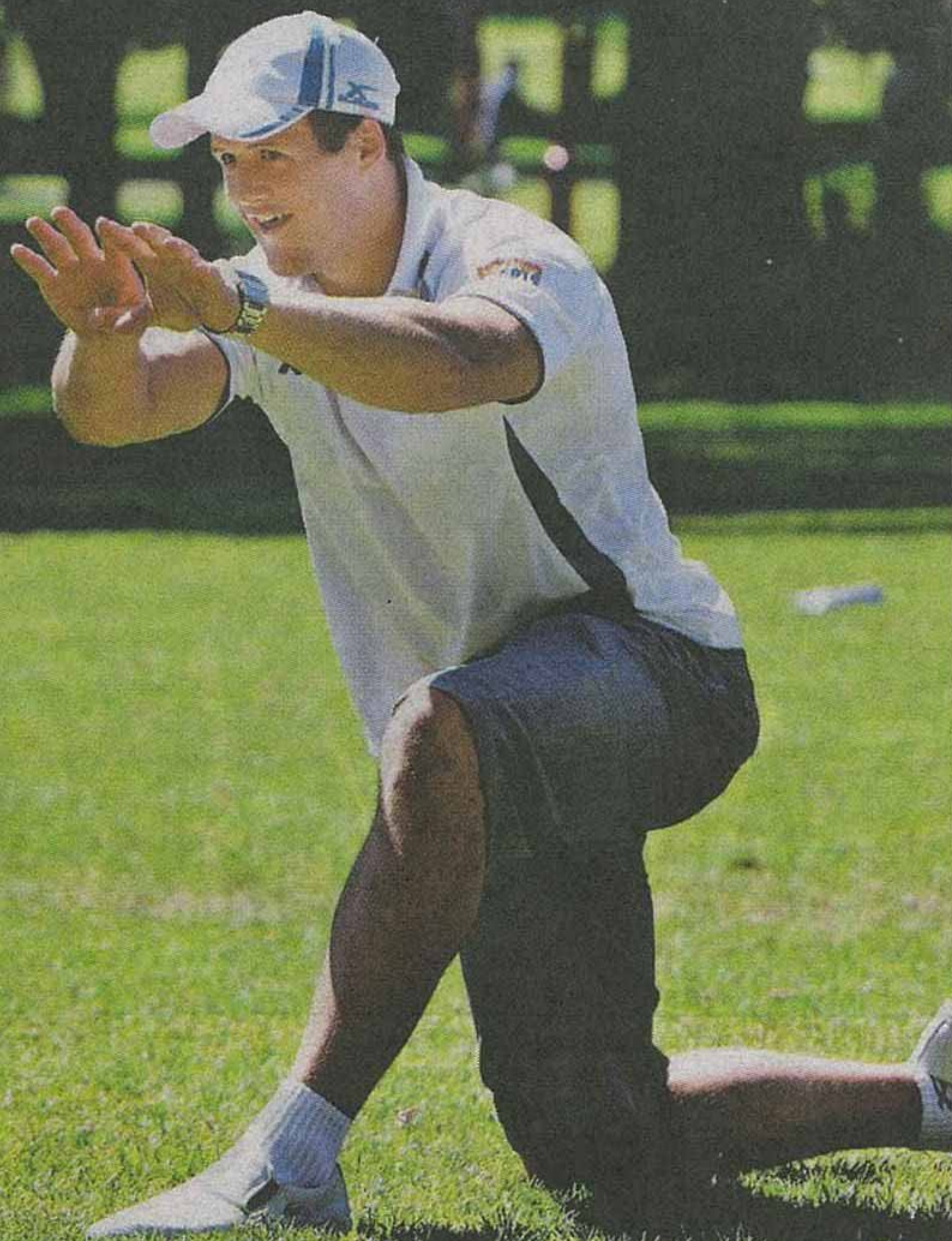


# Quality times



Pass it on: New recruit Josh Morris gives tips to Mohit Vemulapad and his sister Gauri at the Bulldogs' Camp Quality clinic in North Sydney

Picture: Phil Hillyard

## Charity begins at home for reborn Dogs

Amy Dale

THE smile on the faces of these young NRL fans represents yet another step on the Bulldogs' road to redemption.

In a unique relationship in rugby league, Camp Quality — a non-profit organisation that helps children living with cancer and their families — has also proven to be a remedy for an NRL team which has long suffered from a tarnished reputation.

The Camp Quality logo now features on all Bulldogs insignia, including the jersey, in an unprecedented partnership between a team and a single charity.

Yesterday marked the official start of the hundreds of hours Bulldogs players and staff will share with the

children and families of Camp Quality. And if the first day is any indication to go by, it looks to be a perfect match.

Several of the Dogs players organised a clinic at North Sydney Oval for 10 families from the Newcastle and Hunter region.

This clinic, and the dozens more that will follow it, was the result of Bulldogs CEO Todd Greenberg's vision that the club would no longer be known for the dark and controversial incidents of the past.

An early session of kicking and ball drills yesterday soon gave way to a morning of games and water fights.

Among the most gleeful on the day were the parents, all of whom have

nursed a sick child through immeasurable pain while trying to hold the rest of their family together.

"The players probably don't think anything of it, but this is everything to us," one said.

With just four players remaining from the 2004 premiership team, it is a new-look blue-and-white ensemble.

Josh Morris is still adjusting to life as a Bulldog and says one lesson that has been quickly bestowed on the tribe of new players is perspective.

"It wakes you up pretty quickly to the fact that there are people out there fighting much bigger battles than what we do on the footy field," the new centre said.

"It's good just to get out here on a

day like today and have some fun with these kids and see their smiles. I have really enjoyed today and the other community work I did last week."

Some Bulldogs players could now go on to become "buddies" at the holiday camps.

It is not a role taken on lightly and anyone wishing to participate must complete a rigorous training and induction program.

On camps, they will bunk with their buddy every night, and must know when and how to administer daily medicine. Parents will be prepared to leave their kids in the care of the Bulldogs players.

The family club's reputation has come full circle.