

Brothers winners with wheels on

NZ teams take in-line hockey titles

By KAROLINE TUCKEY

A Thames family continues to taste international in-line hockey success, with three brothers part of winning New Zealand teams.

Twins Josh and Joe Dix, 19, played for the New Zealand U18 side at the Oceania Asia Pacific Championships in New Plymouth, having qualified to play as their birthday was after January 1 of this year.

Younger brother Jake, 14, who plays with the Waihi Miners team, played goalie for the U14 New Zealand team at the same event.

Both New Zealand teams won, with the U18 team taking out all five competition games against Australia, by sizeable scores, and the U14 team winning four out of

five of their matches.

It was the first time Jake had played at an international level.

"It was great – it was so nice to beat the Aussies, but really scary at first, there's so much pressure being a goalie.

"It made me feel much more confident afterwards, knowing that I can do that."

Jake said the third game was an edge-of-the-seat match, with the Kiwi team scoring the winning goal with one second left on the board in overtime to win the series.

"It was a great thing, especially since it was really close, it made it that much better."

Joe said the U18 team had been together for the past four years and were especially tight at this competition, despite rarely getting

to practise together as they were spread throughout the country. The team had dominated all five of their games, he said.

Josh and Joe are currently living in Hamilton. They attend Waikato University, and play for the Waikato Pistons basketball team.

As a result of the Oceania win the twins have been invited to play at the Junior Olympics in July in California.

"We're pretty excited, it's going to be just a really good experience to see how other countries play," Joe said.

IN LINE: From left, Josh, Jake and Joe Dix were part of winning teams representing New Zealand at the 2010 Oceania Asia Pacific In-line Hockey Championships in New Plymouth.

