

Ex-All Black Sosene Anesi shapes up for park footy

Jon Geddes | The Daily Telegraph | April 05, 2011 12:00AM



Sosene Anesi. Picture: Mark Evans Source: The Daily Telegraph

The former All Black winger is due to make his debut for Hunters Hill in their showdown with Hornsby at Boronia Park.

Instead of running around with Kurtley Beale, Drew Mitchell and Tatafu Polota-Nau, his new teammates will include Bungle, Harpoon, T Rex and Seagull.

There is no corporate hospitality at Boronia Park, but the delicious smell of steaks and sausages cooked on the barbecue by the Hunters Hill WAGS wafts across the field.

And spectators can wash it down with a cool beer from the famous bar under the grandstand.

Anesi was recruited to the club by good friend Lauren Salmon, whose father Rod is club president.

"She suggested I have a run and I thought it would be a good idea to get on board and help out," Anesi said.

A sponsor came on board and organised Anesi a car.

"I went to my first training run last week and met the coaches and the players. The boys were pretty excited to see me there and I was pretty excited, too," Anesi said.

And Anesi, who has earned 53 Super caps with the Chiefs and Waratahs, is looking forward to playing without the pressure that comes with professional rugby.

"It gives me confidence, too, because I haven't been playing much with a shoulder injury," he said. "It will be good to come back and test out my shoulder and see how my rugby is going."

Anesi admits it has been frustrating to be out of the Super game squad this year and is hopeful this may be the first step towards a recall.

Hunters Hill co-coach Peter Allen said the club was on a high about their backline star. "You don't get players of that calibre rocking up to a second division club that often do you," he said.

"I'd like him to get as close to the action as possible. We will be looking at him in the centres at either 12 or 13."

Asked if he expected to be targeted by the Hornsby players, Anesi said: "I guess so, but hopefully the boys will out there helping me too."