kirjonen, 23, captured the Australian Global Welterweight 65.5kg women's title in Toowoomba on Friday night with a unanimous points decision over Lauren Bradford.

Most astoundingly, it was just Kirjonen's sixth fight since she took up the sport at the start of the year after coming to the Sunshine Coast to study.

Her student visa is set to expire next month upon the completion of her course in personal training but she is seeking to extend her stay in order to defend her national crown.

"What I probably will do is extend my visa another year. It runs out at the end of the year unless I keep studying," she said.

"But I will maybe get a work-holiday visa, so I can train and do this and that. It would last for one year, so that's my plan."

Kirjonen was plucked from obscurity by trainer Bob Stimpson, who found her sparring at a Sunshine Coast gym.

Impressed by her handwork, Stimpson identified her immediately as a natural talent.

At that stage her boxing

experience consisted of little more than a few boxercise classes.

After five fights, which included just one loss – a one-point defeat at the hands of Noosa's Pas Lowe for the Queensland 67kg title in September – she became an Australian champion on Friday night.

While she said yesterday the victory was still sinking in, the crown came as an even bigger surprise to her family back home.

She did inform her parents of the fight prior to the bout.

However, she conveniently neglected to mention that it was for a national championship.

"I called my dad after, but I didn't tell him before that I was fighting for the title," she said.

"When I talked to him I told him I won my first title and he said: 'So you won the Queensland title?'"

"I said 'Not exactly. I actually won the Australian title.'"

"He was like 'What?' But he was very excited."

Stimpson described Kirjonen's win as perhaps the proudest moment of his training career.

"I've been training for 25 years and I've taken fighters to the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics," he said.

"However, never in my life have I seen a fighter capture a national title after just six fights."

"She's just a phenomenon."



PHENOMENON: Malin Kirjonen, 23, won the Australian Global Amateur Welterweight 65.5kg women's title on Friday night.
PHOTO: CADE MOONEY/CM194999

Wall Street bounces back

HORSE RACING: New Zealand's best racehorse Wall Street made up for his Cox Plate failure when he finished strongly for a determined win in the \$1 million Emirates Stakes at Flemington.

Palmerston North trainer Jeff Lynds said the Montjeu six-year-old's Cox Plate chances were dashed at the start of the race, when he had a slow get-away and finished seventh to champion So You Think.

"He lost it at the start. We wanted to attack More Joyous at the 800 or 900 (metres) and we never got the opportunity, but that's the way it goes in our game," Lynds said.

Lynds put blinkers on the gelding, as well as adding a tongue tie, for the drop back to the 1600m yesterday. "Perhaps Bart (Cummings) should turn around and come and try to buy this bugger as a replacement for So You Think," Lynds said, referring to Cummings losing the dual Cox Plate winner after the sale of a 50% share to Coolmore Stud.

So You Think will do his future racing with trainer Aidan O'Brien in Ireland.

"He's got a good turn of foot and it's a great pleasure to come and do this," Lynds said of Wall Street's fourth Group One victory.

"We've come here many times before and I haven't had any luck but things have gone right this trip."

"We're going to spell him and bring him back for the autumn and see how he goes right-handed and come back and have another crack at the Cox (Plate)."

Wall Street has built an impressive record of 11 wins and two seconds from 19 starts.

– AAP

Masters should be spectacular despite much tamer Tiger show

THE end-of-season leg of the 2010 Australian PGA Tour tees off next Thursday, at the 2010 JB Were Australian Masters at Victoria Golf Club.

Last year's Australian Masters was highlighted by Tiger mania.

However, despite his return this year to defend his title, organisers have said ticket sales are down on last year.

Despite that it should be a fabulous four days of golf again.

The Victoria Golf Club course is a great layout, measuring 6297 metres with a par of just 71. Recent rain should have the course in pristine condition.

The Sunshine Coast representation will be led by 2011 US PGA Tour graduate Ste-



ON PAR
Peter Heiniger

ven Bowditch. As to who will win, I'm putting my money on John Senden.

■ **DESPITE** all the sizzling action on the golf course throughout the week of the Australian PGA Championship, in some people's eyes the highlight of the week is the popular ladies' luncheon.

The Volkswagen PGA Luncheon has grown into one of the most popular ladies' social functions of the year and

this year shapes as being the best yet. Host for this year's luncheon, to be held on Thursday, December 9, will be TV personality Sandra Sully. She will be joined by other special celebrity guests to entertain everyone.

Ticket buyers will get a sumptuous three-course meal, including beverages, a fashion parade, a magnificent prize from Secrets Jewellery for the best dressed, two season PGA passes and complimentary gifts from Natura Bisse and Volkswagen. Numbers are limited to this popular event so be quick to reserve a seat. Tickets are \$175 per person or \$1700 for a table of 10 and bookings can be made by calling the PGA Hotline on 1800 009 499.

Only six weeks remain un-

til the PGA Championship, so be sure to purchase tickets to Australia's favourite professional golf event, the Australian PGA Championship.

Early-bird spectator tickets are available by calling the PGA Hotline.

■ **NOOSA** Springs Golf Club will host the Queensland B and C-Grade Championship again, from November 26-28. The annual event has grown in popularity every year and organisers are expecting another full field of players.

Entry is \$299 per player, which includes three rounds of golf, including shared cart hire, a Calvin Klein commemorative gift, a welcome cocktail party and prize presentation, as well as the chance of winning a lucky door prize of a two-day golf-

ing holiday to Noosa Springs or Sheraton Fiji.

For bookings or further details contact the Noosa Springs Golf Club on 5440 3333. It promises to be a fantastic three days.

■ **GOLF TIP:** One of the key attributes of a good golf swing that all coaches look for is achieving the correct swing plane. One of the key positions for this is halfway through the backswing, when the hands are level with the sternum.

At this stage of the swing the shaft of the club should ideally point toward the ball or just inside it. If it points outside the ball at this stage of the swing the club will be below the correct plane, whereas the plane will be too steep if the shaft points clos-

er towards the toes.

Being off plane at this early stage of the swing will make it harder for the club to return back to the ball on the desired path and often lead to inconsistency with ball striking.

■ **THE** Hyatt Regency Coolum Round of the Week goes to R Hutchinson, of Headland Golf Club, who scored a great 47 single stableford points in winning last Tuesday's members' competition. Congratulations on your fine round. You've won a complimentary game in our Champions Sunday Golf Competition, played at the Hyatt Regency Coolum, home of the Australian PGA Championship.

Details of your prize can be collected from your club.