



Tomorrow's tennis stars training on Coast today

THE next Pat Rafter or Sam Stosur could be honing their skills on the Gold Coast this week as Tennis Australia host some of the best junior players in the country at Runaway Bay.

The National Talent Development Camp for the best players aged 10 and under in Australia is being run out of the Runaway Bay Super Sports Centre this week and next week.

It is first time the program has been run on the Coast instead of in Canberra as officials attempt to take advantage of the warmer Queensland weather.

Tennis Australia project talent leader Kim Kachel said activities were being held at Runaway Bay and Hope Island for the best 16 boys and their coaches this week. The best 16 girls will start their training on Monday.

Kachel said the coaches of selected players were encouraged to join in on the expenses-paid camp with an eye to not only motivating and improving the skills of the youngsters but also helping their mentors.

"A lot of them have participated in our talent development camps," he said.

"They're promising 10-and-under athletes.

"They're still young, a lot can change. It's a big journey for the kids but we hope they're inspired."

Kachel said the three pillars of learning throughout the camp were compete, move and hit, with a vast array of exercises used to build up the skill sets of participants.

The camp has run three

times previously but until now was based at the Australian Institute of Sport.

The boys began training on Tuesday and will finish up tomorrow. The girls begin on Monday and the camp will end on Friday.

Keanu Lynch, Julia Pisa, Zuzanna Weich are three Gold Coasters, all aged 10, who were successful in selection for the camp.