

North Canberra-Gungahlin captain Rohan Wight with Esam Rahman, who will leave the Cricket ACT semi-final on Friday to sit a maths exam. Photo: Sitthixay Ditthavong

Testing time for Norths

Star cricketer set to miss semi-final for a maths exam

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School's out for Norths - unless you have a maths test scheduled

CRICKET

Caden Helmers

It's the biggest game of their season but that still can't get North Canberra-Gungahlin batsman Esam Rahman out of a maths test.

The Narrabundah College year 12 student will miss a fair chunk of day one action during his side's three-day Douglas Cup semi-final against Eastlake at Kippax Oval beginning on Friday.

Norths captain Rohan Wight laughs "pretty much half our team needs a day off school" - including himself - but Rahman wasn't allowed to shift the date of his test.

Wight is a teacher and he says "the kids are keen as mustard for me to have a win".

Wight says Rob Ryan ranked quite high in the army but they have embraced the final, while Chris Zhang has had to take a day off work in his first week of a new engineering job - he says he wouldn't miss a semi-final for the world.

Rahman is one of the youngest players in the club's first grade side and has joked the players are "either really young or really old" - which means they're either leaving work or leaving school.

The promising youngster can't miss his test, so he will miss the first half of the day before he makes the mad dash across town to throw on his cricket whites.

"The problem with that is my maths test at 1 o'clock, and I want to do well in it so I have to take the morning off as well so I can revise a bit and study for it," Rahman said.

"It's about a game called Yahtzee, which involves five dice and that's all we know so far."

"You want all your players to play for three days and for me to miss out, for Rohan as a captain, is really hard. He tried everything he could to help me get the day off, but in the end I just couldn't get it off."

Norths are coming off a shock win over the minor premiers just last week but the scene will be a little bit different this time around.

Instead of playing at Eastlake's home ground of Kingston Oval, the match has been shifted to Kippax Oval because junior Auskick was scheduled for Kingston Oval.

But that certainly hasn't dampened the mood for the Eagles.

"It's good because at the start of the year we were losing pretty much every game and now we have a shot to win the championship title, it's really good, we're excited," Rahman said. "Everyone is keen and we're all pretty confident as well because we're a tight group and we back each other."

Norths aren't the only side with players that have had to take time off work or school - Weston Creek Molonglo's clash with Queanbeyan at Stirling Oval has also caused a few rosters to be reshuffled.

Weston Creek Molonglo all-rounder Blake Dean is the manager at a sports bar in Kingston and a few of his teammates work there too. Creek skipper John Rogers laughs the bar could be a little bit short-staffed on Friday as its employees search for a grand final berth.

■ CRICKET ACT DOUGLAS CUP

Friday to Sunday: Semi-finals - Eastlake v North Canberra Gungahlin at Kippax Enclosed Oval. Weston Creek Molonglo v Queanbeyan at Stirling Oval. Both matches begin at 11am.

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