

Matildas and Bill Turner Trophy Finals Series walk a common pathway

SIX of the current magnificent Matildas graced the same stage as this year's contestants in the Bill Turner Trophy National Finals Series.



Alana Kennedy (on left) and Caitlin Foord had a right royal duel in 2009 where Kennedy's Westfields Sports High rolled Foord's Illawarra Sports High 1-0 in the Grand Final.

Foord was named 2009 Player of the Series an award Kennedy held aloft in 2010.

Kennedy secured a treble of Bill Turner Trophy's in 2008's 2-1 win over Hunter Sports High, 2009's 1-0 triumph over Illawarra Sports High and the 2010 4-1 victory over Cavendish Road State High.

During Kennedy's time attending Westfields she played in the number-14 shirt which is also her Matildas playing number.

Hunter Sports High's Clare Wheeler was a Bill Turner Trophy winner in 2011 beating Westfields 2-1, ran fourth in 2012 and won, on penalties over Westfields in 2013.

Westfields' Ellie Carpenter (right) started her road to stardom with a loss to Hunter Sports in 2013, finished third in 2014 and lifted the coveted Trophy in 2015 being named Player of the Final with an emphatic 7-0 romp against Holy Spirit Bellambi.

The final two players to the six piece puzzle is Katrina Gorry who was schooled at Brisbane's Cavendish Road State High.

Cavendish Road made the Bill Turner Trophy Finals in 2007 and 2009, finishing third both times, where Gorry donned the captain's armband in 2009.

Courtney Nevin rounds out the six, playing for Westfields in 2014 (third) and 2015 (champions).

All six of these fine athletes and accomplished footballers were an integral squad member of the Matildas who excelled at the 2023 Women's World Cup on home soil that captured the hearts of the nation.



Who will be the next Matilda to have played in the Bill Turner Trophy Finals Series?

Words by Greg Danvers; Statistics by Lindsay Hewison; Pictures by Lloyd Turner.