

SINGLES players take centre stage as the record-breaking Premier Sevens competition reaches its climax this weekend with the finals at Mermaid Beach.

There's no doubt all three disciplines are vital in Sevens but an in-form singles player can give his club a distinct advantage.

The singles rink is always the first to finish and the winner provides his team's pairs and fours outfits with a real boost.

Already Mooloolaba, whose Division 1 quarter-final against Tarragindi was brought forward a week, have used seasoned singles exponent John Thain's win as a springboard to success.

Titleholders Wellers Hill have arguably the best singles player of the eight quarter-finalists in Kevin Higson and he is sure to give the Wasps a flying start against Burleigh Heads on Saturday.

Windsor's Mardy Foster has been in good form and will be up against West Toowoomba's Jimo Hagan as the two clubs shoot for a semi-final berth.

The Helensvale-Southport quarter-final pits Mick Carley against Caine Burns.

Division 1

Mooloolaba are first through to the semi-finals after a 2-1 defeat of Tarragindi featuring John Thain's 31-24 defeat of Brad Flay and an 18-14 pairs win by Dean Sluce and M. Geary.

Wayne Green skipped Tarragindi to an impressive 24-16 fours victory.

Division 1 Over-60s

Reigning champions Salisbury and Burleigh Heads are headed for a semi-final clash after both claimed 3-0 quarter-final clean sweeps.

The Magpies, with singles maestro Barry Ward leading the way, downed Ferny Grove and Burleigh eliminated Mooloolaba.

The other two quarter-finals take place on Saturday with Tweed Heads opposed to Sandgate and Robina taking on North Ipswich.

Division 3

Robina threw down the gauntlet to hot favourites Ipswich City by dismantling previously unbeaten Benowa 2-1 in a quarter-final.

That puts them into a semi-final against Wellers Hill who progressed 3-0 against Booval Swifts.

Helensvale beat Salisbury 2-1 and now face the huge task of ending the long winning run of titleholders Ipswich Miners who saw off Aspley 2-1.



Salisbury's Daniel Schmidt beat Helensvale's Gary Hanna 31-25 in Div 3

Division 4

It will be a Gold Coast club against a country club in the Division 4 final.

Helensvale and Mermaid Beach will square off in one semi after 2-1 defeats of Paradise Point and Southport respectively.

On the other side of the draw, South Toowoomba's ended St Lucia's hopes 2-1 and Laidley beat McKenzie Park Men 2-1.

Division 5

Coolangatta stormed into the semi-finals with another 3-0 clean sweep, this time against newcomers Rosewood.

They now face Southport, 2-1 winners over Swifts, for a place in the final.

On the other side of the draw, Sunnybank wiped Beaudesert Renegades 3-0 with Ipswich United and Tweed Heads to meet in the other quarter-final on Saturday.



Bob Proctor in action for Booval Swifts against Southport in Div 5

Division 6

Tiny Gold Coast-Tweed club Woongoolba continued its unbeaten charge to the title with a 2-1 win over Springwood and now meet Broadbeach, 2-1 victors against Pine Rivers.

West Toowoomba loom as a finals hurdle after downing Paradise Point 3-0 and now will be opposed to Russell Island after the Sea Eagles accounted for Brighton 2-1.

Photographs courtesy of MAX ADAMS

