** Pirate's walk the plank **

AMERICAN Football team West Sydney Pirates were eliminated in the Gridiron NSW Football League play-offs in Saturday. UTS Gridiron overpowered the Austral-based Pirates 39-13 at Bill Delauney Reserve, Revesby.

The Pirates, celebrating their 25th anniversary season, were striving for a third appearance in the Waratah Bowl, the competition grand final.

The Pirates have twice been to the Waratah Bowl but are yet to win a title. They have reached the play-offs 20 times. Injuries during the game and a send-off depleted the Pirates’ playing roster.

Pirates coach Ian Taylor said it wasn’t the finish to the season the team hoped for.

“On the day our opponents were too good,” Taylor said.

He said wide receiver Dean Toskoski had been a standout for the Pirates this season.

Taylor said. “I’ve changed clubs and St Johns have been so supportive of me.”

“I think this has shown in my bowls this year.”

Taylor said.

The group participated in a tough 90-minute session run by Original Bootcamp Wanda Beach.

“The students are pushed to their limits through a variety of high-intensity challenges and receive training for sport, leadership and faith,” Thomas Hassall Anglican College director of special projects Steve Moynan said.

“The group meets twice a term on a Monday starting at lunch and continues through the sixth period.

“Each session has a different theme that is explored through participation in challenges and a short debrief after each challenge,” Moynan said. The students are encouraged to apply what they have learnt not just to sport, but to everyday life as well.

“So far we have looked at seizing opportunities, a winning attitude and building character,”

To finish the year in style a group of 35 students, including members of the Australian cricket team and the Cronulla Sharks NRL team, marched into the dunes carrying mock military equipment and a stretcher.

After running up and down the dunes they competed in an activity that involved a lot of running through sand, while carrying a bag of sand.

Faith, hope and determination mould students’ future

STUDENTS at Thomas Hassall Anglican College are toughening up physically and mentally.

Boys and girls from years 7 to 10 are participating in a new character-building sports program.

Inspired by a visit earlier in the third term from people from Athletes in Action, a US group, the Middleton Grange college has started its own Cross Training Academy.

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To finish the year in style a group of 35 students, accompanied by Thomas Hassall College teachers, Joe Gerring and Amelia Legge recently travelled to the Wanda sand dunes at Cronulla.

The sand dunes are used as a training location for the Wanda Beach Football League play-offs in Saturday.

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